

## What Exists Report Overview: for the Village and Town of Potsdam

Presented by the Dissolution Study Committee on April 13, 2011

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*Inform & Empower*  
[www.cgr.org](http://www.cgr.org)

### Dissolution Study Committee

- ▶ **Village Representatives:** Tim Connolly (chair); Michele Arnold; Ruth Garner; Eleanor Hopke; Alexandra Jacobs; Mark Lee; Rose Rivezzi; Will Siegfried; and Steve Warr.
- ▶ **Town Representatives:** Cindy Goliber; Jack McGuire; Dan Parker; Mario Pusateri; Marie Regan; and Mike Zagrobelny.

## Tonight's Agenda

- ▶ Overview of the Dissolution Study Process
- ▶ Put the Study in Context
- ▶ Describe Key Highlights of "What Exists Report"\*
- ▶ Describe Next Steps
- ▶ Give Community Opportunity to Comment
  - ▶ Tonight
  - ▶ Throughout the Study Process

\* Report highlights from Draft What Exists Report dated March 30, 2011

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## Why a Dissolution Study?

- ▶ Village Board appointed the Dissolution Study Committee to address two key questions:
  - ▶ 1) What would happen if the Village of Potsdam as a municipal entity ceased to exist because voters elected to dissolve the Village?
  - ▶ 2) If the Village does not dissolve, are there opportunities to change how municipal services are delivered that would benefit the Village and Town?

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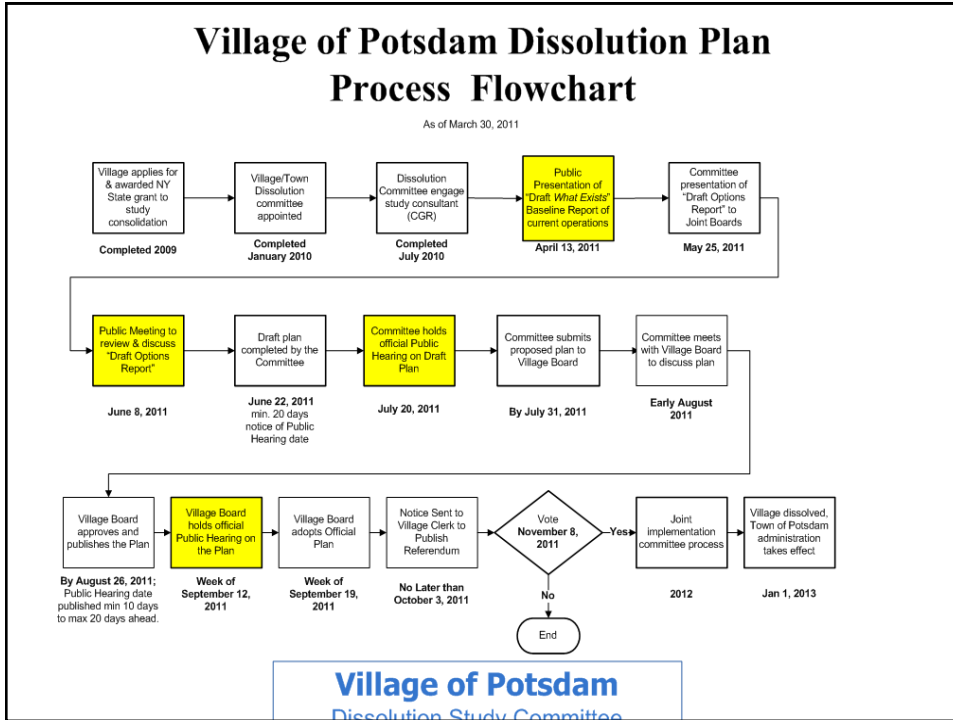
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## Dissolution Vote Process

- ▶ Article 19 process – requires study first then potential vote (we are last in the state under this process)
- ▶ Village of Potsdam received grant funds from NYS to fund the study
- ▶ Village Board has stated its intention to put a referendum on whether or not to dissolve the Village before the voters in the general Village election on November 8, 2011.
- ▶ If voters vote yes, the Village of Potsdam would dissolve December 31, 2012.

