

The Johnson City Dissolution Plan

**Village of Johnson City
Public Hearing
September 2, 2009
Johnson City High School**

Tonight's Agenda

1. Introduction

2. Review Key Points of the Plan

- Complete Plan was published and distributed on 7/20/09
- Public Hearing conducted on 8/10/09
- Public comments responded to on 8/31/09

3. Public Questions and Comments

Why a Dissolution Plan?

- Citizens presented a petition to the Village Board in 2007 to put dissolution to a vote
- State law requires developing a Plan so citizens know what will happen if the village dissolves
- Registered Village voters will vote on Nov 3, 2009 whether or not to dissolve

Our Charge

The Johnson City Dissolution Committee was responsible for:

- Preparing a proposed Dissolution Plan
- Holding a public meeting
- Presenting the Plan to the JC Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees holds a Public Hearing and then puts a resolution on the ballot.

Required Elements of Dissolution Plan

1. Effect on services
2. Effect on employees
3. Fiscal effects of dissolution
4. Disposition of land and assets
5. Methods for paying outstanding debts
6. Inter-municipal agreements
7. Continuation of local ordinances
8. Other topics

What Will Happen if the Village
Dissolves?

1. The Town of Union Becomes Responsible

- With dissolution, the Town of Union becomes the municipal government for Johnson City residents.
- The Town Board becomes the local elected body to represent Johnson City residents.

2. Effect on General Government Functions

- The Mayor and Village Board will be eliminated.
- The Village Court will be eliminated and the Town of Union Court will provide judicial services.
- Administrative functions will be carried out by the town.
- Village Hall will be sold.
- Library will continue as a Town service.

3. Fire and Ambulance Services Will be Continued

- Town of Union will create a fire protection district for the former Village.
- The Town will contract with the Village of Endicott to provide full-time, professional fire protection services using Johnson City facilities.
 - No fire stations will be closed if the Village dissolves.
 - Fire department will continue to provide First Response Emergency Services.
 - Ambulance services will continue with the Union Volunteer Emergency Squad (UVES).

4. Police Protection Will be Continued

- Town of Union will create a police district for the former Village
- Town will contract with Broome County Sheriff's Department to provide full-time patrol and investigation services
- A Sheriff's Department substation will be located in the current Village's Police/Court Building

5. Public Works Services Will be Continued

- Refuse collection will be provided by the Town of Union.
- Street repair and snow plowing will be provided by the Town of Union.
- All parks maintenance will be provided by the Town of Union.

6. Water and Sewer Will Continue As Is

- No change in service delivery
- Provided by the Town of Union through Water and Sewer districts
- Paid for by user fees

Effects on Employees and Retirees

Estimated Impact on Johnson City Employees

Service	Police	Fire	Public Works	General Government	Total
2009-10 Village Budget	43.5	35	42	6	126.5
After Dissolution	23.5	30.5	39	1.5	94.5
Net Reduction	20	4.5	3	4.5	32

Note: The estimated net reduction would be affected by retirements and other attrition before the dissolution date of January 1, 2011.

Impact on Johnson City Retirees

- **According to the Plan, there will be **no changes** in the retirement or health insurance benefits for:**
 - Retirees or surviving spouses
 - Employees who retire before dissolution.

Estimated Financial Effects

Cost Savings by Service Area

General Government	\$591,000
Fire Services	\$1,142,000
Police Services	\$2,525,000
Public Works (Combined)	\$368,000
Total	\$4,626,000

Impact of the Plan on Village Taxpayers – **Lower Taxes**

- Village Taxpayer Currently Pays an equivalent of \$368.78/\$1,000 Property Tax for village and town services
- Per the Plan, Village Taxpayer will pay \$261.17 for those services.
- Estimated TOTAL NET Tax savings: **29.2%**

Note: The tax figures shown do not include services for which there is no tax impact per the Plan (i.e. water, sewer)

