

Village of Candor Dissolution Study Committee
Meeting - February 22, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gwen Isham at 7 PM. attending members: Frank Musgrave, Jerry Ahart, Teresa Twarz, Butch Crowe, and Fred Quinlan. Member Bob Houck was out of town.

Also attending: Mayor Steve Sparling, Town Supervisor Darlene Cobler, Village/Town Attorney Kurt Schrader, and Charles Zettek, Jr. representative of Center for Governmental Research (CGR), Anne Stout and Jesse Disbrow, media representatives.

Florence Alpert, Village resident addressed the committee. She thanked the members for agreeing to serve. She then gave some background on the petition circulation process. She and three others who were instrumental in the petition process feel that it should be validated and they are checking with legal counsel on that issue. According to Mrs. Alpert when a committee is appointed as the result of a valid petition the issue must go on the ballot for Village voters to decide. When the committee is appointed by the Village Board – as is the current committee – it would not be mandatory for the issue to be placed on the ballot.

Charles Zettek then addressed the committee. CGR has been involved in studies across the State including Perrysburg, N. Collins, Seneca Falls and Ft. Henry. Some of those are coming up for a vote this year. He discussed the historical perspective of Villages and how that has changed. One big issue is the Property Tax base. His company would do fact finding for the committee and it is his hope that the matter would be handled in a civil manner with open debate. CGR is a not-for-profit company organized in 1915. There are 18 employees. CGR deals primarily with Governmental improvement studies. He said their reports to the committee would be completed within 6 – 9 months so that the matter could be voted on in March, 2011.

Mayor Steve Sparling said it is the intent of the Village board to enter a contract with CGR and to move forward expeditiously for a grant from NYS to cover that cost.

Charles Zettek went thru the grant process but did say that his company would not be involved in the application process so as to avoid any conflict of interest

He then suggested having a representative from the Village and Town serve in an ad hoc status on the committee. These representatives would have no voting privileges. He feels this is especially important to keep both boards abreast of the progress of the committee and would also allow for timely answers to questions committee members might have. A motion was made by Butch Crowe, 2nd. by Jerry Ahart to have a member of the Village and Town Board serve on the committee. The motion carried. Steve Sparling said he would represent the Village. Darlene Cobler said she would present it to the Town Board at their next meeting. It was her feeling she would be the Town representative.

Frank Musgrave commented that the committee needs to review items other than just cost savings. He mentioned particularly the DPW Supt. and Police Chief and their current effectiveness to Village residents. It is possible that if a vote was in favor of dissolution that these positions may not be absorbed by the town. All members agree that was a valid point and that cost savings alone should not be considered.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10. Next meeting March 8, 7 PM, Town Hall. The committee felt it would be helpful to hear from Bill Klish who was involved in the Johnson City Dissolution study. Steve will try to arrange to have Bill attend the next meeting.

Fred Quinlan, Secretary