



- News
- Sports
- Opinions
- Living
- Sections
- Ads
- Coupons
- Classifieds
- Jobs
- CU
- Contact

News

/ News /

« Hanover Little League has ba...

Perrysburg town ready to tak...»



- News
- Sports
- Opinions
- Living
- Sections
- Ads
- CU
- PDF Edition
- Extras
- Contact Us
- Business Profiles

95 years and done

Village of Perrysburg dissolves effective Dec. 31

December 17, 2011

By SAMANTHA MCDONNELL - OBSERVER Staff Writer , The OBSERVER

Save | Post a comment |

PERRYSBURG - After more than a decade spent in office as village mayor or trustee, it came time to say goodbye. Perrysburg Village Mayor Anthony Kota said goodbye to 13 years in office at the final Perrysburg Village Board regular meeting.

But he's not leaving because someone else has been elected mayor. He's leaving because the village will no longer exist as a taxing entity after the end of this year.

The village of Perrysburg is dissolving and merging with the town of Perrysburg 95 years after being established as a village. A dissolution study was first done in December 2009 by the CGR, Center for Governmental Research. The study found that it was fiscally sound to merge the town and the village. The dissolution was put to a public vote in March 2010 and passed 60 to 9. The village is set to dissolve Dec. 31.

As part of the village dissolution plan, all village employees will lose their jobs which Kota addressed during the final meeting.

"I'm disappointed that all village employees will be losing their jobs although this already was known," he said. While most employees will lose their jobs, Sewer Superintendent Robin Clark also works for the town and will continue as the town's water superintendent. Village employee Tim Mesch was offered a job by the town to read water meters. He was employed by the village for the same purpose and was offered the job by the town for his experience with the job.

The dissolution process has been very smooth, according to Kota.

"The village and town have worked together closely for many years. Most, if not all, possible services are shared. It seems a logical progression that the two should combine," he said.

The town had to establish a street lighting and fire protection district to encompass former village residents. The town however did not approve making a sidewalk district and will no longer continue to plow the sidewalks after Jan. 1.

News, Blogs

I am looking for:

in:

- News, Blogs & Events

Article Photo



OBSERVER Photo by S



Click H





"I'm disappointed that the town has decided not to plow the sidewalks in the coming year," Kota said.

The major change that village residents will see is their tax bills are now due in January instead of June, according to Kota. The cost of the street lighting and fire protection districts will be separate lines on the town tax bills. Kota hopes the tax rate will decrease as a result of the dissolution.

The village garbage pickup will remain the same and will be paid for by the garbage stickers. The garbage pickup will only be made available to those currently residing within village boundaries.

SAYING GOOD-BYE

As Kota opened his final meeting, he offered words of wisdom.

"As I open the last regular meeting of the Village of Perrysburg, it is with mixed emotions," Kota said.

Kota reminisced about his time spent on the village board. He remembered when he was first elected to the board the village was audited by the state.

"I look back to when I first started; shortly after I first started (the village) was audited by the state for missing money and lack of accountability," Kota said. "There were a lot of problems."

At the time, the J.N. Adam Developmental Center was being utilized by WNYDDSO. Since the center had capabilities of treating the water for the village, they entered into an agreement; however, no payment was ever received or given for the services. Eventually, the village was able to receive the money from the services as well as pay for them. After payment, the village was able to receive \$40,000 in back rates.

"That was a huge thing at the beginning," Kota said.

Kota also joked that the only time the village hall was ever filled was a public discussion regarding the cat leash law.

"The discussion on the cat leash law was the only time this building was packed," he said.

During Kota's time as mayor, the village received significant damage during the flood that hit Perrysburg and Gowanda in 2009. The village received almost \$400,000 worth of damage. In order to repair the damage, a loan had to be taken out in the amount of \$300,000 in order to pay the contractors. Under Kota's administration, the first payment for repaying the loan was submitted early and the loan was paid off early in full, meaning there is no debt left associated with the flood.

Kota also commended Trustee Michael Cooper for his hard work with the flood.

"The amount of paperwork that FEMA required was monumental. Mike was on top of it every step of the way," Kota said.

Those who worked with the village board throughout the years also offered their gratitude and fondness for the board. Code Enforcement Officer James Pacanowski commended the board and thanked them.

"It's been a pleasure working with this board," he said. "I'm going to miss it."

Village Clerk Christine Bartlett also thanked the board.

"It's been a real privilege to work with all of you. I have learned a lot, things I didn't have a clue about ... in this position," she said.

"I've enjoyed helping the village residents and getting to know everybody. It's going to be very sad and very well missed."

TRANSFERRING ASSETS

As the village dissolves, there is an amount of approximately \$40,000 left in the general fund. Since all village assets transfer to the town, this money will be transferred to the town of Perrysburg in January. The village passed a resolution at their final board meeting to have the town put the money into a major repair sewer repair reserve fund.

The village wants to put the money into a reserve fund as a precaution. The village sewer system is 18 years old and is going to need major repairs in the coming years, Kota said.

"Some of the things that come to mind is two generators and they are 18 years old and we've repaired them. They are currently working but there will come a time when they need to be replaced. There are air vacs and they are expensive and we've been able to keep them functional and operating but they will need to be replaced too," he added.

The board approved creating the reserve fund as well as send a letter to the town with its intentions. The town is not obligated to use the money for repairing of the sewer; the money must stay within the sewer fund but the town would like to see that amount of money set aside for maintenance and repairs.

"That money came from village residents ... and we felt that it was the best way (which) would benefit them," Kota said.

The total amount that will be transferred will be announced at a special meeting held on Dec. 29 at 6 p.m. at the village hall. This meeting will be used to approve any last minute items that may still need action by the board before the dissolution.

As Kota closed the meeting, he urged those in attendance to let their concerns be known to the town board.

"I encourage all residents to communicate with the town board. Let them know if you think they are doing a good job or a poor job. If you have concerns let them know, they represent you and need to know how you feel," Kota said.

With all his spare time after January, Kota is going to retire from politics for now. He is looking forward to spending more time with his family and three grandchildren, Riley, William and Jurnie. He also will continue to work as manager of Valu Home Store in Dunkirk. Clerk Bartlett will also enjoy more time with her twin grandchildren who are five months old.

Comments on this article may be sent to smcdonnell@observertoday.com.