

Consolidation of Shoreacres into LaPorte
Shoreacre's financial outlook is bleak at best FY25-26 budget was balanced through reserves and deferring critical projects because tax increase was unallowed. Managing our operating budget through tax increases and service cuts is no longer feasible. Current tax rate is 15-20% higher than neighbors with less amenities and services and will get worse. Lack of commercial tax base is core of the problem. I would say we have already approached a redline tax rate.
How and why did this happen? Current budget problem did not happen overnight. Reserves are 1/5 of what they were 20 years ago (\$3M) courtesy IKE. Cost escalation for services and wages exacerbated budget problem. Added an unrealistic EMS service that we could not afford. Years of costly repairs of 75 year old infrastructure strained budget. Shoreacres tax base has been flat or decreasing! Perhaps city management group think to survive year to year is wishful thinking only.
What to expect if business as usual Services will continue to be cut...not much to cut. Tax rates WILL INCREASE next year despite resident protest. Repairs to infrastructure failures will likely be Band-Aids. Reserves could be further depleted. An extreme weather condition will force the city into financial collapse (loan default)
Besides over taxation, what options does Shoreacres have? 1. Consolidate with City of LaPorte (Pasadena not option since not contiguous) 2. Ask LaPorte to significantly cut EMS and Fire Services (longshot and not likely to happen) 3. Become unincorporated part of Harris County....wild west and poor services. Bad option.
Why WOULD Shoreacres residents want to consolidate next year or ASAP? Eliminate risk of Shoreacres government failure due to a significant weather event. Current non-emergency timing and LaPorte friendly council makes this a good time. Residents would likely receive an immediate 15% reduction in city tax rate rather than increase. Much better LaPorte EMS resources in the unfortunate event of an emergency. Likely receive a 25% vs 15% discount for flood insurance due to lower CRS rating (7 to 5). Public works and parks maintenance and repairs will improve...currently unacceptable. Likely better trash service. LaPorte Flood plain ordinances are logical and reasonable unlike ours (since 2023) Code enforcement of abandoned swimming pools and houses likely to improve safety and appearance of Shoreacres. Better building permit process and lower costs along with reasonable inspections. Access to LaPorte Fitness Center at reduced rate. Residents will have access to city dump services. Animal Control services (loose, strays, and dead animals) will be available. Shoreacres would be a neighborhood rather than a city in name only, e.g. <i>Shady River, Fairmont Park</i>.
Why WOULDN'T Shoreacres Residents Want to Consolidate? "Coziness" with Police officers and neighborhood patrols will likely diminish. Residents voice at City Council will carry less weight. Some residents may have LDS (LaPorte Derangement Syndrome) with no cure.
Benefits to LaPorte Current LaPorte all receives \$450k from Shoreacres for (EMS, FD, Dispatch) without any additional operating expense since already staffed. After Consolidation Likely receive an additional \$900k-\$1.2M in added revenue with almost no additional expense to absorb Shoreacres Administrative and Police Department. LaPorte inherits a very nice Police Station and vehicles....could be LaPorte South Station South LaPorte residents would get needed secondary water supply.
Cons to LaPorte Liability for added infrastructure repairs (known and unknown) LaPorte inherits a liability associated with post IKE loan (Balance TBD)
Key State Requirements for Consolidation Each city would have to have 100 qualifying signatures to petition a vote. Election vote would have to be within 45 days of submitted signatures.
Proposed Approach Each city identify respected, balanced, and objective POC to help prepare handouts and hold meetings and report status to respective councils. Get agreement on schedule to have signatures approved NLT March 2026 for May 2026 General Election Ballots. Hold joint SA/LP town hall meetings (Jan-Mar) to discuss, resolve concerns, and gather signatures for petition. Have one meeting in Shoreacres, one in LaPorte, and one at SJCC Use social media for announcing meeting notices only.

Shoreacres Dilemma

10/27/2025

Barry Plante

Shoreacre's outyear financial outlook is bleak

- FY25-26 budget was balanced through reserves and deferring critical projects because tax increase was unallowed.
- Managing our operating budget through tax increases and service cuts is no longer feasible.
- Current tax rate is 15-20% higher than neighbors with less amenities and services and will get worse.
- Lack of commercial tax base is core of the problem.
- I would say we have already approached a **redline tax rate**.

How and why did this happen?

- Current budget problem did not happen overnight.
- Reserves are 1/5 of what they were 20 years ago (\$3M) courtesy IKE.
- Cost escalation for services and wages exacerbated budget problem.
- Added an unrealistic EMS service that we could not afford.

How and why did this happen? (Con't)

- Years of costly repairs of 75 year-old infrastructure strained budget.
- Shoreacres tax base has been flat or decreasing!
- Perhaps city management group think to survive year to year is wishful thinking only.

What to expect if business as usual

- Services will continue to be cut...not much to cut.
- Tax rates **WILL INCREASE** next year despite resident protest.
- Repairs to infrastructure failures will likely be Band-Aids.
- Reserves could be further depleted.
- An extreme weather condition will force the city into financial collapse (loan default)

Besides over taxation, what options does Shoreacres have?

1. Consolidate with City of LaPorte (Pasadena not option since not contiguous)
2. Ask LaPorte to significantly cut EMS and Fire Services (more wishful thinking)
3. Become unincorporated part of Harris County....wild west and poor services. **Bad option.**

Why WOULD Shoreacres residents want to consolidate next year or ASAP? (con't)

- LaPorte Flood plain ordinances are logical and reasonable unlike ours (since 2023)
- Likely receive a 25% vs 15% discount for flood insurance due to lower CRS rating (7 to 5).
- Code enforcement of abandoned swimming pools and houses likely to improve safety and appearance of Shoreacres.
- Better building permit process and lower costs along with reasonable inspections.

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