Table A1	Johnson City Dissolution Plan		
Village of Johnson City Tax Rates Post & Pre Dissolution Comparison			
Based on 2009 Budgeted Rates			
	Johnson City Tax Rate		
	Pre-Dissolution	Post-Dissolution	
		Option 1	Option 2
Tax Line			
Johnson City			
General Village Total	288.23	-	
(Includes Highways and Parks)			
Johnson City Fire Protection District	-	110.02	110.02
Johnson City Police District	-	87.77	87.77
Johnson City Special District (Debt)		27.50	0
Refuse - Total Budgeted Cost Converted to Prop. Tax Rate	52.89	Inc. in TOVE	Inc. in TOVE
Subtotal - Village Only	341.12	225.29	197.79
Town of Union (Townwide)			
General Full-town	15.91	17.07	15.91
Library Special District	9.81	9.81	9.81
Ambulance District	1.94	1.94	1.94
Subtotal - Total Townwide	27.66	28.82	27.66
Town Outside Village of Endicott (TOVE)			
Johnson City: General + Highway (includes refuse costs)	-	22.37	22.75
Johnson City: Parks costs		12.97	12.97
Total TOVE	-	35.34	35.72
	-		
Total Tax Rate	368.78	289.45	261.17
Change in Tax Rate		-79.33	-107.61
Percent Change in Tax Rate		-21.51	-29.18

What Does a 29.2% Property Tax Reduction Mean?

Home Value		Village and Town Property Tax		
Market	Assessed	2009-10	With Dissolution	Estimated Savings
\$50,000	\$2,155	794.72	562.82	231.19
\$75,000	\$3,233	1,192.27	844.36	347.91
\$100,000	\$4,310	1,589.44	1,125.64	463.80
\$150,000	\$6,465	2,384.16	1,688.46	695.70
\$200,000	\$8,620	3,178.88	2,251.28	927.60

Impact of the Plan on Town Taxpayers – **Lower Taxes**

- Current Village Revenues Transfer to Town
 - Sales Tax from Broome County
 - Fees
 - State revenues
- PLUS Town Receives \$1,000,000 annual increase in State AIM incentive funding
- RESULT – Town of Union Taxes to DECREASE

Johnson City Dissolution Plan

Table A2			
Town of Union Tax Rates Comparison Based on 2009 Budgeted Rates (for Town of Union Taxpayers Currently Outside the Two Villages)			
	Pre-	Post-Dissolution	
	Dissolution	Option 1	Option 2
General Full-town	15.91	17.07	15.91
Library Special District	9.81	9.81	9.81
Ambulance District	1.94	1.94	1.94
General - Outside	11.27	10.37	10.37
Highway - Outside	40.03	22.37	22.75
Parks - Special District	16.13	12.97	12.97
Total Tax Rate	95.09	74.53	73.75
Change in Tax Rate		-20.56	-21.34
Percent Change in Tax Rate		-21.62	-22.44

Impact on County Taxpayers - **NO CHANGE**

- There is no shift to county taxes. The costs of the sheriff providing Police services to Johnson City is a special district fee paid by Johnson City residents

Other Considerations

Village Assets - **TRANSFER TO TOWN**

- Sewer Plant: No Change – paid by fees
- Public Safety Building: No Change – becomes Town Court Building and Sheriff Substation
- Village Hall – will be sold
- Carousel – No Change – Town will run
- Fire Stations – No Change – will be used
- DPW Buildings – No Change – Town will use

Other Items Transferred to the Town

- Some Village debt will be transferred to the Town
- Village codes and planning and zoning will be transferred to the Town and those unique to the village will be retained
- Village inter municipal agreements will be transferred to the Town

Village Identity

- Only Johnson City's government would dissolve.
- No effect on the school district or Post Office.
- Community of Johnson City lives on.

Next Steps

- Village Board considers comments received from tonight's hearing
- Village Board prepares referendum for ballot.
- Referendum vote, November 3, 2009.
- If referendum passes, Village dissolves 12/31/2010.

Public Questions and Comments

- You will be called in the order you signed in.
- Questions/Comments are limited to three minutes.
- Additional written comments can be submitted and will be added to tonight's record.

Thank you!