Minutes of the Annexation Study Commission

March 1, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Davidson at 5:07 PM. Also in attendance were Vice-Chairman Sandy Williams, and Commissioners Steve Sorensen, Errol Champion and Caren Robinson. Also present were CBJ Attorney Peggy Boggs and CDD Planning Supervisor Peter Freer.

Williams moved and Sorensen seconded for approval of the minutes of the January 5, 2006, meeting, and the February 1, 2006, meeting.

CBJ Finance Director Craig Duncan gave a power point presentation on city and borough property taxation, focusing first on state law that establishes municipal taxing authority, then on the areawide and service area mil rates that support city and borough services. He addressed the relationship between annexation, area wide mil rates and education funding, concluding that annexation of the model borough boundary area could lead to a reduction in the area wide mil rate of a few hundredths of a mil.

Following the presentation, Craig responded to questions from the commission and the public covering assessments methods, school funding, forest receipts funding, and other tax and service-related topics.

Peter Freer gave an update on several research topics, including population and land ownership, related to the area between the existing borough boundaries and the model borough boundaries. Commissioners expressed some concern that the research tasks may be too big or complex, for example, determining ownership for private lands and calculating precisely the full and true value of property in the area. These tasks will have to be simplified at this stage, but will be pursued for accuracy and completeness if and when an actual annexation petition is prepared.

Chairman Davidson opened the meeting to comments from the public, and several member of the audience addressed question to the Chair, to Mr. Duncan and Mr. Freer, and to the commission generally, typically addressing the ‘disconnect’ between the area wide mil rate of 7.51 mils and the commensurate lack of services that outlying property owners and residents believe that they will receive.

The next meeting of the commission will be April 5, 2006, at 5 PM, in Room 224 of City Hall. Speakers will be Martin Beckner, Operations Chief for the Fire Department, and a representative of the Police Department.

The meeting was adjourned by motion at 6:35 PM.