

Village of Mannsville
Dissolution Committee Public Presentation
November 19, 2012

Committee members present: Henry Colby -Town of Ellisburg; John Abbott, Andrea Eaton, George Kirby, Valerie Deon – Village of Mannsville. Also present, Jill Symonds, Research Assistant/CGR.

Presentation began at 7:00 p.m. with introduction of committee by Andrea Eaton. After introducing Jill Symonds, presentation was turned over to her.

Slide show was presented showing information the committee had noted during fact-finding. Three basic options were presented:

- Do not dissolve the Village
- Dissolve the Village (made clear that our plan is NOT binding on the Town of Ellisburg)
- Do not dissolve the Village; share services with the Town of Ellisburg

Present Village services were outlined: administration (including tax collection), water, park maintenance and miscellaneous labor, snow removal (including church, fire department), zoning board, and agreements with the MMVFD, SJCS for recreation , Mannsville Free Library.

The Village budget was outlined: \$190K overall; \$100K general expense, \$90K water. Basic overview finds 13% of our budget base affected by dissolution.

Once basic services were discussed, forum was opened for questions. Question/answer period began approximately 7:25 p.m.

Q: How do the street lights get paid for if we dissolve?

A: There will be a separate line on your town tax for street lights.

Q: How will that work if your taxes are escrowed?

A: Similar to a tax increase – adjustments get made and appear on your statement.

Q: The Village currently contributes to the museum – there's nothing in the plan stating that. Will a contribution be made from the Town?

A: Good point; we will add that to the plan. Correct, there will be no contribution; however, it could be pursued at a later date.

Q: Contributions to Belleville Fire Department are larger from the Town due to the lack of funding from the Village – would this affect the contribution to MMVFD?

A: It could; there's no guarantee, however.

Q: Page 13 of the Power Point states the Village WILL sell the garage/equipment and WILL sell village hall building to the library. Shouldn't it say MAY?

A: Good point; verbiage will be changed.

Q: Where will the money go from the water account?

A: It will be used to pay down water debt.

Q: Who will get the proceeds from the water salesman if we dissolve?

A: That would be up to the Town.

Q: Is there a possibility of no future state aid?

A: Although there is no guarantee, money is currently set aside for this program; how long it will continue is an unknown.

Village of Mannsville
Dissolution Committee Public Presentation
November 19, 2012

-2-

Q: Does this aid (grant) expire?

A: There is no time limit.

The option of shared services was discussed; it was noted that at this point, there is not much of a monetary savings.

Q: Is there an option for absentee vote?

A: Yes, forms need to be filed with Village Clerk prior to voting.

Q: Are there any guarantees?

A: There are no guarantees. Some of the services, like highways and the street light and water districts are highly likely to occur.

Q: The plan in front of us presents facts; will the committee make a recommendation to the Village Board?

A: No, the committee gathers the facts and hands them to the Board, who then decides whether to put it to a public vote.

Q: How dire is the forecast for our Village?

A: Our Village is NOT in dire straits; however, taxes will go up to meet needs.

Q: Has anyone talked to village residents in other areas that have dissolved?

A: It's a fairly new process; no long-term pro/cons established yet.

Q: Are there any hidden incentives that could be lost (i.e. shared services)?

A: No, not that we are aware of. The village will not receive CHIPs revenue, but the Town will receive an increased amount to cover what the village used to receive.

Q: Will we know ahead of time (before voting) what the Town of Ellisburg will do?

A: No; it's a possible future happening (2014). The present Board cannot commit to what a future Board may do.

Q: Village water goes to the Town if we dissolve (Town controls the water). Who bares the debt, the Village residents?

A: There's conflicting belief that the debt will stay with Village residents. Update from Jill: debt incurred by the Village will remain with former Village residents. The cost to the Town for water use from this system will be based on usage.

Q: \$137,000 grant to Town if we dissolve – are there any stipulations on how it's used?

A: It's assumed it will be divided evenly amongst all Town residents; it is designed to offset additional costs of dissolution. Update from Jill: By law, a minimum of 70% of the grant must be applied as a tax reduction in the Town.

Q: What happens with a change in Governor? Will we still see the funding?

A: Again, there are no guarantees.

Q: Why is the State encouraging this dissolution process?

A: The State of NY understands in some areas there are too many layers of government; it's an effort to decrease those layers, lower property taxes and make government more efficient.

Village of Mannsville
Dissolution Committee Public Presentation
November 19, 2012

-3-

Additional comments from participants in the audience:

- There are too many unknowns; we're more comfortable with what we have now.
- The Fire Department stands to lose the most. Town Supervisor has said that the Town will NOT make up the \$4000 from the Village.
- This has been a good learning experience – it puts in black & white the benefits of remaining a Village.
- We should appreciate what we have in our Village and not take these services and the volunteers for granted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.