

Wright State University Library  
Archives and Special Collections

THE COMMITTEE OF ELEVEN, INCORPORATED  
1965-1980

MS-112

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## INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 1964, leading organizations of Beaver Creek Township, Greene County, Ohio formed a study group to determine a means of preventing neighboring cities from annexing portions of Beaver Creek Township. After thoroughly researching its options, the Committee of Eleven, Inc. concluded that incorporation of the entire township would be the most effective way to keep the township boundaries intact.

The struggle to secure incorporation for Beaver Creek dragged on for fifteen years while the Committee of Eleven encountered legal obstacles (resulting from suits filed by various neighboring municipalities to prevent the incorporation of Beaver Creek), staggering legal fees, and numerous court delays. Finally, in the summer of 1979, approval was granted for a portion of Beaver Creek township to be incorporated as a village.

During the fifteen years of its existence, the Committee remained active, highly visible, and tightly organized. Although it expanded its membership soon after organizing, it never changed its original title.

This collection contains documents created by and related to the activities of the Committee of Eleven, Inc., and includes minutes of Trustee meetings, membership lists, general and legal correspondence, legal briefs, petitions for incorporation, community-attitude surveys, Promotional and Fund-raiser flyers, lists of contributors, copies of articles submitted to the Beaver Creek newspapers, and clippings from the Beaver Creek and Dayton newspapers.

After it dissolved in 1980--having achieved its goal--the Committee of Eleven gave its papers to the Beaver Creek Public Library whose director, Karl Van Ausdal, donated them to the Archives of Wright State University on January 27, 1981.

Accession Number: 81-4

Restrictions: None

Size: 6 Hollinger boxes, 3 of which contain newspaper clippings

## HISTORY

In August of 1964, the Fairborn Chamber of Commerce initiated proceedings to annex a portion of Beaver Creek Township to Fairborn. In response, eleven citizens of Beaver Creek formed a study group to determine a means of keeping the township boundaries intact. The original eleven members represented the following organizations: Beaver Creek Improvement Association, Beaver Valley Grange, Beaver Creek Schools, Beaver Creek Lions Club, Woodhaven Homeowners Association, Friends of the Beaver Creek Library, Beaver Creek Democratic Club, Elano Corporation, and Greene County Medical Association. Although the membership was greatly expanded after May 1965, the group never changed its original title.

After researching the township's tax duplicates, alternative forms of governments, background reports indicating how incorporation had been achieved in nearby areas, and records of the township's police, fire, and road departments, the Committee of Eleven, Inc. concluded that incorporation of the township was the best way to prevent any neighboring city from annexing portions of the township. The members agreed also that the township form of government had become inadequate for this growing urbanized community, and that by incorporating, a more efficient and effective form of government could be established.

Fairborn's determination to annex a portion of Beaver Creek Township was only the first of many obstacles which the Committee of Eleven was to face in its fifteen-year struggle to incorporate Beaver Creek. A small section of the township petitioned to incorporate separately; several neighboring municipalities filed suits to prevent Beaver Creek from incorporating, each with the intent of annexing portions of the township; court hearings were frequently delayed; and raising money for legal fees, which ultimately totaled over \$50,000, required considerable time and effort.

Fairborn's annexation petitions were denied in August 1965, but several months earlier, residents of a small portion of Beaver Creek Township petitioned to incorporate separately as the Village of Valleywood. With its legal representative, John P. McHugh, the Committee was in and out of court until Valleywood's goal of separate incorporation was defeated. On September 30, 1975, the Greene County Commissioners approved the incorporation of Beaver Creek Township.

A sixty-day waiting period was established during which time suits could be filed opposing the Commissioners' approval of incorporation for Beaver Creek Township. The neighboring municipalities of Dayton, Kettering, and again, Fairborn each filed suits to prevent the incorporation of the entire township, hoping to eventually annex portions of it. Wright Patterson Air Force Base and Technology, Incorporated also filed suits against the Committee. Several years of intense litigation followed. In a compromise decision, the Committee of Eleven agreed to pursue the incorporation of an area much smaller than the entire township. Finally, on July 3, 1979 Beaver Creek became a village with certification of municipal status by the Ohio Secretary of State.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

Spanning the time period from the inception of the Committee of Eleven, Inc. in August 1964 to its dissolution in March 1980, this collection provides excellent source material for research relating to municipal incorporation, citizens' action committees, and the evolution of local government. The papers reveal why the Committee of Eleven was organized, who its members and officers were, details regarding the formal organization and function of the group, results of research conducted indicating the pros and cons of incorporation, and decisions made regarding legal problems, litigations, and fund-raising.

The minutes of the Committee's Trustee meetings, which were held irregularly every two, three, or four weeks, form the backbone of this collection and date from August 27, 1964 to March 27, 1980. There is no apparent reason for a gap in the minutes which occurs for the period between December 3, 1975 and April 16, 1979. It was during this period that the Committee fought legal battles with Dayton, Kettering, Fairborn, Wright Patterson Air Force Base and Technology, Inc. Newspaper articles can provide relevant information about the activities of the Committee for the period not covered by the minutes. The minutes provide information relating to the Committee's organizational structure, legal pursuits, and promotional and fund-raising activities.

The research reports prepared by the Committee reveal the pros and cons of incorporation and consist primarily of charts which list actual and proposed receipts from taxes and expenditures for municipal services. Reports which compare the financial advantages and disadvantages of incorporation with, to incorporation without, Valleywood have been grouped separately in one folder.

Membership lists of the general committee are fairly extensive and are complete for the years 1967 to 1980. Often the lists also indicate the dollar amount of dues paid and donations made by each member. Membership lists for the Trustees are less extensive, spanning the years from 1969 to 1980, with omissions for 1973, 1975, and 1977.

The legal briefs, some with related correspondence attached, constitute a large part of the collection. Together with the separate legal correspondence they illuminate the legal procedures of incorporation, annexation, and petitioning.

The general correspondence does not constitute a substantial or significant part of this collection. Although there are a few business letters, the correspondence deals essentially with the billing and payment of financial obligations (most of which were legal fees) and with informing general members or the dates and agenda of upcoming meetings.

A copy of the petition to incorporate, complete with signatures of freeholders, is included in the collection as are correspondence and general information related to the petition.

For the Committee to be successful, it needed the psychological and financial support of an informed public. Information regarding the goals and activities of the Committee was disseminated through articles published in the Beaver Creek Daily News, flyers which indicated what the Committee came to refer to as its "facts and figures," and a slide presentation. The collection contains various news articles and flyers. Information relating to the Committee's various fund-raising activities is included in the minutes, as well as in some of the correspondence; and contributions, with the dollar amount of their contributions, are listed. The newspaper articles are being clipped and arranged chronologically.

The "Time Capsule" written in 1976 and an article in the Beaver Creek Daily News, May 24, 1980, each provide an excellent summary of the Committee's activities.

SERIES DESCRIPTION AND CONTAINER LISTING

Note: Where ever possible, within a series or subseries, the papers have been arranged chronologically.

Box 1

- File 1 Time Capsule -- 1976
- 2 Board of Trustees, Membership Information
- 3 Board of Trustees, Minutes
- 4 General Committee, Membership Lists
- 5 General Committee, Correspondence, General-in and out
- 6 General Committee, Correspondence, From Trustees to general members
- 7 General Committee, Correspondence, Letters of

Resignation

- 8 Legal Matters, Documents (briefs), 1965
- 9 " , 1966
- 10 " , 1967
- 11 " , 1968
- 12 " , 1970
- 13 " , 1971
- 14 " , 1972
- 15 " , 1973
- 16 " , 1974
- Box 2 17 " , 1975
- 18 " , 1976
- 19 " , 1977
- 20 " , 1978
- 21 " , 1979
- 22 Correspondence, General
- 23 Correspondence, Regarding Legal Fees and Their Payment
- 24 Financial Records--Journal, 1964-1980 and Treasurer's Reports, 1975, 1976, 1978, and 1979
- 25 Research, Valleywood Issue
- 26 Research, Data gathered, General
- 27 Research, Data gathered, Types of Government
- Box 3 28 Research, Data gathered, Pamphlets
- 29 Petitions, Related Information
- 30 Petitions, Signed petitions, Petition for incorporation, 1965
- 31 Petitions, Signed petitions, "Right to Vote" petition, 1965
- 32 Petitions, Signed petitions, Forms
- 33 Community-Attitude Surveys, 1967, 1971, 1973
- 34 Reports
- 35 Public Outreach, "Facts and Figures," 1967
- 36 Public Outreach, Articles submitted to the Beaver creek Daily News

37 Public Outreach, Contributions and fund-raising  
information  
Box 3 38 Public Outreach, Flyers and promotional materials  
39 Description of slide photographs (slides separate  
from folder)  
40 Maps  
Box 4,5,6 Newspaper clippings