

Explanation of Petition

This petition asks the Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners to schedule an election in Peaine and St. James Township so voters can decide if they want to consolidate the two townships into one. Under state law, the election must be scheduled between January 1, 2018 and May 1, 2018.*

As required by state law, the petition:

1. Identifies the two townships that would be consolidated (Peaine and St. James)
2. Provides a name for the consolidated township – Beaver Island Township
3. Establishes the voted extra millages that the consolidated township would be authorized to levy in 2018 and 2019.

If a majority of voters in both townships approve consolidation, Beaver Island Township would take effect November 20, 2018. The consolidated township would have five elected officials, including a supervisor, clerk, and treasurer, who would have been elected previously in the August 2018 and November 2018 elections. The assets and liabilities of the two townships would belong to Beaver Island Township. The consolidated township would adopt a set of resolutions to consolidate existing commissions, boards, authorities, and all other arrangements of Peaine and St. James Townships.

The extra voted millages in the petition would:

- Establish a cap of 13.75 mills on total extra voted mills—which is at or below the current caps in Peaine and St. James Townships. The township board would determine how much of the voted mills to levy on property tax bills.
- Maintain each of the two township's eight previously voter-approved specific purposes for extra voted mills.
- Set a millage rate for each specific purpose that blends the Peaine and St. James rates into a single consolidated rate.
- Expire each special voted millage on a date previously approved by township voters.

Extra Voted Millages in Petition			
	Purpose	Consolidated Millage Rate	Expiration Date
1	Airport	.85	12/31/2019
2	Emergency Medical Services	3.0	12/31/2019
3	Fire	1.0	12/31/2018
4	Health Center	2.0	12/31/2018
5	Historical Society	.1	12/31/2019
6	Roads	1.4	12/31/2019
7	Township Operations	3.6	12/31/2018
8	Transfer Station	1.8	12/31/2019

* The Charlevoix County Clerk says that the state Legislature must address the fact that a 2016 change in the state election law means a township consolidation election cannot be scheduled before May 1.