

Public Meeting on Rye Town Dissolution Feasibility Study and Village Alternatives Analysis to be Held Sept. 10

Opportunity to Learn about Project and Provide Feedback

Town of Rye, NY – August 2, 2011 – A public meeting will be held on **Saturday, September 10** for residents and taxpayers to learn about – and provide feedback on – a recently-initiated study of dissolution of the Town of Rye and an analysis of associated village governance and service alternatives. The community forum will be held from **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at the **Village of Port Chester Senior Community Center**, 222 Grace Church Street, Port Chester, NY.

A joint Steering Committee of Town of Rye, Village of Port Chester, Village of Rye Brook and Village of Mamaroneck representatives was formed in 2011 to begin the process of analyzing the potential benefits and drawbacks of a range of structural and governance alternatives for increasing government efficiency and promoting taxpayer savings. There are three key objectives for this study:

1. The study will analyze the feasibility of **potentially dissolving the Town of Rye's government** in order to eliminate an administrative level of government and, in so doing, possibly generate property tax relief for residents;
2. The study will analyze **alternative forms of government, particularly separate coterminous town/village options in Port Chester and Rye Brook**, as a means of improving cost effectiveness and enhancing shared services;
3. The study will consider **governance and service options for the Rye Neck section of the Village of Mamaroneck** that is within the Town of Rye; and
4. The study will evaluate potential **shared service alternatives** between and among the Town of Rye and Villages of Port Chester, Rye Brook and Mamaroneck.

The Steering Committee issued the following statement: “We encourage residents to attend this important forum. We have a strong commitment to engaging the public as we undertake this examination of dissolution and shared services. The September 10 forum offers an excellent opportunity for residents and stakeholders to learn more about the study approach and offer feedback about which services are most important to them.”

The meeting will include a brief overview presentation by the study consultant, the nonprofit Center for Governmental Research (CGR). Community members can meet the CGR project team leaders, and learn more about the study's methodology, timeframe and objectives. The meeting will also provide the public an opportunity to comment on the study.

CGR will also outline a newly-launched project website, which will be a key vehicle in facilitating public engagement as the study process unfolds. The website (www.cgr.org/ryetown) will offer access to meeting information, reports and key data components as they become available. By going to the website, community members will also be able to email comments to the Steering Committee. In addition, they can sign up to receive email “alerts” when any significant new information is posted to the website.

Tentative September 10th meeting agenda:

- Introduction – Steering Committee Members
- Project Overview – CGR
- Website and Methods of Public Input/Information – CGR
- Comments from Public

Steering Committee Members

Joe Carvin, *Supervisor, Town of Rye*

Bishop Nowotnik, *Purchasing Director and Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor, Town of Rye*

Dennis Pilla, *Mayor, Village of Port Chester*

Christopher Russo, *Village Manager, Village of Port Chester*

Joan Feinstein, *Mayor, Village of Rye Brook*

Christopher Bradbury, *Village Administrator, Village of Rye Brook*

Norman Rosenblum, *Mayor, Village of Mamaroneck*

Richard Slingerland, *Village Manager, Village of Mamaroneck*

Daniel Sarnoff, *Assistant Village Manager, Village of Mamaroneck*

About the Center for Governmental Research (CGR)

CGR is a 96-year-old nonprofit, nonpartisan, independent consulting organization with significant expertise conducting local government consolidation and shared service studies and developing implementation plans. CGR is headquartered in Rochester, NY and in July was engaged by the involved municipalities to serve as study consultant.

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