

VILLAGE OF DANSVILLE
DISSOLUTION /CO-TERMINUS STUDY
MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
4-20-10

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barry Haywood(Chairman), Dennis Mahus, Richard Schwenzer, Nancy Conklin, Bob Smith, Sandy Briggs, Andy Kershner, Don Saylor, James Wissler.

ADVISORS PRESENT: Tim Wolfanger, John Putney, Rachel Scura, Keith Petti, Donna Clark.

MEMBERS ABSENT: William Dixon

ALSO PRESENT:

Scott Sittig	Charles Zettek,Jr.
Charles Owens	Sue & John Hill
Eric Cox	Dennis Cox
James MacWhorter	Donald Hamler
Linda Haines	Rita Boyle
Terry Van (WDNY)	Courtney Veaut
Dennis Gould	Fran Alverson
Bonnie Wester	Sharlene Dawson
Lois Dawson	Jim Snyder
Jim Blum	Matt Williams
John Scura	Donna Scura
Richard E. Jones	Diane Drum
Richard Whitenack	Jim Beecher
Dan Barwick	Jerry Jackson
Linda Goodwin	Tammi Sliker
Carmen Brokaw	Margaret Biek
Richard Fox	Carolyn Baker
Frank Robson	Brenda Hoag
K. LaMonica	Deb Dupont
Stan Mastin	Donald Henchen
Carol Pfuntner	Sue Saylor
Bill Pfuntner	Steve Lemen
Jessie O'Connor	Dan O'Connor
Alice Burdick	Richard LeBar
Alan D. Herrick	Charles Perkins
Gregory Horr	Sally Herrick
D.J. Smith	

Chairman Barry Haywood opened the informational meeting at 7:00 p.m. He welcomed the group and thanked them for their interest. Chairman Haywood explained that the purpose of the meeting was to inform the public. All members and advisors were introduced to the group.

Dennis Mahus gave a brief history of the project. He explained that there was a similar study done on 1970 and no action was taken at that time. The Comprehensive Plan workgroup had sent out a survey a number of years ago and one of the questions was regarding consolidation of services between the Town and Village governments, to which many people replied that they would be interested and would like more information. The State is pushing for consolidations and the Town and Village Boards agreed to apply for a grant to do a study on the subject. Of the three proposals received from companies to conduct the study, the Boards unanimously chose CGR. Mr. Mahus also stated that the goal of the study is to provide a clear, informed choice that will be the best choice for the governments and the communities.

Charles Zettek, Jr. and Scott Sittig, both from CGR were introduced. Mr. Zettek gave a brief history of the company explained that CGR has conducted over 25 studies regarding shared services/dissolution/consolidation in the past 3 years and that 6 of those studies have gone to a vote in the past 6 months. Mr. Zettek explained that every Town or Village situation is unique. The study will determine what possible choices would be best in our situation, such as tax savings or better organization. He reviewed the timeline for the study which includes a public hearing to be held at the end of September.

Scott Sittig explained to the group that CGR is currently in the process of collecting the "what exists" information. He has been meeting with department heads and looking at budgets and other information to get a baseline report. He defined the difference between co-terminus government, dissolution of government and city status. He stated that the study is not complete enough to know which of these, if any, would be right for the Town and Village of Dansville. He spoke about some of the key points that the report has defined to this point, including population trends, expenses vs. inflation, assessed valuations, and tax breakdowns.

The floor was open to comments and questions.

Bill Pfuntner asked about the pie chart that Mr. Sittig had shown regarding taxes. He asked if County taxes are increased because some property owners do not pay on time. Dennis Mahus explained that the County either collects late taxes or the properties are sold at tax auctions.

Terry Van and Dan Barwick asked questions relating to how the surveys were distributed. Mr. Van stated that because the survey was sent in the water bills, those people who do not get a water bill did not get a survey. He wondered if they would be sent in the mail to those people. Mr. Barwick asked why there was not an option to fill out the survey and send it electronically. Chairman Haywood stated that the committee will be discussing this issue at its meeting next week.

Diane Drum asked Mr. Sittig to explain the pros and cons of becoming a city. He explained that he is going to defer her question to a later time as it is too early to know if that will be a good option for Dansville.

Dick Fox stated that there seems to be a lot of difference in services that the Town provides vs. the Village. He wondered how CGR accounts for all of the differences and how it would affect a tax rate. Mr. Zettek stated that that is what the study will do and that all of these facts will be taken into consideration. Part of the process is to conduct interviews and determine what services are duplicated and which are unique to each entity. That will be part of the "what exists" report.

Greg Horr asked about current shared expenses and how they would figure in to the report. He gave an example: the Village pays rent to the Town but the Town pays a mortgage payment. Mr. Sittig stated that he collects the information from interviews and the budgets and all revenues and expenses are taken into consideration.

With no further questions or comments, Chairman Haywood thanked everyone for participating and ended the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Donna Clark