## 4 Components to Dissolution Study

1. **What Exists Report** – identify how the town and village currently provide services (tonight's meeting).
2. **Options Report** – identify and outline viable options for the future
3. **Full Dissolution Study and Plan** - includes recommendations and forms the foundation for the referendum for dissolution
4. **Community Engagement and Input** – throughout the study at 3 public hearings; monthly committee meetings; comment forms; study website.



## Context: Two Villages in the Town of Potsdam



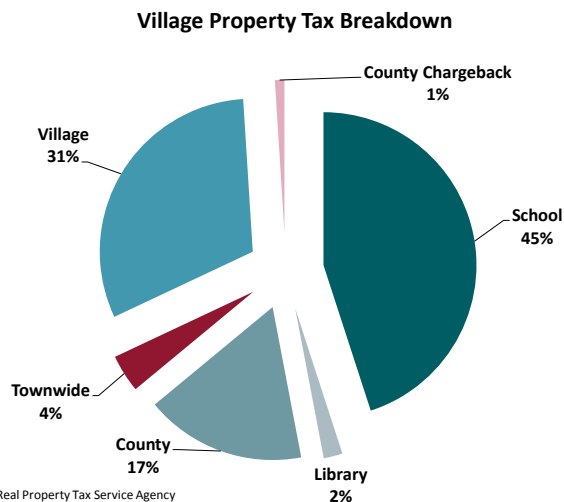
## 61% of the population of the Town of Potsdam resides within the Village of Potsdam

Total Population, 1930-2009				
Year	Town of Potsdam	Village of Potsdam	Village of Norwood	TOV
2009	16,300	9,873	1,577	4,850
2000	15,957	9,425	1,685	4,847
1990	16,822	10,251	1,841	4,730
1980	17,411	10,635	1,902	4,874
1970	16,382	9,985	2,031	4,366
1960	14,045	7,765	2,156	4,124
1950	12,437	7,491	1,916	3,030
1940	9,609	4,821	1,822	2,966
1930	8,880	4,136	1,848	2,896

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau

Notes: 2009 figures are U.S. Census population estimates. TOV is town-outside-village.

## 31% of Village Property Taxes are for Village Services



Source: St. Lawrence Real Property Tax Service Agency

## Complexity in Local Taxation: Range of \$23.83 to \$50.99 (per \$1,000 assessed value) depending on property location and services received

	County	Town wide	Village	TOV	Light Dist.	Sewer Dist.	Water Dist.	Fire	School	Library	Total Local Tax Rate
<b>Villages</b>											
Village of Potsdam	9.16	2.25	15.43	-	-	-	-	-	23.16	0.99	<b>50.99</b>
Village of Norwood	9.16	2.25	14.09	-	-	-	-	-	23.86	-	<b>49.36</b>
<b>Town Outside Village (TOV)</b>											
A) Potsdam Central SD; No Lighting District	9.16	2.25	-	0.19	-	-	-	0.76	23.16	0.99	<b>36.52</b>
B) Potsdam Central SD; Sissionville Light Dist.	9.16	2.25	-	0.19	0.60	-	-	0.76	23.16	0.99	<b>37.11</b>
C) Potsdam Central SD; Hewittville Light Dist.	9.16	2.25	-	0.19	0.84	-	-	0.76	23.16	0.99	<b>37.35</b>
D) Potsdam Central SD; No Light Dist.; Unionville Water and Sewer Dist.	9.16	2.25	-	0.19	-	7.32	7.14	0.76	23.16	0.99	<b>50.97</b>
E) Norwood-Norfolk SD; No Lighting Dist.	9.16	2.25	-	0.19	-	-	-	0.76	23.86	-	<b>36.22</b>
F) Madrid-Waddington SD; No Lighting Dist.	9.16	2.25	-	0.19	-	-	-	0.76	18.02	-	<b>30.38</b>
G) Canton SD; No Lighting Dist.	9.16	2.25	-	0.19	-	-	-	0.76	18.33	-	<b>30.69</b>
H) Parishville-Hopkinton Central SD; No Lighting Dist.	9.16	2.25	-	0.19	-	-	-	0.76	11.47	-	<b>23.83</b>

Source: St. Lawrence Real Property Tax Service Agency; Office of the State Comptroller.

