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Medina-Ridgeway-Shelby Study Committee to Hold First Public Forum on October 19

7-9 pm at Medina High School Auditorium

October 13, 2010 – Residents of the Village of Medina and the Towns of Ridgeway and Shelby are invited to a public forum on Tuesday, October 19 to learn more about a study investigating new governance options up to and including Village dissolution, merger of the Towns, or other shared services. The forum will focus on how services are currently provided, who provides them, costs, etc. It will be from 7-9 pm at the Medina High School auditorium, 2 Mustang Drive, Medina.

The Village successfully applied to the state's Local Government Efficiency (LGE) program for a planning grant to conduct a "dissolution feasibility study" in cooperation with the Towns. Separately, Ridgeway and Shelby also received an LGE grant to conduct a "merger feasibility study" between the two Towns. To explore the results of such measures and clarify the issues involved, the municipalities jointly engaged the Center for Governmental Research (CGR) to conduct a combined study.

“When considering ways to improve local government, we have to start by assessing the delivery of services as they exist now,” said Adam Tabelski, Medina Mayor. “That process helps us identify our strengths and weaknesses. The public meeting on October 19 will be a great opportunity for everyone to get engaged in the open and frank discussion we are having about the future of our community.”

Town of Ridgeway Supervisor Brian Napoli pointed out that the meeting will be an opportunity to look objectively at areas where costs can be lowered while maintaining services and

improving the community. The forum, he said, “will present to the community a catalog of what we have in order to see what we can consolidate, improve or eliminate.”

“The shared services study we are embarking on is a key to the prosperity of Western Orleans County and the community we all call Medina,” added Town of Shelby Supervisor Merle (Skip) Draper. “The recommendations of the study Committee will be very useful as governing decisions are made by those elected to office and the Committee wants public input.”

CGR, the study consultant, will describe what currently exists in the communities, based on work completed to date, and answer questions. Members of the study Committee will also participate in the forum.

For additional information, see the project website at www.cgr.org/medina-ridgeway-shelby.

Study Committee members are:

Medina: Ann Bunch, Don Colquhoun, Charlie Slack and Adam Tabelski

Ridgeway: Patty Blackburn, Nelda Callard, Rosalind Lind and Jeffrey Toussaint

Shelby: Merle (Skip) Draper, Lawrence Fox, Nathan Pace and Howard Watts