

Dissolution Study Committee

Minutes

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Feb. 9, 2011

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

Chairperson: Tim Connolly

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

Excused:

Absent:

I. Minutes: 1/12/11 minutes approved

II. Announcements and Updates:

A. Marie Reagan – informed DSC of the Village Comprehensive Study

III. Subcommittees: Status of What Exists report

A. Courts –

- Options: consolidate 2 courts
 1. Dissolution will not change the number of court cases, nor the revenues, which is 5% of the total budget
 2. without Dissolution, eliminate the Village Court; Village-generated revenues would go back to the Village \$55,000. In 2010
- any scenario: law dictates
 1. fines related to Village ordinances return to Village
 2. Town needs to comply with State mandates
 3. Town and Village want to merge courts
 4. Court adjacent to the police station means less staff for transport

B. DPW & Utility –

- Staffing:
 1. continue extended training for sewer and water staff to be dually qualified
 2. Village DPW/Sewer Dept. heads are civil service; Town is elected
- Infrastructure:
 1. East Hydro is profitable, profited from a previous great deal
 2. West Hydro – parts are on order to be assembled in March, will be technologically more advanced, unknown date to turn a profit
 3. Recommended to keep W. Hydro debt and revenue together Town-wide
 4. 1 aged water plant needs upgrades
- Town/Village points to reconcile
 1. Unionville special Town district
 2. Sissonville special Town district
 3. Village sidewalks

4. Village street lights
5. Budget adjustment to eliminated Brookfield funds

C. Fire & Rescue –

- Fire false alarms: need to reduce malfunctions or false alarms; Village had 429 in 2009; Town had only 52
- Rescue:
 1. new 911 dispatch response time needs more time to determine
 2. the Police hear the 911 calls too
 3. if the Police get the call, they respond and notify 911
- Rescue Squad Building
 1. 20 year lease to Village expires 2020
 2. Village pays the 30 year loan to Rescue
 3. Contractual clarification needed by Town Attorney
 4. Post-dissolution, the Town decides how to deal with the Village debt (loan)

D. Police –

- range of services available is greater than general perceptions (hospital, Clarkson, transport to Ogdensburg, etc)
- staffing – 3 dispatchers (sometimes police and clerical staff cover) vs using 911
- Data: Police make more available
 1. nature of incidences – more serious crime trends, rapid response time
 2. details of calls (locations, times, etc.)
- St Lawrence County Sheriff Wells mtg 2/10 to discuss options of police protection
- Predicting a viable police protection option is further hampered by NYS law against Police Districts; only a few NYS Towns have town-wide protection

E. Code –

- Report of Village and Town Codes, which
 1. differ in 4 ways: conflict, vary slightly, are principally the same or are unique to the village
 2. importance of reconciling definitions
 3. possibility of combining 2 offices into one function
 4. ratio of rental 70% to non-rental 30% in the Village is very unique, even in other college villages/towns
 5. recommend an independent Code Dept.
 6. recommend reviewing staffing and goals of Community Development Office

F. General –

- dissolution and alternative plans: town and village differences
 1. property / assets / debt questions
 2. unique issues
- staffing – administration functions, union contracts, Town-elected Clerk vs Village-appointed
 3. Community Development role; contract with county as alternative?

IV. New Business:

A. Jack is working on an academic 2-part survey for spring and fall semesters polling public opinion pertaining to salient issues of dissolution; more discussion next meeting

IV. Public Reflections: None

V. Next mtg: Wednesday March 9, 3rd floor Civic Ctr Community Rm, 6–7:30 pm

VI. Adjournment: 8:10 pm

Submitted by Michele Arnold