

Village of Candor Dissolution Study Committee
Meeting - October 25, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gwen Isham at 7:02 PM. attending members: Jerry Ahart, Fred Quinlan, Teresa Twarz, Butch Crowe, Frank Musgrave and Bob Houck. Ad Hoc members Mayor Steve Sparling and Town Supervisor Darlene Cobler, Village/Town Attorney Kurt Schrader, and a few community residents.

Public comment period: Florence Alpert addressed the committee on the issue of street lighting. She had done research. TOV have four street lights. Village has 32 (23 functioning) on highways running thru the village with an additional 27 on village streets. The 32 lights provide service to anyone using the village for shopping, banking, etc. while the 27 lights serve mainly village residents. She had spoken with the Newfield Town clerk, Newfield village having been dissolved a number of years ago. That town currently has 2 lighting districts and Florence suggests we consider recommending having two districts. Gwen thanked Florence for her time and information she shared.

Acceptance of minutes of October 4th. and 18th. meetings: Bob Houck made a motion, 2nd. by Butch Crowe to accept minutes from the 4th. Motion was carried. For the 18th. It was pointed out the agreement between the village and school regarding the water issue runs for 18 years and not 17 as reported in those minutes. Teresa Twarz made a motion to accept those minutes with that change, Butch Crowe, 2nd. Motion was carried.

Follow up from October 18th. Presentation: Water – Fred commented that he got the impression from the last meeting that the town would be responsible to the water district for unpaid water charges in excess of \$10,000. It was his understanding that a town cannot use general funds to help out a water district so why would we be talking about this. It should be a function of the water district to absorb those charges.

Attorney Schrader agreed and said he had wondered why that figure was being shown as it was. Currently the village general fund does not pay any amount to the water department for unpaid water charges; they are absorbed by the water department. No money changes hands, so to speak. It was further agreed this was not a town wide expense. A lengthy discussion ensued about water charges not being paid by the cemetery, fire department and library in addition to the school. As was discussed before the agreement with the fire department expired in 2011 so that will not be an issue.

Regarding the school Fred expressed his opinion that the benefit the school now receives may be quite a bit more than the benefit the village received when they used the school's water and electricity. To that end he suggested the agreement with the school be renegotiated. Steve Sparling said the village has tried to do that but the school officials are adamant that the contract remain in effect as it is. Kurt Schrader did say that the school was using the potable village water for watering the athletic fields and the Village asked them to stop doing that and to use water from their own well. As far as they know that is what is being done.

Teresa Twarz made a motion that all water users, with the exception of the school, pays for water usage in a newly formed water district in the event of dissolution. Motion was 2nd. by Bob Houck. Motion was carried

Further water discussion: Kurt Schrader said the current village water department has one rate for village residents and one for TOV residents. Since all users will be included in the newly formed district we either need to have two water districts – one for the current “village” residents and one for “TOV” residents, or amend the rating schedule to show one rate for all users. All committee members felt we did not want two water districts and would recommend changing the current rate application.

Jerry Ahart – his concern is that no one on the town board is a village resident and he wonders if the town council would have the same interest in the water issue as the village board does. He heard the talk of privatization at the last meeting and he was bothered by that. Can the town set up a commission of a few people to oversee the water department? Kurt and Steve said the town cannot do that. Bob Houck allowed that should the village dissolve there should be some serious movement to find a village resident willing to run for a seat on the town board.

Darlene Cobler – she feels village residents should be aware of the possibility of increased water expenses because the current village employee stated he spends about 75% of his time on water issues. But, he is paid by both the village general and water funds. The town would have to pay all expenses related to that employee out of water funds and that could result in an increase. She also mentioned the water billing as an additional expense.

Gwen mentioned that while that is a possibility she felt the committee had already addressed this issue and further that it would be difficult if not impossible to evaluate what those increases might be. Other committee members felt any increase would not be significant.

It was agreed we would ask CGR to address this issue and make sure it was plain to Village voters.

Lighting – Darlene said she would make this easy. The Town currently pays for street lights from Townwide Funds and she felt that the town would continue to pay for any street lighting in the event of dissolution. No lighting district would be necessary.

Library - Bob Houck suggested in the event of dissolution there would be no changes in who uses the library. While the combined village/town population might require a different library designation with additional hours and staffing the same people that use it now would continue to do so.

Val Kelly, Library Board President said the library is now open 27 hours and would have to go to 35. But, the technical requirements stated in the CGR report are not needed. The library would only need someone with a four year degree and not a masters certified librarian as stated by CGR. This information was obtained from the State of New York Education department.

Fred thanked Val for her information but felt that the committee would need to have clarification from CGR as to where their information came from

There were no further comments by committee members. Gwen said the next meeting would be November 8 so we need to get information on any changes/clarifications to CGR by the 3rd. Also, we need to publish by November 10th. the public hearing scheduled for December 6. It was suggested we should use the fire hall for that meeting. Fred offered to check with Nancy King as to the availability of the fire hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Fred Quinlan, Secretary