







Planning Sub-Committee

Topics studied:

- Laws, Codes, Boards, Zoning & Code Enforcement, Historic Designations/Districts

Recommendations:

1. Town adopt all village codes and ordinances and begin work to merge them into a unified code book - online
2. Town adopt village zoning ordinances and create a special zoning district of the former village as necessary to enforce certain zoning ordinances
3. Town add one PT zoning and code enforcement officer position – merge duties of village zoning officer and PT code enforcement position into new town position

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Planning Sub-Committee Cont...

The committee further recommends:

4. Town merge all town and village supporting boards/commissions including but not limited to:
 - Planning
 - Zoning/Zoning Board of Appeals
 - Water/Sewer Commission
 - Cemetery Commission
5. Town adopt all current village historic preservation ordinances and codes
6. Town adopt the Historic Preservation Commission
7. Town adopt the Historic Area Commission

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Planning Sub-Committee Cont...

The committee further recommends:

8. Village transfer the heritage area management plan to the town
9. Village will transfer management of the visitor center to the town and notify NYS of the change
10. The Village notify the NYS Historic Preservation Office of the change in order to update the name on the National Register to the "Town of Seneca Falls".
11. Town set up a study commission to determine the merits of continuing as a Certified Local Government

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Administrative Sub-Committee

Topics studied:

- Retirees, Budget, Agreements, Insurance, Fund Balance, Tax Collection, Registrar, Admin Personnel

Recommendations:

1. Town will become responsible for all agreements currently in the village, unless those agreements become irrelevant (I.e. Agreements between the Village and Town) and will renegotiate any agreements as necessary

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Administrative Sub-Committee Cont...

The committee further recommends:

2. Town should hire 1.5 FTE's (60 Hours) for town wide administrative support and activate .25 FTE's currently vacant in the town for administrative support
 - 1.75 FTE's will account for current village general fund administrative FTE's
3. Town adopt the current w/s program specialist under the current allocation of 90% for w/s and 10% for general fund administrative support

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Administrative Sub-Committee Cont...

The committee further recommends:

4. No change to the retiree benefits
5. Tax billing and functions of the Village Registrar be absorbed by Town administrative personnel

Final Note: Village Insurance costs are projected to decrease by 20% in the plan as needs decrease and efficiencies are realized in developing a single comprehensive policy.

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Public Safety Sub-Committee

Topics studied:

- Police Protection, Fire Protection

Recommendations :

1. Town adopt a town wide police department staffed by the current village police department, inclusive of all assets and equipment currently owned by the village police department.
 - The plan for this department would follow the plan submitted by the current Village Police Chief to the Dissolution Study Committee

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Public Safety Sub-Committee Cont...

The committee further recommends:

1. Village of Seneca Falls Fire Department (SFFD) become a separately incorporated Volunteer Fire Department
 1. Town of Seneca Falls Contract with the new Volunteer Fire Company to provide fire protection services for the area currently covered by the Village Fire Department.
 2. Town continue to contract with the Bridgeport Fire District and the Waterloo Fire Department to provide fire protection services in the areas they are currently providing coverage.
 3. The Town will continue with one Fire Protection District and charge all residents in the District a tax for the combined cost of each contract and the debt associated with the current Village Fire Truck.
 4. The Town will assume ownership of all Village Fire Department Assets and will lease those assets to its contractor(s) for a nominal amount .

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Water & Sewer

Recommendations:

1. Town assume ownership and operation of the water and sewer facilities and all associated assets and/or debts.
 - All water & sewer costs will remain as special district costs only affecting users of those services
2. Eliminate 1 vacant PT w/s Plant Operator position
3. Transfer current Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent of Public Works to be FT in water & sewer split evenly in cost
 - Dep. Supt. will assume some duties as a Plant Operator

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Water & Sewer Cont...

The committee further recommends:

- 4. Town adopt all current w/s Treatment Plant Operators, maintenance personnel and the Maintenance Mechanic
- 5. Town adopt all current water and sewer administrative support positions equivalent to 2.2 FTE's between water and sewer.
- 6. Town continue to work with the Water & Sewer Commission
- 7. Town immediately task the Water and Sewer Commission with developing a new rate structure

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Public Works Sub-Committee

Topics Studied

- General Fund Street Maintenance Services and Personnel, Assets and Debts, Refuse, Parks, Cemeteries, Street Lights, Storm Sewers

Recommendations:

- 1. Town continue operation of the refuse collection service offered by the village.
- 2. Town continue to contract with SMI for refuse collection in the current town outside of village until such a time as the contract expires and/or an expanded service offered by the current village can be implemented in the TOV.
- 3. Town eliminate the refuse district in the Town making both the Village and Town operation Town wide functions.

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Public Works Sub-Committee Cont...

