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Altmar dissolution plan approved by village board

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Debra J. Groom / The Post-Standard
By

Altmar, NY -- The Altmar village board Wednesday night approved the plan to abolish the village government in 2013.

This approval starts the clock ticking for anyone who wants to file a petition requesting another vote on whether the village should be dissolved. Any petition must be filed in the next 45 days to force another vote.

Any petition filed must be signed by 25 percent of the village's registered voters, or about 60 people. Forty five days from now is Sept. 16.

The dissolution plan was approved unanimously, but with one amendment. Mayor Corey Holcomb said the date the dissolution would go into effect should be changed from Jan. 1, 2013 to June 1, 2013 so the village would be abolished at the end of its fiscal year.

He said the Albion town board was concerned about possibly taking over the village duties in the middle of the village government's fiscal year. "We just want to be consistent with the end of the village fiscal year," he said.

Bryan Myers, who began the dissolution process when he petitioned the village board last year, and Debbie Smith, another village resident who favors abolishing the village, questioned the change. They said they are going to check to see if it is legal to change the date in the dissolution plan.

If no petition is submitted in the next 45 days, the plan moves forward, and Altmar will be abolished as of June 1, 2013. If a petition is submitted, a vote would be held on whether voters accept the dissolution plan. If they accept it, Altmar would be abolished on June 1, 2013.

If they don't accept the plan, then Altmar remains a village. Residents could petition the village again at any time to begin the dissolution process again.

The dissolution plan was presented to the public at a meeting May 11 and a public hearing on it was conducted July 6. The study, done by a company in Rochester, covers what services would be continued by the town of Albion and which would cease and what would happen to taxes paid by village and town residents.

The study states village residents with houses assessed at \$50,000 would see their taxes go from \$486 a year to \$304 a year if the dissolution goes through.

And if the town of Albion receives state money for municipalities that consolidate, the savings is more. Altmar

residents would see yearly taxes of \$269.

Albion residents wouldn't be hit hard by tax increases. The study states town residents with a house assessed at \$50,000 would see their taxes go from \$250 a year to \$261 without the state consolidation aid, but from \$250 to \$226 with the state money.

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