



A TOWN IS BORN ... Attorney William Hughes (standing) presents the Daleville incorporation ordinance to Delaware County Commissioners (from left) Richard Thornburg, William O'Rourke and Ronald Quakenbush. It was unani-

mously approved, making Daleville Indiana's newest town. Also pictured are county attorney Jack Slagle and commissioner's secretary Dorinda Campbell. — Evening Press photo by Jerry Burney.

Daleville: It's Indiana's newest town as compromise is reached

Daleville is Indiana's newest town.

The action came today when the Delaware County commissioners unanimously approved an ordinance to incorporate the town, climaxing a 1½-year drive by Daleville residents.

A handful of residents attended the special meeting to support incorporation.

The ordinance represents a compromise between Daleville and the Madison County town of Chesterfield, which proposed to annex more than 60 acres in Delaware County that Daleville was attempting to incorporate.

According to the settlement, 15 of the 60 acres were incorporated by Daleville, and commissioners today approved the annexation of 44 acres located in Delaware County by Chesterfield.

Daleville's incorporation was

approved by the Anderson City Council Thursday — required by law since Daleville is within three miles of that city.

Muncie attorney William Hughes, representing Daleville residents, urged commissioners to approve the ordinance. Hughes said although the compromise is "not entirely satisfactory to either side, the cooperation (between Daleville and Chesterfield) the last several weeks has been complete."

Chesterfield's attorney William Kreegar agreed "both communities gave up something in the compromise." But, Kreegar said, it accommodated the main goals, which were incorporation for Daleville and annexation for Chesterfield.

The ordinance includes boundaries for five wards for the purpose of electing town trustees. A clerk-trea-

surer and five trustees will be elected at-large in the November general election. They will take office at noon, Jan. 1, and serve for one year, "to get in step with state law which sets town elections for off years," Hughes explained.

Hughes assured commissioners the wards, proposed by the Delaware-Muncie Metropolitan Plan Commission, met the approval of the county election board.

In urging commissioners to approve Chesterfield's annexation of Delaware County land, Hughes said, under the proposal, Chesterfield will assume the responsibility of maintaining County Road 550-S — "no little undertaking" since it is in poor condition and "to rebuild it will cost many thousands of dollars." Kreegar said he hoped the annexation will be complete next week.

It's Official!

Daleville Is Finally a Town

By SETH SLABAUGH
Star Staff Reporter

DALEVILLE — This town became incorporated Friday, 143 years after the first plat was filed.

Here are its vital statistics:

- Size — 1,191 acres.
- Population — 1,823.
- Assessed value — \$3.4 million.
- Type government — town board.
- Ranks fourth in population in the county, ahead of Eaton, Gaston and Selma.

The first plat was filed Nov. 10, 1838, by Campbell Dale, a Revolutionary War veteran who is buried here.

According to the history books, the town "went to sleep" shortly after it was platted because a proposed canal project flopped. The town woke up, however, when a railroad line came through in 1852.

The town was incorporated Friday by an ordinance adopted by the Delaware County Commissioners.

The city-county plan commission, the Indiana Department of Commerce and the Anderson City Council already had approved the incorporation.

In addition, the commissioners found that all other legal requirements had been met: a petition for incorporation signed by 222 landowners was submitted last year and a public hearing was held.

Also, the commissioners found that there is enough undeveloped area in the new town to permit growth, the area is "urban in character, reasonably compact, and contiguous" and

Town Meeting

DALEVILLE — A town meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Daleville Elementary School.

"We are urging everybody in town to please attend," said Ellen Nixon, secretary of the Daleville incorporation committee.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the upcoming election of a town board and clerk-treasurer.

Mrs. Nixon said incorporation attorney William Hughes will be at the meeting to answer questions about the incorporation and the election.

The town has been divided into five political wards, but town board members will run at large.

incorporation is in the best interest of residents.

A handful of townspeople showed up at the Delaware County Building in Muncie for adoption of the ordinance.

On the way to the commissioners courtroom, the group passed a tablet dedicated to the memory of Campbell Dale and 16 other Revolutionary War veterans who are buried in Delaware County.

The adoption of the ordinance was low key — smiles and congratulations, no champagne, no noise-makers.

(See DALEVILLE on P. 15)

"Congratulations," said county commissioner Ronald Quakenbush. "I'm sure you're going to have a happy New Year's Day."

Although the incorporation ordinance was "in full force and effect" immediately after its passage, the "corporate existence" of the town will not commence until noon on Jan. 1, incorporation attorney William V. Hughes explained.

Five at-large town board members and a clerk-treasurer will be elected to one-year terms in the Nov. 2 general election, but they won't take office until Jan. 1.

"It will be up to the town board to determine what services to provide and when," Hughes said.

The town's first budget will be prepared next year, but property taxes won't be collected until 1984.

The incorporation committee estimated the town could provide six services with a first-year tax rate of \$1.50 per \$100 of assessed value, which would raise \$50,000 annually.

In addition, the town would receive additional annual revenues of \$75,000 from alcohol and cigarette taxes, user fees, the gasoline tax and federal revenue sharing, the committee estimated.

The six services will be:

- Police protection.
- Fire protection.
- Street construction, lighting and maintenance.
- Health protection.
- Parks and recreation.
- Planning, zoning and subdivision control.

County election board member Lowell Williams predicted there will be "no problem" in conducting the town election, although details still are being worked out.

Williams said punch-card ballots counted by computer probably will be used, rather than paper ballots counted by hand.

He also said candidates probably will run as independents and can get on the ballot "simply by petitioning the election board before September 1."

Hughes said officials will be elected only to one-year terms so that Daleville can "get in step with" a law requiring municipal elections in off years.

Attorney Wayne Shirey, a life-long Daleville resident, was one of the people in attendance at Friday's meeting. Shirey was involved in two previous incorporation drives.

Asked why he thought those drives were unsuccessful, Shirey said: "Because people didn't want to pay taxes."

Asked why he thought the current drive was a success, he said: "Because Chesterfield wanted to take it over."

Shirey was referring to the successful annexation by Chesterfield of 44 acres in Delaware County, an area Daleville residents looked on as their turf. Chesterfield is in Madison County.

Hughes said the annexation effort — which resulted in several Daleville residents filing suit to stop it — was the "principal barrier" to incorporation.

The two communities recently reached agreement defining the boundaries of each, which prevented, according to Hughes, what could have been a long and costly court battle that would have delayed both the incorporation and the annexation.

Hughes said he hopes the agreement "is the kind of cooperation that will continue between the two towns since they are going to be side-by-side forever now."

Chesterfield attorney William Kreegar said both sides "gave up something in the compromise."

Chesterfield originally annexed some 60 acres in Delaware County, but agreed to give about 15 of those back to Daleville for incorporation.

Daleville Incorporated