

Dissolution Study Committee (DSC)

Minutes

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Civic Center Planning Office

Nov. 10, 2010

6 – 7:30 p.m.

Chairperson: Tim Connolly

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

Excused: Cindy Goliber, Mike Zagrobelny

Absent:

I. Minutes: 10/13/10 minutes approved

II. Announcements: none

III. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Courts – questions about direction of: staffing of judges judge requirements, retention elections, court cases logistics; Marie referred to a recent Town/Village committee document studying the courts

B. DPW & Utility – questions about capacity, grants, disparity between the town and Unionville, outsourcing, post-dissolution services, staffing

C. Fire & Rescue –

Fire questions about response times, insurance costs, the cost of four fire departments within the town (post-dissolution), difficulty in determining the true budget, options of fire districts

Rescue questions about using 911, police's assistance, the building 20 years lease agreement,

D. Police – questions about staffing, nature of incidences (within and outside of village), details of calls (locations, times, etc), whether 911 should be considered, response time, range of services available

E. Code – questions about laws (are in conflict, vary slightly, are principally the same or are unique to the village), importance of definitions

F. General – questions about staffing, litigation and contracts, assets, recreation, facilities under consolidation, alternatives plan (town and village assets)

All other comments, suggestions or relevant information should be forwarded to the respective subcommittees

IV. Discussions:

A. Dissolution Plan 19-1903 (document from CGR) – this is the minimum required by law. Our charge is to include in our report: the dissolution plan plus the alternatives plan. Charlie explained items 1 - 8 relevance to DSC and the subcommittees

1. village property disposition – *general*
2. debt and taxes – *general*
3. public employees – *all subcommittees*; must suggest staffing and fiscal impact
4. agreements between town and village - *all subcommittees*; try to lock in agreements
5. local laws/ordinances/regulations; comparison between town and village
6. continuation of services by the town - *all subcommittees* what and how they should continue
7. fiscal analysis of dissolution - *all subcommittees*; tax impact will be more obvious at the conclusion of all reports

B. Table of Contents (document from CGR) – this reflects both the general and specifics of sample dissolution and alternatives reports we are encouraged to read

1. Seneca Falls – similar to Potsdam
2. Johnson City – larger

C. Dissolution Plan Framework –

1. Process includes investigating range of outcomes :
 - a) least amount of change(s)
 - b) maximum cost savings / drastic change(s)
 - c) optimum outcome w/ some change/modification
2. full committee must choose which approach to use in the dissolution plan
3. Village Board must adopt plan, before it can be a proposition
4. subcommittees must include cost models, estimates of revenues/expenditures; also consult with town and village wherever possible; focus on quality/detail over speed

V. Themes:

A. The *question and answer* document from Rose and Charlie will be expanded, clarified and used as the basis of a press release (North Country Now ad, etc.) by publicity subcommittee

VI. Village Comprehensive Plan Update:

- A. Village's timeline – looking into a committee to tweak the current plan
- B. DSC's response – decided to wait to formulate an official response, possibly suggesting a unified development strategy between village and town (not incumbent on dissolution)
- C. Possibilities:
 1. current plan will sunset/expire (no state law requiring one)
 2. extend the current plan
 3. postpone a new plan and concentrate on a land-use plan

VII. Public Reflections: Bob Wheeler: recent resident, formerly involved with another NYS comprehensive plan and planning board, stated that you can have a land-use plan without a comprehensive plan

VIII. Next meeting: Wednesday, 12/8 Civic Center Community Rm, 6 – 7:30 pm

IX. Adjournment: 7:39 pm

Submitted by Michele Arnold