

Time for Change?

Submitted by Joe Cerny

It just might be the right time for change. The Village of Put-in-Bay has been operating under the Ohio Revised Code in a form of government referred to as the "Federal Plan".

705.71 Federal plan - elective officers.

The form of government provided in sections 705.71 to [705.86](#), inclusive, of the Revised Code, shall be known as the "federal plan." In municipal corporations adopting such plan the only elective officers shall be the mayor and members of council.

This plan elects a mayor and council members with the elected mayor managing administrative functions of the village, and the council members being the group making and passing ordinances and rules to which the village is to be managed. The issue with this form of government is that often it leads to contention between mayor and council, since each group struggles over and is often confused by who has the certain powers, or don't always understand how to interact and function properly. Simply put the division of powers and duties creates inefficiency. Add the further concern that at times managerial abilities of elected mayors are not always their best attribute. They generally come into office with an agenda in mind. Once in office it becomes extremely difficult and costly to remove a mayor when management, shortcomings or misalignment of their agenda does not match with the community goals and desires.

Now consider a form of government referred to as "City Manager Plan".

[705.51 City manager plan.](#)

The form of government provided in sections 705.51 to [705.60](#), inclusive, of the Revised Code, to be known as the "city manager plan," shall consist of a council of five or more citizens, according to the population of the municipal corporation as determined by the last preceding federal census, who shall be elected at large. The council shall constitute the governing body of such municipal corporation with power to:

- (A) Pass ordinances;
- (B) Adopt resolutions;
- (C) **Appoint a chief administration officer, to be known as the city manager;**
- (D) Approve all appointments made by the city manager, except as provided in sections [705.01](#) to [705.92](#), inclusive, of the Revised Code;
- (E) Fix all salaries;
- (F) Appoint a civil service commission and all boards or commissions created by ordinance.

The elected position formally recognized as a mayor becomes an appointed position. This creates the opportunity to hire an individual whose interest lies within management of the village and not politics or agenda. The City Manager Plan would provide the opportunity to vet applicants and determine and decide on an appropriate manager of the village. A poor selection can easily be removed and replaced.

Here are some links you can visit for more information.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_manager

<http://www.nlc.org/build-skills-and-networks/resources/cities-101/city-structures/forms-of-municipal-government>

http://www.granville.oh.us/form_of_government/