



**35328 W. Pabst Road  
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066**

**MICHAEL J. BICKLER, SR.**

Village President

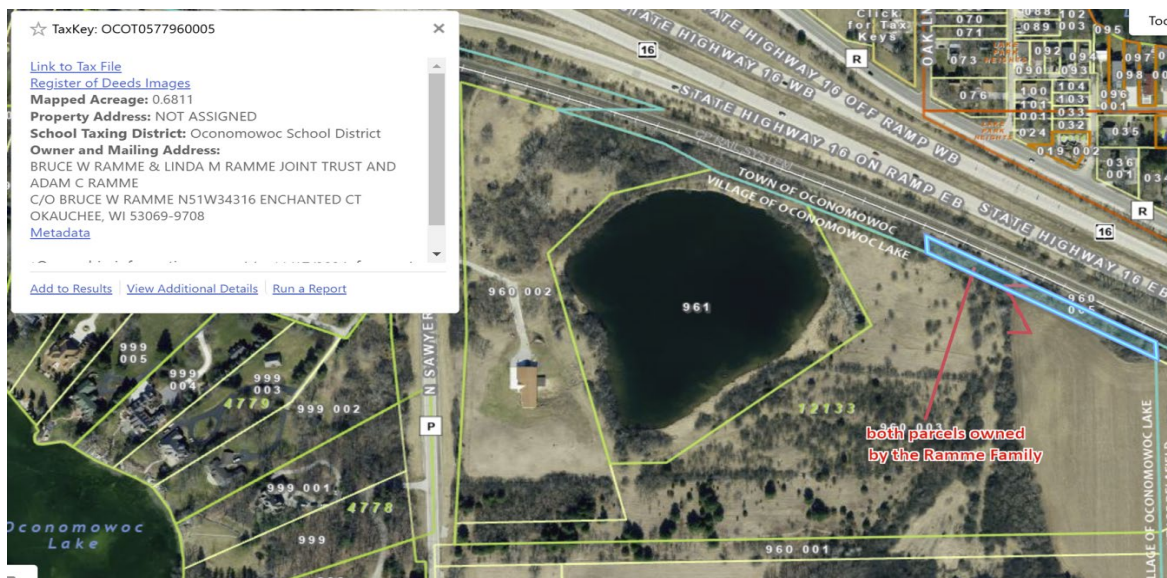
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: January 10, 2025

**RE: Litigation filed January 2, 2025**

The Village of Oconomowoc Lake has received numerous inquiries related to the Village's court challenge to the Village of Lac La Belle/Town of Oconomowoc's attempt to consolidate. Our Village has taken this action for one simple reason.

In May of 2024, the Town of Oconomowoc Chair and Administrator asked to meet with me and our Administrator's to discuss boundary issues. At that time, they stated that they were talking to their neighboring Towns of Ashippun and Merton about border agreements and wanted to do the same with our Village. During our meeting, we identified three small parcels located to the south of Highway 16 that are adjacent to the Village and separated from the Town by the highway. The Village sought those parcels, along with a minor shift in our mutual boarder to the south side of highway 16, all of which was depicted on a map that was given to the Town Chairman and Administrator at our meeting. The first parcel located east of Sawyer Road divides a single parcel into the Village and Town – a portion of the property in the Town less than an acre (48' x 645'). As a result, this owner receives 2 tax bills – one from the Village for 20+ acres and one from the Town for .68 acres.



The other 2 parcels are located west of Highway P and are about 7 acres.



At the May meeting, there was general agreement that it made no sense for these Town lands to remain in the town, requiring the town to otherwise provide services south of the highway. Accordingly, we came to an agreement that day that this agreement should be taken up by our respective boards and approved. The Oconomowoc Lake Village Board met and approved this agreement. This approval was announced to the Town. Despite repeated inquiries from the Village of Oconomowoc Lake asking the Town to approve the minor border adjustment, the Town has not yet responded with approval of this agreement. Instead, during this entire time period, unknown to Oconomowoc Lake, the Town was planning to consolidate in its entirety into the Village of Lac La Belle. After the Lac La Belle merger was revealed, we again reached out to the Town Chair and Administrator to ask whether they would honor our agreement **prior to the merger**. Again, the Town of Oconomowoc has not responded to those inquiries from the Village.

Village of Oconomowoc Lake believes that the Town/Lac La Belle consolidation agreement does not represent the historic inter municipal cooperation the Village/Town have always shared. The Village of Oconomowoc Lake has a longstanding practice of entering into border agreements with their neighbors when asked.

As stated, but for the Town's lack of action, so far, to honor the agreement to "square-up" our borders, there would be no challenge. And if the Town/Village of Lac La Belle agrees to detach these areas south of Highway 16, our lawsuit will be dismissed.