Notes: County tax rate includes chargeback tax (.63). Norwood-Norfolk SD used in Village of Norwood tax rate.

## 3 Local Tax Centers

- ▶ Village
- ▶ Town wide (A General Funds and DA Town wide Hway funds)
- ▶ Town Outside Village (TOV) (B Funds and DB Hway funds)

### Plus Additional Service Taxes:

- ▶ User-based Fees (water, sewer, etc.)

## How Tax Rates are Calculated

- ▶ Cost of providing services (less any revenues) spread over the value of taxable property
- ▶ Usually expressed as a rate per \$1,000 of assessed value

$$\text{TAX RATE} = \frac{\text{TOTAL TAX LEVY}}{\text{TOTAL TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE}}$$

## Current Tax Levies

- ▶ Village of Potsdam = \$2,666,664
- ▶ Town wide = \$1,087,730 (Town wide general and Town wide highway funds).
- ▶ Town Outside Village (TOV) = \$300,427
- ▶ Combined tax levy for the Village and Town = \$4,054,821.

## Village represents 37% of the Taxable Assessed Value of the Town

2011 Potsdam Taxable Assessed Value				
	Taxable Assessed Value	% of Total Town	Tax Exempt Value	% Tax Exempt of Total Town
Village of Potsdam	\$172,619,247	37%	\$349,188,680	89%
Village of Norwood	\$40,314,080	9%	\$11,373,570	3%
Town-Outside-Village (TOV)	\$256,959,532	55%	\$32,277,987	8%
<b>Total Town</b>	<b>\$468,213,410</b>		<b>\$393,682,920</b>	

- ▶ 89% of Tax Exempt Property is in the Village
- ▶ \$349 mill. of total property value (\$522 mill.) in the Village of Potsdam is tax-exempt (67%)
- ▶ Village has smaller tax base because of tax exempts

## Current Tax Rates: \$26.84 Village and \$12.36 Town

Pay the same in county and town wide taxes. Remaining difference is the tax rate of TOV vs. Village.

Potsdam: Current Tax Rates, per \$1,000 Assessed Value		
	Village	TOV
County	8.53	8.53
Townwide	2.25	2.25
Town-Outside General	-	0.00
Town-Outside Hwy	-	0.19
Village	15.43	
Fire	-	0.76
TOV County Chargeback	-	0.63
Village County Chargeback	0.63	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26.84</b>	<b>12.36</b>

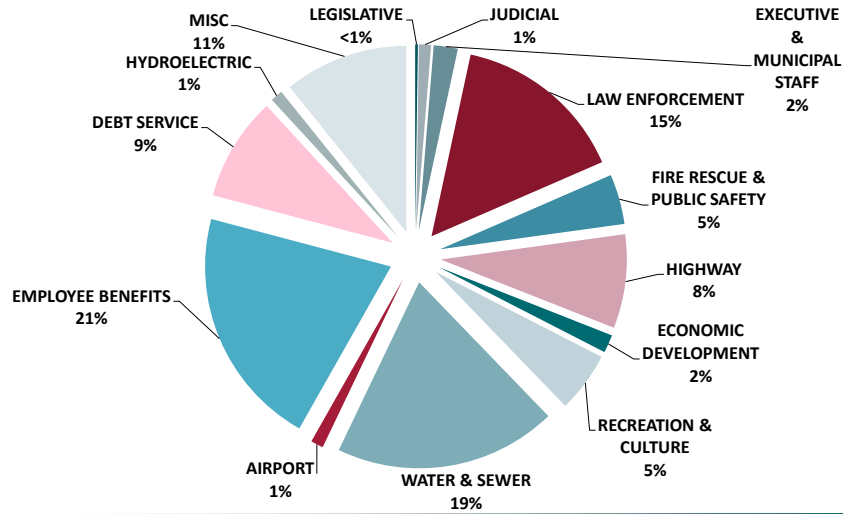
### Special District Tax Rates:

