

# Corinth Shared Service/Dissolution Feasibility Study Committee Meeting

---

**September 30, 2009**  
**6 pm, Fire Hall**

---

Committee Members Present: Renee Baker, Ed Byrnes, Jeff Collura, Melanie Denno, Julius Enekes, Kevin Granger, Tim Hanchett, Jim Hopkins, Tim Murphy (Chairman), Dick Lucia, Scott Sprague

Others Present: Nicole Colson, Shawn Eggleston, Rose Farr, Andy Kelley, Art Lozier

Consulting Team Members Present: Joseph Stefko, Rob Camoin

## Agenda

1. Introductions
  - a. Committee members
  - b. CGR
2. Clarify purpose of study and ultimate goal(s)
3. Discussion of background issues
4. Review of CGR work plan
  - a. Project team
  - b. Timelines
  - c. Initial data request and interview plan
5. Coordinate plan for first public meeting
6. Project website

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Murphy at 6:05 pm, and invited Committee members to introduce themselves. Ms. Denno provided an overview of the process and the evening's agenda, and reminded the group of the feasibility study's primary goals.

Dr. Stefko introduced himself and provided background on the Center for Governmental Research, which will serve as the primary project consulting team in conjunction with Camoin Associates. He noted that the project team brings "no preconceived notion" as to answers or recommendations, and will provide the Committee with "objective, independent" data collection, review and analysis to best position it to make a final decision/recommendation for moving forward.

Mr. Murphy inquired as to the timeline for a vote on dissolution. Dr. Stefko noted that the current effort is a "feasibility study," as opposed to a "technical dissolution plan." As neither the Village Board nor public petitioners have yet initiated a dissolution plan process, the Committee is under no specific deadline to complete its work. In response to a question from Mr. Hopkins, Dr. Stefko noted that the current project is expected to take no more than six months.

Dr. Stefko proposed November 23, 2009 as the next Committee meeting date. Committee members conferred and agreed. The consulting team will develop a draft calendar of meetings and submit it to the Committee for review.

Dr. Stefko reviewed the purpose of the study and its ultimate goal(s). He also reviewed the differences between a shared service/dissolution feasibility study and a “technical dissolution plan.” He then walked the Committee members through the project work plan and timeline, reminding members that the project is expected to take approximately six months. Four public meetings will be held for the purposes of informing the community and soliciting feedback – one at the start of the project, two interim meetings, and one final presentation.

Committee members engaged in a discussion of background issues for the study. Issues raised included:

- Mr. Collura: The idea of consolidation has been considered previously in Corinth. Why is this time any different? What issues have changed? Mr. Lucia suggested that the financial situation has changed, and based on the new Comprehensive Plan, the idea of consolidation is more on people’s minds now than before.
- Mr. Byrnes: The study should explore how fire services would change in a consolidation, as well as how the financial structure for fire services would shift. Dr. Stefko noted that fire services would be contemplated in the analysis, especially since towns and villages have different responsibilities vis-à-vis fire services under NYS law.
- Ms. Baker: The study should explore how discrepancies in Town and Village codes would be addressed in the event of consolidation. Dr. Stefko noted that some options can be considered, but a full fleshing out of those legal issues would be the purview of a technical dissolution plan, if the Committee chose to go in that direction subsequent to the current study.
- Mr. Lozier: Would dissolution only require Village voters to vote? Dr. Stefko responded in the affirmative.
- Mr. Sprague: How would consolidation impact Civil Service issues? Mr. Lucia also pointed out that the Village has one union; the Town has none.
- Ms. Denno: How would consolidation impact grant resources?
- Mr. Collura reminded the Committee that the majority of taxes paid in the community are for school services, not municipal. As a result, any savings likely to accrue from shared services or consolidation are not likely to be significant. Ms. Denno noted that the current effort also looks at opportunities to enhance service quality, not simply to save tax dollars.

Dr. Stefko requested the Committee consider selecting a date for the first public meeting on the project. Committee members conferred and agreed that October 26, 2009 at 7 pm in the Fire

Hall was the best option. Dr. Stefko will work with Ms. Denno to finalize logistics and issue the press release.

Dr. Stefko also explained that CGR will establish a website for the shared services/dissolution feasibility study effort. The site will launch within the next two weeks, and will provide the public with information on Committee meeting schedules, important documents, and an opportunity to provide electronic feedback to the Committee. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to submit their email addresses through the website in order to receive automatic notifications as new information is added.

Mr. Murphy asked for any final comments. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm.