

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ORDERLY ANNEXATION)
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD) FINDINGS OF FACT
AND BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP PURSUANT TO) CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
MINNESOTA STATUTES 414) AND ORDER

The joint resolution for orderly annexation submitted by the City of Northfield and Bridgewater Township was reviewed for conformity with applicable law. By delegation, the Chief Administrative Law Judge's designee hereby makes and files the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. A joint resolution for orderly annexation was adopted by the City of Northfield and Bridgewater Township pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 414.0325 and duly filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings-Municipal Boundary Adjustments.

2. A joint resolution adopted and submitted by the City of Northfield and Bridgewater Township, requests annexation of part of the designated area described as follows:

The South 384 feet of the North 417 feet of the East 510 feet of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 35, Township 112 North, Range 20 West, Rice County, Minnesota.

3. Minnesota Statutes §414.0325, subd. 1(h) states that in certain circumstances the Chief Administrative Law Judge may review and comment, but shall within 30 days order the annexation pursuant to the terms of a joint resolution for orderly annexation.

4. The joint resolution contains all the information required by Minnesota Statutes

§414.0325, subd. 1(h), including a provision that the Chief Administrative Law Judge may review and comment but shall order the annexation within 30 days in accordance with the terms of the joint resolution.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

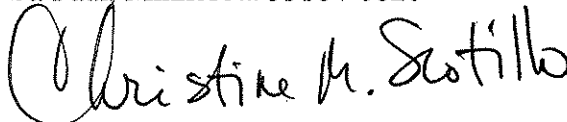
1. The Office of Administrative Hearings has duly acquired and now has jurisdiction of the within proceeding.
2. An order should be issued by the Chief Administrative Law Judge annexing the area described herein.

ORDER

1. The property described in Findings of Fact 2 is annexed to the City of Northfield, the same as if it had originally been made a part thereof.
2. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §414.036, Bridgewater Township will be reimbursed by the City of Northfield in accordance with the terms of Joint Resolution No. 99-255 signed by the City on August 24, 1999 and the Township on August 25, 1999.

Dated this 20th day of July, 2010.

For the Chief Administrative Law Judge's designee
P. O. Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine M. Scotillo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine M. Scotillo
Executive Director
Municipal Boundary Adjustments

MEMORANDUM

In ordering the annexation contained in Docket No. OA-631-8, the Chief Administrative Law Judge finds and makes the following comment:

Section XIX states in part, "This agreement will automatically expire on December 31, 2019..." End dates or ending mechanisms are problematic in that they appear contrary to the act of conferring jurisdiction to the Chief Administrative Law Judge. Once jurisdiction is conferred, it cannot be taken away by written consent of the parties. Jurisdiction ends when all the designated area is annexed. The issue whether jurisdiction could be "given back" by the Chief Administrative Law Judge upon written request of the parties to the agreement to mutually end their agreement has not been addressed.

The parties are encouraged to consider this comment in light of any further amendments that may be otherwise necessary to this agreement for orderly annexation.

Cms