

**Notes from Incorporation Discussion of Concerned Citizens  
8-18-2008  
Convened by ExploreIncorp-BB**

The following **PRO** and **CON** points/concerns were expressed at the meeting.

If Birch Bay Decides to Incorporate:

**PROS**

24/7 Police Protection  
Local Control  
Local Accountability  
Fire Protection  
Institutional Knowledge/History  
More Responsive - Quicker Decisions  
Land Use & Development Control, including Design Guidelines etc  
Code Enforcement - Junk etc  
Hunters on the Beach  
Toilets  
Bay Protection - WHERE'S THE BERM?  
Post Office  
Clout with Utilities  
Efficient to Operate  
Taxes - can stay the same for same or better services

**CONS**

Petty Bureaucrats - conflict with neighbors  
Potential Legal Issues (with Developers)  
Grandiose Infrastructure - Cost Control - No City "Taj Ma" Hall  
No Faith in Politicians - Fear of Unknown  
Same Problems as we have with Whatcom County  
Cost Concerns - Taxes may go up?

Suggestions for further information to be analyzed:

Include some stats on what we have paid into road funds for what we have received in projects.  
How much we pay per mile of road vs. other areas of the county - that money could stay here.  
How would schools be affected?  
What happens to County Park lands?

Group Homework:

Re-read the Birch Bay Incorporation Feasibility Study, available on the Incorporation page at [www.birchbayinfo.org](http://www.birchbayinfo.org).  
Review the Municipal Incorporation Guide, also available at [www.birchbayinfo.org](http://www.birchbayinfo.org).  
Rank the above concerns with your priorities.

**Next Meeting: Monday, Sept 8, 7pm at the Birch Bay Bible Community Church**