Hewittville Light	-	0.84
Sissonville Light	-	0.60
Unionville Sewer	-	7.32
Unionville Water	-	7.14

Source: St. Lawrence County Real Property Tax Service Agency  
 Notes: Reflects 2010 tax rates. County chargebacks include workers compensation allocation, costs associated with Real Preoperty Tax Office Services, and Community College Tuition Fees.



## Village Expenditures = \$9,018,222

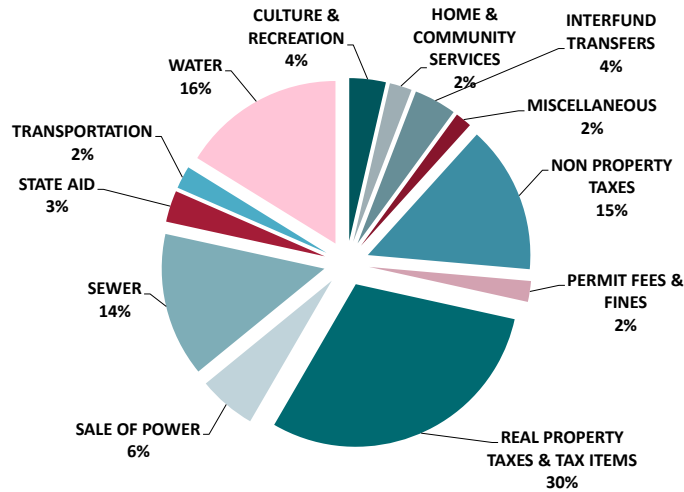


Appendix A What Exists Report. Grouped by CGR.

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## Village Revenues = \$9,020,985

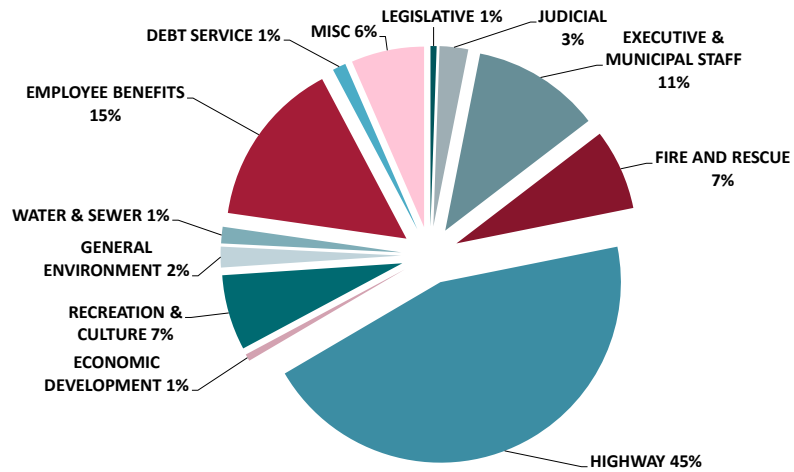


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## Town Expenditures = \$3,108,106

