

Summary of Amended Final Elector Initiated Dissolution Plan for the Village of Altmar

This document is intended to summarize the proposed dissolution plan that was amended and approved by the Village Board at its meeting of August 3, 2011. The Plan was developed in response to the voter-initiated dissolution referendum that passed in November 2010. Official copies are available at the offices of the Village Clerk and Town Clerk and online at www.cgr.org/altmar/documents.aspx. A public hearing on the proposed plan was held at the Albion-Altmar Municipal Building at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6, 2011.

Cost. The one-time cost of dissolution is projected to be \$75,000. This includes \$42,000 in consultant fees, funded primarily with a New York State Local Government Efficiency Grant; \$25,000 in legal fees; and \$8,000 in miscellaneous expenses, including advertisement and referendum fees.

Staff. Under the Plan, all Village employee positions will be eliminated, including the Village Mayor, Village Trustees, Village Clerk, Village Code Enforcement Office, and three part-time municipal maintenance workers. The Town will be responsible for providing services within the former Village. Real savings from the elimination of these positions is approximately \$22,800.

Assets. At the time of dissolution, all remaining Village assets will become Town property. This includes Village municipal structures and building contents (insured value of \$905,500); Village owned machinery and equipment (insured value of \$64,400); Village-owned fire apparatus and equipment (insured value of \$898,600); and fund balances (currently \$16,696). Village streets, sidewalks, and storm sewers will also become Town property.

Services. Most services currently provided by the Village will be provided by the Town. This includes the following: local government representation, clerical and administrative services, code enforcement services, road, storm sewer, building maintenance and related highway services, mowing of municipal building grounds and cemetery, and spring street sweeping and storm sewer maintenance. Brush and leaf pick-up will be eliminated. Sidewalk maintenance, repair and replacement will become the responsibility of residents. Street lighting will be provided by the Town through a special lighting district encompassing the former Village. The special lighting district will levy a tax on former Village properties to pay for street lighting. This levy amounts to approximately \$.86 per \$1,000 assessed value.

The current Village Fire Department will incorporate as a not-for-profit Fire Corporation. The Town will contract with the Fire Corporation to provide services to the town-wide fire protection district. There will be effectively no change in Fire and EMS services to the Town.

Fiscal and Tax Impact. Total savings after dissolution are projected to be \$31,290. The Town will also receive the Citizen's Empowerment Tax Credit (CETC) from New York State in the amount of \$58,000 annually. 70% of the CETC must be applied toward property tax relief. As a result of the savings and the CETC, all residents should see a reduction in property taxes. Current Village residents' tax rates (in dollars per \$1,000 Taxable Assessed value) will be reduced from \$9.72 to \$5.37, a reduction of 45%. Current Town-Outside-Village (TOV) residents' tax rates will be reduced from \$4.99 to \$4.51, a reduction of 10%. For the average property (assessed at \$75,000), this means a savings of \$326 for a current Village taxpayer and a savings of \$36 for a current TOV taxpayer.

Procedure. After the public hearing, the Village Board will adopt the Final Dissolution Plan. Village residents will then have 45 days to petition for a referendum on the Plan. The petition must be signed by 25% of registered Village voters. If the referendum passes, the Village will dissolve on 6/1/13. If the referendum does not pass, the Village will not dissolve and four years must pass before another dissolution vote can be held. If no petition is brought within 45 days, the Village will dissolve on 6/1/13.

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