

Dissolution Study Committee

Minutes

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June 9, 2010

Civic Center Community Rm
7 – 8:30 p.m.

Chairperson: Tim Connolly

Present: Michele Arnold, Tim Connolly, Ruth Garner, Cindy Goliber, Eleanor Hopke, Alexandra Jacobs, Jack McGuire, Dan Parker, Marie Regan, Rose Rivezzi, Will Siegfried, Mike Zagrobelny

Excused: Mark Lee, Mario Pusateri, Steve Warr,

Absent:

I. Minutes: May 26, 2010 minutes approved with corrections

II. Announcements and Updates:

A. Clarification about the dissolution plan, which will be available for village voters before the November 2011 vote.

B. Statistics on trends by voters (based on Deborah Pahler, Republican Commissioner of St. Lawrence County Board of Elections):

1. 6,549 - total registered voters in the Town of Potsdam (town), including villages
2. 2,522 - total registered voters in the Village of Potsdam
3. 2,627 - total turnout in the Town of Potsdam, including villages
4. 1,001 - total turnout in the Village of Potsdam

III. Discussions:

A. Consultant Search –

1. Media Advertising & Direct Notification of qualified companies.
2. As of Monday, only one organization has expressed interest.
3. The deadline was extended in order to field more consultants

B. Meeting with Sheriff Kevin Wells on 6/8/10–

1. Unlike University Police & NYS Police, the SLCSO *has the potential* to provide dedicated policing to the former Village as a district on a contract basis (3yr. contract); possibly as a satellite station. This district differs from a fire district, since NYS legislation is required to establish a police district. Outstanding questions will be directed to Sean Maguire and the consultants. Note: there is flexibility in structuring districts.

2. The NYS Sheriff's Association has resources that will allow SLCSO to create a plan for assuming service.

3. The plan is drafted *by the County* with information on current operations provided by PPD. DSC would have little input in this plan

4. Procedure is for the Village Mayor to request such an evaluation from the County Legislature, either starting now or after elections. Ultimately, the County Legislature makes the decision. Another point to discuss with the consultant

5. Savings will be reduced by wage equalization issues.

B. Services – Objective: categorize services in order to list what districts might be created and how the town might work with the village in planning the delivery of these services. We divided each village service (see Village Services List) into 1 or more of four categories:

1. Village services that can be districted upon dissolution
2. Village services that can be consolidated into their Town-outside counterparts
3. Village services that can become Town-outside services
4. Village services that will be eliminated

C. Committee's charge – The Potsdam Village Dissolution Study Committee is charged with investigating the effects of village dissolution on cost, taxation, services, employment, land use, economic development, and community character. They should consider likely consequences in the near term as well as the long term. They should consider the effects on village residents and town-outside residents. They should consider alternatives to dissolution. We may also discover cost savings, while maintaining services.

IV. Public Reflections: None

V. Next meeting: Wednesday, 6/23 3rd floor Civic Ctr Community Rm, 7 – 8:30 pm

VI. Adjournment: 8:45 pm

Submitted by Michele Arnold