

# Corinth Shared Service/Dissolution Feasibility Study Committee Meeting

**May 6, 2010 6:30 pm, Fire Hall**

Committee Members Present: Tim Hanchett, Scott Sprague, Ed Byrnes, Julius Enekes, Bill Fuller, Dick Lucia, Tim Murphy (Chairman), Kevin Granger, Melanie Denno, Jeff Collura, Renee Baker.

Others Present (non-voting): Rose Farr, Andy Kelley, Art Lozier, Shawn Eggleston, Nicole Colson

Consultants: David Liebschutz (CGR), Michael N'dolo (Camoin), Christa Ouderkirk (Camoin)

Meeting Called to Order by Mr. Murphy at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Murphy asked the committee to review minutes from the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. Upon motion, minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

Mr. Murphy invited Mr. Liebschutz to present the prepared information. Mr. Liebschutz went through the presentation again and explained the modifications to the presentation materials from the information learned in the last committee meeting and subsequent information provided by various committee members. Mr. Liebschutz also noted where the Town Board had provided input.

The committee first discussed highway services. Mr. Liebschutz noted that the proposed water and sewer district could either be managed completely independently of the highway department or could be overseen by the highway department. Mr. Lozier discussed staffing requirements for the proposed water filtration plant and existing sewer treatment plant. Ms. Baker asked how the proposed options for management compared to existing management of water/sewer services. Mr. N'dolo noted that the Village's DPW currently provides staff and oversight to the water fund and sewer fund. Ms. Baker stated that she had spoken with Michael Connery (sp?) of the Town of Ticonderoga which started with 3 districts and now has 11 districts. Mr. Lozier noted that certain TOV districts (Eastern Ave District and Dorsett Drive District) will require a replacement of all major distribution infrastructure in the next ten years. Mr. Fuller provided some history on the finances of the water and sewer funds, transfers from the general fund, etc. and noted that certain costs of water/sewer are borne by the general fund (e.g. general liability insurance).

Crossing Guard – Mr. Liebschutz noted the Town Board agreed that crossing guards would become the responsibility of the Town. The committee agreed to this “scenario four” whereby the total cost would transfer to the Town.

Fire Department - Mr. Liebschutz noted that the Town Board decided that it would not support the creation of a single fire district or a single fire protection district in the Town. Therefore, the only possible scenario was scenario three whereby a separate fire district/fire protection district would be formed at the boundary of the Village and the existing cost sharing agreement would persist (ie. half borne by Village, half by TOV). Mr. Kelley thought that the Volunteer Fire Corporation would be in favor of establishing an independent fire district.

Street lighting – committee agreed to a special district solution (scenario two).

Sidewalks - Mr. Lucia confirmed that the Town Board had accepted that sidewalks would be the responsibility of the Town. Mr. Collura stated that the “sidewalk” services to be assumed by the Town included only the snow removal aspects of sidewalks and not the repair and maintenance of sidewalks which would be handled by a special district. Mr. Ndolo noted that a new scenario would be created whereby \$8,000 in cost would be handled by a special district for sidewalk repair and \$10,000 in sidewalk snow removal would transfer to the Town.

Misc. Community Services – general agreement on scenario three.

Zoning / Planning - The committee discussed zoning/planning and the potential impacts on legal costs. General agreement on scenario three.

Garbage - The committee discussed garbage services, especially as they relate to property owners that do not receive garbage collection services (e.g. EPCOR, Indek, etc.). General agreement on scenario three.

The committee discussed village retirees. General agreement of scenario three. Mr. Eggleston noted that Village employees that transferred would maintain their seniority based on years of Village service.

Shared Services with Town – general agreement on scenario three.

Changes to Employee Costs – upon discussion of the likely insurance implications of dissolution, committee agreed to scenario three.

Mr. Liebschutz finished the presentation, discussing the tentative consensus on how costs would be treated – through special district, transfer to the Town and through efficiency gains – and how this translates into tax rate implications. Mr. Liebschutz reviewed the EPCOR situation and how loss of EPCOR revenue would translate into a major rate increase for Village taxpayers. Discussion on likely outcome of EPCOR negotiations.

Mr. Liebschutz discussed the next steps in the process, how CGR and Camoin would take committee input and produce a final fiscal impact number including EPCOR and excluding EPCOR. Mr. Liebschutz noted that each of the services noted above can be thought about also as shared services opportunities should the Village not dissolve. Committee discussed opportunities for shared services based on the various services discussed at the meeting. Committee discussed zoning/planning and highway departments as potential candidates for shared services.

Mr. Murphy noted that the next committee meeting would be May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 and that he had invited three guests to speak – Mike Diskin, former Mayor of the Village of Ticonderoga; Tom Scozzafava, Town Supervisor, Town of Moriah; and Ernie Guerin, Village Mayor, Village of Port Henry.

Mr. N’dolo asked Mr. Lucia for clarification on the legal costs quote he received from the Town Attorney. Mr. Lucia stated that the attorney could handle the increase in work volume for approximately \$10,000 above the current fee. Ms. Farr stated that her software upgrade would cost \$1,500 to handle billing currently done by the Village.

Upon motion of committee with unanimous approval, Mr. Murphy adjourned the meeting at 8:45.