

# Village of Mannsville

## Public Forum October 23, 2012

### Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Who is on the study team?**

The study team consists of a cross-section of community leaders and residents, appointed by the Village Board of Trustees. Members of the committee include: Jon Abbott, Valerie Deon, Andrea Eaton, George Kirby, Jim Joyner and Henry Colby (Town resident and Town Board Member). Technical support to the committee is provided by the Center for Governmental Research ([CGR](#)).

**2. Are there other recent examples where a village and town in New York have consolidated?**

Yes. In December 2011, voters in the Village of Altmar approved a dissolution plan that calls for the village to merge, effective June 1, 2013, with the Town of Albion. In March 2011, the Village of Edwards approved dissolving the village and merging operations with the Town of Edwards. In March 2010, voters in four villages in NY approved dissolving their villages and consolidating operations in the towns in which they are located. Effective Dec. 31, 2011 the Villages of Seneca Falls, Perrysburg, East Randolph and Randolph dissolved. In 2008, voters in the Village of Pike also approved dissolution and consolidation with the Town of Pike.

**3. What will happen to my services?**

Many current Village services will continue to be provided by the town (e.g. street lights, water, snow removal). See the presentation for greater detail on each service.

**4. What about the water service? Will the Mannsville water system be combined with the Town?**

No. The Town will establish a Mannsville water district and continue to operate it as a stand along system. There will be no additional cost to Town taxpayers.

**5. What will happen to the Village Hall?**

If voters were in favor of dissolution, the Village Board will pay off the remaining debt on the Village Hall (\$43K) and transfer ownership to the Mannsville Free Library. The Village Board is currently exploring this possibility with the Library. Any buildings still owned by the Village on the date of dissolution would transfer to the Town (e.g. water filtration plant building).

**6. Will the Town Highway Department take care of the park?**

Yes. The Town will maintain the park.

**7. Will the Town plow the library, fire hall, church?**

No. These organizations will be responsible for snow plowing their respective properties.

**8. Is the Dissolution Plan binding on the Town?**

No. The services and functions described in the Dissolution Plan remain subject to final implementation by the town at its discretion. The Town Board may determine that certain elements of the plan should be modified in order to meet the best interests of the town as a whole, within the requirements of local, state and federal law.

**9. What is the Town Board's response to the draft Dissolution Plan?**

The committee will seek input from the Town Board at the upcoming Town Board meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**10. Will the Town receive the dissolution grant from the state every year?**

Yes. The state grant will be provided on an annual basis.

**11. Who decides if the Village of Mannsville should dissolve and merge operations with the Town of Ellisburg?**

Only the residents in the Village of Mannsville can vote on a referendum to dissolve their Village.

**12. Why can only Village voters vote on dissolution and not all Town residents?**

The Village of Mannsville was established by a group of Town citizens who voted to be taxed differently for their services and to be governed by another group of elected representatives – the Village Board. Now, essentially 130 years later, Village voters are the ones to decide whether to remain separate or to dissolve this structure. As such, New York State law provides that only Village residents can vote to dissolve their Village.

**13. When will a vote on Village dissolution take place?**

There is NO scheduled vote at this time. The Village board will review the recommendations of the report and determine a course of action once the study is complete.

**14. Where can I find more information?**

For more information, please visit the study website:

<http://www.cgr.org/mannsville/index.aspx>

**15. I'd like to share my thoughts with the study committee. How can I provide feedback?**

You can provide feedback by attend one of the Public Forums (Oct. 23 and Nov. 19), by filling out a comment sheet and returning it to the Village Office or by emailing Jill Symonds at [jsymonds@cgr.org](mailto:jsymonds@cgr.org).