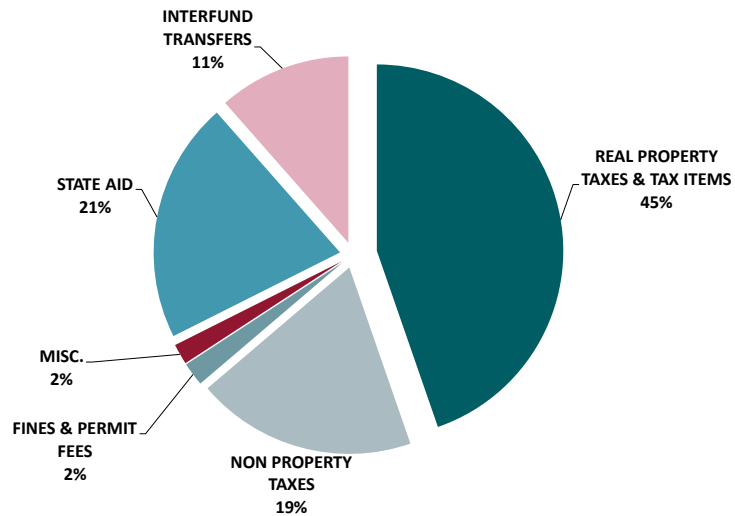


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## Town Revenues = \$3,108,106



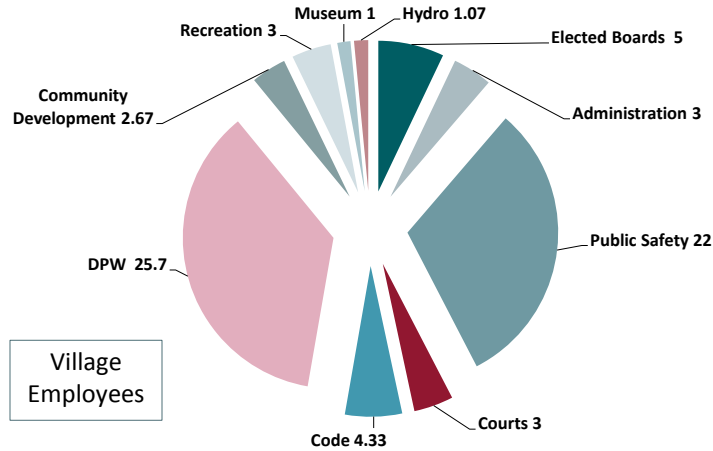
Appendix A What Exists Report. Grouped by CGR.

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## 104 Full-Time Equivalents (FTE) provide the Town and Village of Potsdam Services

▶ Village has 70.77 FTEs at a total cost of \$4.7 million

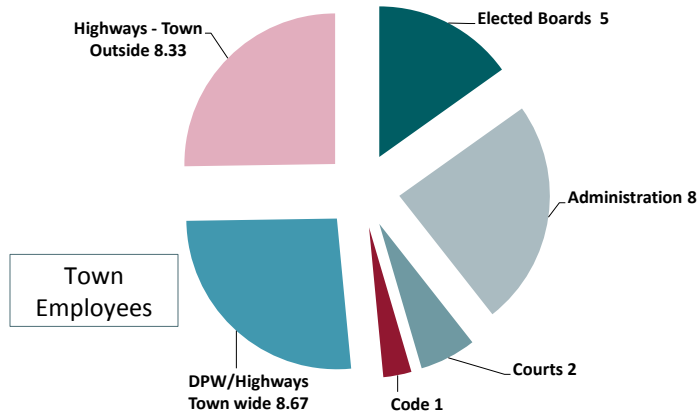


p. 19 of What Exists Report.

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## 33 FTE in the Town with total cost of \$1.4 million



p. 19 of What Exists Report.

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## Equipment and Facilities

- ▶ List of Town and Village owned property is available in Appendix B of the What Exists Report
- ▶ List of Town and Village equipment can be found on the study website ([www.cgr.org/potsdam](http://www.cgr.org/potsdam)) under reports

## Sub-Committee Reports by Function

- ▶ General Administration
- ▶ Public Works
- ▶ Police Services
- ▶ Fire and Rescue Services
- ▶ Courts
- ▶ Codes and Ordinances
- ▶ Community Development

