

## **PROPOSITION NO. 1: DISSOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF SENECA FALLS**

Shall the Village of Seneca Falls, Seneca County, New York be dissolved pursuant to Article 19 of the New York State Village Law as set forth in the Plan of Dissolution adopted by the Village Board on January 11, 2010 (the "Dissolution Plan"), which incorporates the Dissolution Report and Plan dated November 2009 prepared by the Village Dissolution Study Committee, with the understanding that the Town of Seneca Falls has not agreed to provide police protection in the manner described in the Dissolution Plan?

Summary of Dissolution Plan:

- 1. Dissolution Effective Date:** December 31, 2011
- 2. General Government Services** – In accordance with Village Law §19-1914, the legislative and administrative functions of Village government will be provided by the Town of Seneca Falls ("Town") as detailed in the Dissolution Report and Plan dated November 2009 (the "Dissolution Report") prepared by the Village Dissolution Study Committee. All executive and legislative functions of Village government will be eliminated. Administrative services provided by the Village will be provided by the Town with additional staff hired by the Town as needed. Except as detailed in the Dissolution Report, where the costs of certain services are allocated Town-wide or to the Town outside the Village, the cost of such services will be met by taxes levied upon the taxable real property within the boundaries of the entire Town.
- 3. Police Services** – The Dissolution Plan contemplates that the Town will create a town-wide police department that will service the entire Town, with police protection provided by the current Village police department personnel subject to any limitations imposed by civil service rules and other laws.

**Note that The town has not agreed to establish a Town-wide police department in the manner described in the Dissolution Plan. Rather, the Town proposes to seek state legislation to establish a police district that will provide police protection solely within the boundaries of the former Village. The cost of the police district would be funded entirely by taxes levied on property within the former Village. If the state does not enact legislation authorizing this police district then the Town has indicated it will establish a Town-wide police department. The Town also has not agreed to any specific staffing or service levels.**

- 4. Fire and EMS Services** – The current Bridgeport Fire District boundaries will be expanded to include the entire Town and the Seneca Falls Fire Department will become a second fire company in that Fire District under management of the Red Jacket Volunteer Fire Department and the Bridgeport Fire District Board of Commissioners. Fire service operations will be maintained in the existing fire stations.
- 5. Public Works Services** – All current services such as water, sewer, refuse collection, parks, street maintenance services etc. will be provided by the Town. This will involve

transitioning all current personnel in the Village water and sewer department. The Town will establish five new full time Motor Equipment Operator ("MEO") positions. Currently employed Village MEO's will be given preference when filling these positions. The current Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent of the Village Department of Public Works will transfer to full time in the Town Water and Sewer Departments. The cost of water and sewer services will be paid from user fees levied on water and sewer users.

**Note that the Town has not agreed to any specific service levels.**

**6. Buildings and Other Assets** – The ownership of all buildings and assets such as vehicles, equipment, and property will transfer to the Town to be utilized as required to provide services Town-wide. Excess or unnecessary property, assets or equipment will be sold and the proceeds will be used to pay down Village debt.

**7. Impact on Retirees** – The Dissolution Plan contemplates that the Town will continue to provide health insurance to retired Village employees in the same manner as currently provided by the Village.

**Note that the Town has not agreed to provide retiree health insurance in the same manner as currently provided by the Village. The Town has indicated retiree health insurance will be provided in the same or similar manner as is currently provided by the Town.**

**8. Local Laws and Ordinances** – All local laws, ordinances and codes associated with the Village will remain enforceable by the Town for a minimum period of two years as required by law, unless otherwise changed by the Town Board.

**9. Revenue** – Non-tax revenue currently being generated by the Seneca Meadows Landfill will be applied to help reduce the impact of the cost shifts that occur when the Village dissolves, in a manner determined solely by the Town Board. New York State may offer a revenue incentive to consolidate.

**10. Debt** – In accordance with Village Law Section 19-1912, payment of outstanding debts and obligations of the Village will be made from taxes levied upon all property within the boundaries of the former Village, except debt associated with the Village fire truck will be paid from taxes levied upon properties in the newly expanded Town-wide fire district and certain other debt may be retired early using proceeds from the sale of surplus Village assets and from Village fund balances remaining on the dissolution date.

**11. Agreements between the Village and Third Parties** - In accordance with Village Law Section 19-1912, all existing Village contracts shall become obligations of the Town as detailed in the Dissolution Report.

**12. Village Books and Records** - In accordance with Village Law § 19-1906, upon dissolution of the Village, all of its records, books and papers shall be deposited with the Clerk of the Town and shall thereupon become part of the Town records.

**Note that there are no contracts between the Village and Town relating to the Dissolution Plan. The implementation of certain aspects of the Dissolution Plan is subject to the Town's discretion.**

Dated: January 21, 2010  
Village of Seneca Falls, New York  
Constance Sowards, Village Clerk/ Treasurer