The committee further recommends:

- 4. Town hire 4 MEO's for street maintenance and 1 MEO to continue refuse collection in the village (5 Total).
- 5. All assets associated with this service will transfer to the town
- 6. The town absorb the cost for storm sewer repairs and maintenance and include the storm sewer system into the other portions of the system currently in the Town
- 7. Maintenance and operation of the parks and cemeteries would transfer to the town with the associated cost for part-time laborers as needed.
- 8. The cost for street lights will be separately incorporated into a new street lighting district encompassing the boundaries of the current Village

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Plan for Village Debt

- Three Major Village Debt Items
- (Balances as of 5/31/10)
 1. Boston/Porter/Mynderse Capital Improvement - \$800K
 2. Rumseyville Capital Improvement - \$655K
 3. Fire Truck - \$450K
- Only the Boston/Porter Bond is Callable
(It is the only debt that can be paid off early).

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Village Debt Cont...

Recommendation of the committee:

1. Transfer the fire truck to the town and charge debt service payments to the fire protection district
2. The Rumseyville and Boston/Porter debt will be a charge to current village residents through the formation of a special improvement district comprised of the current village boundaries.
3. The village will consider using fund balance and the sale of assets to pay off the Boston/Porter callable bond early and establish a debt service fund for the remainder.

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Village Property & Assets

- Any property and/or assets that are unnecessary for the carrying on of services in a merged Town/Village operation would be sold to help pay off the Boston/Porter Bond.
 - Proceeds in excess of the Boston/Porter Bond would be set aside in a debt service fund to help payoff the Rumseyville Bond.
- All other property and/or assets would transfer to the Town for the Town to either use or dispose of as needed to fulfill the services outlined in this plan.

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Fiscal Impact

- “Ongoing” revenue loss approximately \$160,000
 - Actual revenue loss is greater but includes one-time revenue items received in 2009-10.
- “Ongoing” cost savings approximately \$700,000
 - Actual savings is higher but includes one-time costs and fund balance transfers on 2009-10 adopted budgets
 - Subject to change over the next couple of months
- Cost savings represent a little over 7.75% of the combined budgets excluding W/S and Recreation Funds

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Tax Impact – Village Resident

Per \$1000 of assessed value

Village tax
Town tax
Town Highway tax
Town Outside Highway Tax
Fire Protection District tax
Street Lighting tax
Debt Service District tax
Total Tax Rate

Tax on Home Assessed for \$100,000

Refuse District Charge

Total Tax Bill

Percentage change in tax

Current Village Residents		
Current Tax	Proposed Changes	Proposed Tax
\$ 16.93	\$ (16.93)	\$ -
-	5.19	5.19
-	1.66	1.66
-	-	-
-	0.75	0.75
-	0.87	0.87
-	0.77	0.77
\$ 16.93	\$ (7.69)	\$ 9.24
\$ 1,693.00	\$ (768.57)	\$ 924.43
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 1,693.00	\$ (768.57)	\$ 924.43
-45%		

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Tax Impact – TOV Resident

Per \$1000 of assessed value

Village tax
Town tax
Town Highway tax
Town Outside Highway Tax
Fire Protection District tax
Street Lighting tax
Debt Service District tax
Total Tax Rate

Tax on Home Assessed for \$100,000

Refuse District Charge

Total Tax Bill

Percentage change in tax

Current Town-Outside-of-Village Residents		
Current Tax	Proposed Changes	Proposed Tax
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
-	5.19	5.19
-	1.66	1.66
0.45	(0.45)	-
1.18	(0.43)	0.75
-	-	-
-	-	-
\$ 1.63	\$ 5.97	\$ 7.61
\$ 163.18	\$ 597.37	\$ 760.55
\$ 116.23	\$ (116.23)	\$ -
\$ 279.41	\$ 481.14	\$ 760.55
172%		

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Tax Impact – West Seneca Falls

Consideration of Town Residents in Separate Tax Districts			
	Current Tax	Proposed Changes	Proposed Tax
West Seneca Falls			
Tax on home assessed at \$100,000	\$ 163.18	\$ 597.37	\$ 760.55
West Seneca Falls Water/Sewer District (\$0.24 per thousand of assessed value)	24.00	-	24.00
Refuse District	116.23	(116.23)	-
	\$ 303.41	\$ 481.14	\$ 784.55
Percentage change in tax		159%	

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Other Important Considerations

- NYS Aid and Incentive to Municipalities (AIM)
 - Represents \$500,000 in added revenue to the community – currently set aside for this purpose in NYS Budget - not factored into tax impact
- New municipal facility – factored in tax projections
- Infrastructure projects in the Village - not factored in
- Contingency – The model builds in some contingency

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Next Steps

- Consider your feedback
- Meet with town council to review plan, make adjustments, and develop any desired intermunicipal agreements
- Consider alternatives to dissolution
- Prepare final report and conduct final public hearing
- Deliver report to Village Board for their consideration
- Conduct public referendum process

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Questions?

Feedback can be provided through the website at:
www.cgr.org/senecafalls

Or through the phone at 315-568-1180

Or snail mail:
Dissolution Study Committee
Village of Seneca Falls
60 State Street
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

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