

## Township struggles to define its future

- Credit River officials have delayed making some big decisions while they try to take the community's pulse.

By PETER COX  
Special to the Star Tribune

Two weeks ago, about 50 residents of Credit River Township gathered in a meeting hall to listen to the township board's budget recommendations.

Then they voted. All 50 or so hands were counted, and the residents cut their levy by \$50,000.

Unlike cities, a township's levy vote takes the form of direct democracy.

"It is really down to the simplest form, a grass-roots government," said Brent Lawrence, a member of the board of supervisors. "It's one of the things that make township government unique."

But the future of that government here is unclear. For the past three years, Credit River has been having somewhat of an identity crisis, trying to figure out whether to incorporate as a city, annex itself slowly to neighbors such as Savage and Prior Lake, or keep the status quo.

This summer, the board planned to come to a conclusion on the issue. But a lack of public input and clarity on the issues has postponed any decision.

**Township continues:** Board might hire consultant. **AA6 ▶**

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