## General Administration

- ▶ Elected Leaders
  - ▶ Village Board – 4 trustees and 1 mayor = \$87,020
  - ▶ Town Board – 4 trustees and 1 supervisor = \$34,231
- ▶ Administrative Staff
  - ▶ Village – 6 staff = \$444,049
  - ▶ Town – 8 staff = \$334,456
  - ▶ Includes wage and benefit expenses associated with admin. functions only
- ▶ Property
  - ▶ Village-owned property = \$14 million
  - ▶ Town-owned property = \$1.3 million
- ▶ Agreements (airport, library, museum, recreation)

**Town and Village have a combined 43.25 FTEs to support DPW/Highway and utility operations.**

### FTE - DPW/Highway Summary

Function	Village	Town	Total
Street/Road Operations	10.8	17	27.8
Hydro	1.07	-	1.07
Water	7.39	-	7.39
Sewer	6.99	-	6.99
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26.25</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>43.25</b>

## DPW and Highway: Street/Road Operations

- ▶ Village DPW
  - ▶ \$804,000 personnel costs (including benefits)
  - ▶ 10.8 FTE (inc. admin staff/excludes utility staff time)
  - ▶ \$421,700 operating costs (excluding personnel costs)
  
- ▶ Town Highway Department
  - ▶ \$782,221 personnel costs (including benefits)
  - ▶ 17 FTE
  - ▶ \$1.1 million operating costs (excluding personnel costs)
  - ▶ Town highway expenses allocated 45% town wide and 55% TOV

## Utilities are paid by user-fees

- ▶ Village Utilities Expenditures (includes benefits and operating costs)
  - ▶ \$1.28 million Water (7.39 FTE)
  - ▶ \$1.3 million Sewer (6.99 FTE)
  - ▶ \$518,000 Hydro-Electric (1.07)
  - ▶ \$187,000 Trash Collection (contracted)
  
- ▶ Town Utilities
  - ▶ Unionville Water and Sewer
  - ▶ 35 residential customers and 1 paper plant
  - ▶ Supported by Town Highway Dept. staff
  - ▶ Trash Collection (individual property-owner decision)

## Police Services

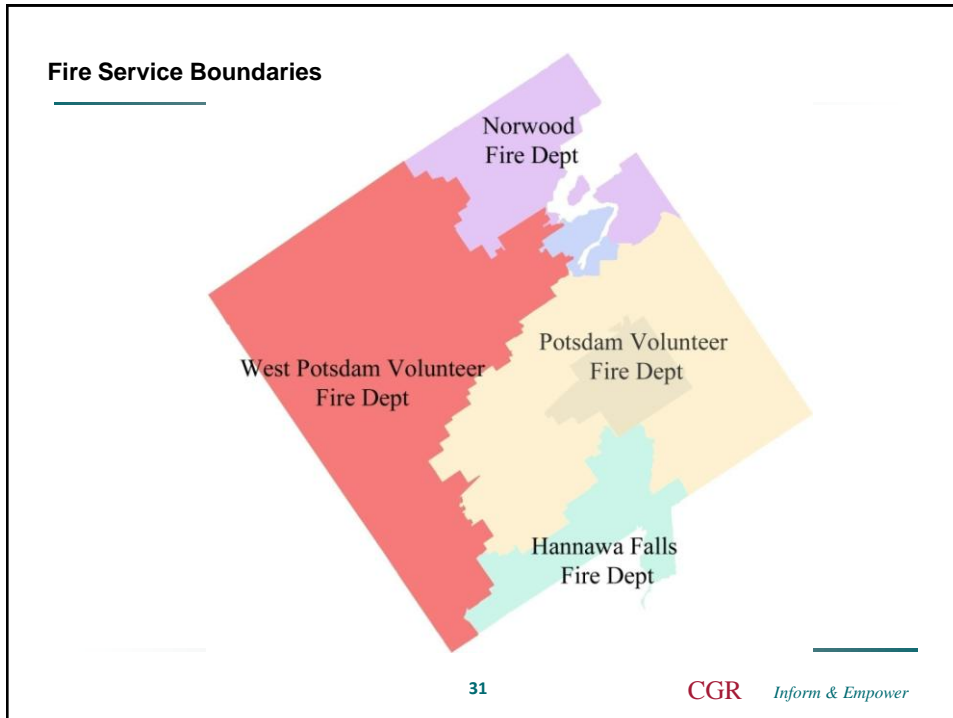
- ▶ Village
  - ▶ \$1.48 million personnel costs (including benefits)
  - ▶ 18 FTE
  - ▶ \$219,424 operating expenses (excluding personnel costs)
  - ▶ 20 retirees and 2 surviving spouses = \$307,000 per year
  - ▶ 2009 = 5,893 police incidents
    - ▶ Greatest incidents are Vehicle & Traffic
    - ▶ 9am to 5pm peak time
    - ▶ Little difference in day of the week (slight increases on Fridays)
    - ▶ Fewest incidents in February (423) and June (409)
    - ▶ Greatest incidents in September (594) and October (567)
- ▶ Town
  - ▶ Police protection provided by County Sheriff and NYS Police

