



Voters say good-bye to Whiteash

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The 110-year-old Williamson County village of Whiteash appears headed to becoming only a memory after Tuesday's election.

Voters in the village of roughly 250 people agreed to dissolve the dysfunctional community by a 52 percent margin. A total of 75 people voted on the ballot referendum, with 57, or 76 percent, saying yes to dissolution.

The champion of the referendum movement, Village Trustee Gary Jones, was unavailable to comment because of a death in the family. He had led a petition drive to place the question on the ballot after he and two other trustees approved the measure.

The dissolution was sought because the financially strapped community has little money to provide services, from police protection to road maintenance including snow removal. Seats on the village board and offices, including president, have remained vacant for some time.

Those responsibilities appear headed to county government as the area will now become unincorporated. County officials are in discussions on what the rare move will mean for them, including who will be held accountable for the remaining \$160,000 still owed the federal government for sewer work.

They also have to figure out who will maintain sewer lines since the county does not have a department with that expertise. Those talks continue.

When the village will hand over the keys to the county is not known at this time though the transition will not be immediate, county officials have said.

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