

Village of Edwards

PO Box 158
161 MAIN STREET
EDWARDS, NEW YORK 13635

Phone 315-562-3704
Fax 315-562-2010
Trustees: Arthur Whitmarsh
Rita Thornton

Village Clerk: Sharee Lanphear
Village Mayor: Jan Lennox

MEDIA CONTACT:

Chris Averill, Chair, Village of Edwards Dissolution Study Committee
(315) 562-8367; funwork@tds.net

On Dec. 1, the Village of Edwards Dissolution Committee Will Hold Its Official Public Hearing for the Community

Will Overview Study & Present Plan for Dissolving the Village

Village of Edwards, NY — *November 10, 2010* — In three weeks members of the Edwards community will have their final opportunity to provide input to the Committee that has been studying dissolving the Village of Edwards.

On Dec. 1, the Village of Edwards Dissolution Study Committee will hold its official public hearing on its study and draft dissolution plan. The public hearing will be at 7 p.m. at the Edwards Town Hall, 161 Main Street.

“Following the official public hearing, the Committee will make any needed final changes to the dissolution plan,” said Chris Averill, Committee Chair. “We anticipate submitting our final report, which will encompass both the study and plan, to the Village Board by mid-December. At that point it will be up to the board to take steps to put the issue before Village voters.”

Averill said, “We encourage community residents to take the opportunity to learn about key study findings and our proposed dissolution plan. Come to the public hearing and also check out the project website, www.cgr.org/edwards, where the Committee’s Draft Report is posted.”

Highlights of the Draft Report (with fiscal projections based on current budget information) follow.

- There will be no change in services if the Village is dissolved. Village water, sewer and street lighting will become Town special district costs. Other key Village services, including clerk/administration and code enforcement, will be provided by the Town
- Village board of trustees and mayor positions will be eliminated. Water and sewer billing and code enforcement duties will be folded into the Town’s responsibilities.
- All but \$2,500 in current Village revenues will become Town revenues.

- Dissolving the Village should make the Village eligible for additional state incentives that would result in new money for the community. The current projection is for an additional \$84,908 in state Aid and Incentive to Municipalities funding. This amount is referred to as "new AIM," and is a recurring benefit, rather than a one-year benefit, under current state law.
- Whether or not new AIM is factored in, taxpayers in both the Village and Town-outside-Village would see lower tax rates, based on current projections.
 - **Village property:** The current combined Village and Town tax rate, which is \$14.13 per \$1,000 assessed value, is projected to drop to \$11.61 without new AIM and to \$9.98 with new AIM, assuming 100% of the incentive is used to reduce property taxes. The projected reductions include the proposed special district tax for street lighting.
 - **Town-outside-Village property:** The current combined Town and TOV tax rate is \$10.37 per \$1,000 assessed value. The rate would drop to \$10.31 without new AIM and to \$8.68 with new AIM if all of the state incentive was used toward reducing property taxes.

The dissolution study, which is funded by a state grant, has been underway since early summer. After receiving the Committee's Final Report, the Village Board anticipates taking steps to put the question of dissolving the Village before voters on March 15, 2011. If Village of Edwards voters approve dissolution, it would take effect on Dec. 31, 2012.

Study Committee members are:

Village of Edwards: Chris Averill and Amber Drew

Town of Edwards: Mandy Fuller and Jennifer Hotaling

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