

Village of Victory Dissolution Study Committee Public Hearing Minutes

Meeting Date: November 28, 2012

Dated: December 9th 2012

- The Dissolution Committee held a public hearing Wednesday November 28th @ 7:00 pm at the Village of Victory Community Center.
- **In attendance:** Terrie Wolcott, Tom Drew, Laurel Tator; Leslie Dennison, Kathy Rathbun and George Garney
- **Absent:** Kim Wait, Barbara Tierney and Debra Mathis
- Chair Terrie Wolcott opened the hearing at 7:00 pm
- Introductions of the committee members, Village of Victory board members, Town of Saratoga board members, and Jaime Saunders from CGR.
- Some expectations were set such as; each person was permitted to ask an unlimited amount of questions; but each question was limited to two minutes, no one was to speak over another individual and the meeting was meant to provide the village residents with the information obtained by the committee members.
- Jaime Saunders indicated the figures in the presentation were 2011/2012 budget numbers.
- Chair Terrie Wolcott advised that all questions were to be directed to Jaime Saunders due to the invalidity she felt of some of the numbers.
- Jaime Saunders presented the draft proposal to all that were present at the hearing; which resulted in the following topics:
 - Copies being made available once the final proposal has been approved – copies will be made at the village office and will be available at the village hall
 - Supervisor Tom Wood indicated a street lighting district would be created for the cost of the street lights within the current Village of Victory; this cost will only be charged to the current Village of Victory residents.
 - Cost of trash removal; the cost depends on the number of containers one prefers; the committee called three companies and the average was \$320 per year.
 - It was indicated that no spring clean up took place this year-this individual was corrected as spring clean up did take place.
 - Inquiry as to whether \$6500 was spent on repairing sidewalks? It was indicted it was no, but twice that amount was spent last year.
 - It was inquired if there was anything to prevent the current Village of Victory water users from being considered “outside” water users; there is not but the IMA would have to be rewritten and the committee has recommended an equal water rate be applied.
 - No final decision was made regarding whether or not the Town of Saratoga would contract to keep the current David Nevins Fire Department or if they would contract with either Schuyler Hose or Quakers Springs.
 - Inquiry was made regarding the cost per/\$1000 and the differences within the fire companies. Jaime Saunders indicated Quaker Springs set their own tax rate.

- The entire town would benefit from the CETC credit; the response was “yes”.
 - Inquiry as to why the village residents would incur paying a highway tax – for the town, the sales tax pays the costs incurred for the highway.
 - 75% of the village residents continue to utilize village refuse pick-up; so the total cost savings per resident would be about \$200 for those who use village refuse and \$65 for those who currently contract out; the reply was “yes”; and the resident’s loose services.
 - The cost of the lighting district will be \$.50/\$1000.
 - It was noted that the residents who need to leave early for work will now be at the mercy of the town; response was “yes”.
 - Inquiry regarding the village roads being able to hold up with the weight of the town trucks; response was the current village trucks.
 - Concern was expressed regarding the total cost to the community (private trash refuse, lighting district, leaf and brush pick up and spring clean up costs. These costs should be factored back in to figures to reflect true savings/expense.
 - Concern expressed regarding leaf/brush pick up and keeping the storm drains cleaned.
 - Inquiry about who was in charge of the village vote; response was that it was handled the same as all elections.
 - All cost associated in this model are 2012 budget figures, 2011/2012 village budget figures.
 - All village debt will remain with the village residents; this cost will not be spread out amongst the town.
 - The village board votes on the plans and then will put forward a plan at a separate public hearing.
 - Discussion of one-time costs
 - If the fund balance is not enough to cover legal expenses and if the grants are not approved the increased costs will fall back on the current Village of Victory residents.
- The public hearing closed; and the committee members remained back to discuss concerns discussed at the public hearing. It was determined that a street lighting district would need to be created based on the information provided by the town-increase of \$.50/\$1000.
 - The fire department boundaries would have to be expanded to create a third station for the Quaker Springs Fire Department; the committee recommended the David Nevins Fire Department become Station 3 for Quaker Springs, and the town would not obtain the building; the facility would be sold, the DPW building would be sold.
 - Chair Terrie Wolcott will be making calls to a handful of places to determine what the cost impact. These details will be shared with the committee members, village board and Jaime from CGR.
 - The committee agreed that once the required changes were made to the current draft presentation all parties present agreed/approved the presentation and will then turn plan over to the village board after the final public hearing; which is being held December 27th 2012 @ 7:00pm @ the Village of Victory Community Center.