

# Dissolution Study Committee

## Minutes

Minutes  
April 27, 2011

Civic Center Community Rm  
6 – 7:30 p.m.

Chairperson: Tim Connolly

Present: Michele Arnold, Tim Connolly, Ruth Garner, Alexandra Jacobs, Mark Lee, Jack McGuire, Dan Parker, Mario Pusateri, Rose Rivezzi, Will Siegfried, Steve Warr, Charlie Zettek

Absent: Cindy Goliber, Eleanor Hopke, Marie Regan, Mike Zagrobelny

I. Minutes: March 23, 2011 approved

II. Reflection/comments on first public meeting:

A. DSC – expressed appreciation for Tim’s good job as facilitator

B. Recommendations –

1. Restate resident’s question for benefit of all
2. Speakers must identify themselves
3. Direct specific questions to subcommittees
4. Continue to educate the public about DSC’s charge

III. Update on Options report:

A. Process –

1. CGR has pulled together drafts for DPW, Utilities, Code, Police, Fire
2. Functional subsections are sent back-and-forth between CGR and subcommittee chairs to finalize
3. When subcommittee chairs and overall committee chair have approved final draft version, CGR will incorporate into completed document
4. Whole committee will receive full completed document for review/discussion
5. Town/Village work hour difference is a policy issue of the Town’s; assume a 35 hour week for purpose of determining expenditures

IV. Fiscal & Tax Impacts:

A. Detailed financial projections, requiring function-by-function decisions

B. Expense side –

1. Tax rates – specific nuances not articulated
2. Tax rates – function of total expenditures
3. Only efficiency gains (village government eliminated); allow for public’s request for additional staff
4. \$8,561,736 is baseline
5. Complicating factors
  - Norwood requires the continuation of town wide and TOV
  - Some former village expenses shift to Norwood, not the town

- Town law dictates some highway expenses are townwide
6. Tax shifts in 5 categories
    - *New Town* = A Fund
    - *New Town TOV* = B Fund
    - Taxing districts for former village: debt, street lighting, etc.
    - Self-funded utilities district: water, sewer, etc.
    - Potsdam Town wide fire district: to maintain 4 drivers benefits (does not include HF, WP, Norwood or Potsdam Volunteer fire)
  7. Assumptions for allocating expenses
    - Tax shift to *New Town* A (according to geographical area); no shift to Norwood
    - Tax shift to *New Town* B, TOV
    - Allocate 80% to Fund B. and 20% to Fund A.
    - Allocate Town wide functions (court) to Fund A.

C. Revenue side –

1. General fund revenues offset expenses
2. Special exemptions: district fees, CHIPS funding, etc
3. NYS law dictates sales tax revenue must be first applied against TOV expenses
4. Other changes: GURT, court, AIM; CGR seeks advice about where net revenue gain goes - to Fund A. or Fund B.
5. All remaining village revenues (except GURT and court) transferred to the town

D. Miscellaneous – one-time costs: legal fees, unemployment, etc. (pg 16 table 6 of *W.E. Report*)

E. Tax Impact – calculations available soon.

V. Public Reflections:

A. Steve Yugartis – compare apples-to-apples; delete police district option – it’s misleading/confusing

B. Bob Wheeler – explain police district – is it an option?

B. George Giordano – Clarkson University depends heavily on the PPD for law enforcement

V. Next meetings: May 4<sup>th</sup> & 11th 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Civic Ctr Community Rm, 6 – 7:30 pm;  
May 23, Joint Boards – tentative date

VI. Adjournment: 7:20 pm

Submitted by Michele Arnold

b.

c. Suggest two full committee meetings needed – May 4 to discuss draft and May 11 to finalize draft

d. Official role-out of Options report to the Joint Board meeting – tentative week of May 23.

Review/discussion of CGR general fiscal impact/tax model implications.