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## Fire and Rescue services are provided by several departments

- ▶ Potsdam Fire Department
  - ▶ Village expense - \$415,733 (includes 4FTE wages/benefits and operating costs)
  - ▶ Town expense - \$95,790
- ▶ 3 other fire departments in the town
  - ▶ Hannawa Falls
  - ▶ West Potsdam
  - ▶ Norwood
- ▶ Potsdam Volunteer Rescue Squad
  - ▶ Village and Town budgets combined payments: \$58,752 in 2010



## Courts

- ▶ Village
  - ▶ \$183,000 personnel costs (including benefits)
  - ▶ 3.2 FTE
  - ▶ \$4,900 operating costs (excluding personnel costs)
- ▶ Town
  - ▶ \$90,801 personnel costs (including benefits)
  - ▶ 2.5 FTE
  - ▶ \$7,750 operating costs (excluding personnel costs)
- ▶ 2009 Combined Workload = 5,055
  - ▶ Village – 2,710 cases
  - ▶ Town – 2,345 cases



## Code and Ordinances

- ▶ Village
  - ▶ \$121,200 personnel costs (including benefits)
  - ▶ 2.3 FTE
  - ▶ \$5,895 operating costs (excluding personnel costs)
- ▶ Town
  - ▶ \$42,600 personnel costs (including benefits)
  - ▶ 1 FTE
  - ▶ \$14,600 operating expenses (excluding personnel costs; including planning board)
- ▶ Combined Workload 530 permits issued
  - ▶ Village – 380 permits
  - ▶ TOV – 150 permits

## Community Development

- ▶ Village
  - ▶ 2.67 FTE
  - ▶ \$218,900 in personnel costs (including benefits)
  - ▶ Budgeted revenue \$200,000
- ▶ Town =
  - ▶ \$19,400 expenditures (contractual; no staff)

## Next Steps

- ▶ Submit comments (tonight, comment forms, study website)
- ▶ Sign-up for email alerts about the study ([www.cgr.org/potsdam](http://www.cgr.org/potsdam))
- ▶ Attend upcoming committee meetings
- ▶ Review **Options Report** released in early June
- ▶ Review **Final Plan** released in early July
- ▶ Attend future public hearings (to be announced)

## Questions and Comments

Village of Potsdam  
Dissolution Study

*investigating options  
for the future*

HOME ABOUT THE STUDY UPCOMING EVENTS DOCUMENTS REPORTS FAQ

What's New  
Last Updated 3-30-11

- [Draft What Exists Report posted](#)
- [April 13 - Public Forum at Potsdam High School](#)
- [Dissolution Study Timeline posted](#)
- [Town and Village data now available](#)
- [Dissolution Study Questions and Answers Sheet posted](#)

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Visit the Dissolution Study website: [www.cgr.org/potsdam](http://www.cgr.org/potsdam)