



Government & Education | Economics & Public Finance | Health & Human Services | Nonprofits & Communities

Projected Impact of Dissolution on Village of Van Etten

Survey of Existing Conditions and Potential Future Operations

October 2017



Study Background

- In August 2017, residents in the Village of Van Etten submitted a petition requesting a referendum on dissolution of the village.
- CGR was hired to develop a report that would identify potential fiscal and service impacts of dissolution.
- The report detailing CGR's findings will be available at www.cgr.org/van-etten.

Methodology

- CGR met with village and town officials
- Also, local organizations that provide service
- Steering Committee to provide local insight and advise on impact report, *not to specifically endorse the impact study*
- CGR's impact model looks at each service provided by the village and identifies a reasonable alternative for service delivery if the village dissolves
- Costs based on if the village had been dissolved in 2017

Key Findings Regarding Dissolution

- A village tax payer would see some financial benefit (about \$284 for a median value home) with very little change to their services
- Most services would be delivered by the same organizations or people that do it today
- The biggest change in service would be for the fire department as town would likely dissolve village department
 - *The issue related to fire services deserves an in-depth and objective comparison of the departments by a neutral party before a suggestion as to the true impact to service can be made*

Fiscal Impacts – Village Debts

\$1.4 million at the end of May 2017

Village Hall renovations

- \$15,000 bond
- Will be satisfied before dissolution (May 2018).

Water System

- Water fund debt will remain the responsibility of the rate payers until 2035.

Fiscal Impacts

Sales Tax

Sales tax in Chemung County is shared based on population of the community. The town would receive the village's share after dissolution when village residents become part of the town.

Property Tax

Dissolution will only impact the village, town and fire service taxes. School, county and library will not be impacted.

Fiscal Impacts Citizens Empowerment Tax Credit

- As part of the state dissolution law, a town where a village dissolves will receive additional aid to municipalities (AIM) after dissolution *and in subsequent years*
- 15 percent of combined village general tax (\$68k), town general fund (\$220k) and town highway fund (\$324k)
- The estimated CETC is about \$92,000, *35 percent more than the village's whole tax levy*

Projected Fiscal Impact

Upon dissolution, a village tax payer would see a 29 % reduction in their local government services bill.

- For a median value home of \$90,000, this will result in savings of about \$284 a year.
- Residents will need to seek their own refuse service *(estimated \$150 more than current out of pocket expense)*

	Current	Projected
Town	\$ 6.6459	\$ 5.20
Fire	n/a	\$ 1.40
Village	\$ 4.0112	n/a
Sidewalk & Lights	n/a	\$ 0.90
Total Local Taxes	\$10.66	\$7.50

Projected Service Impacts

Board of Trustees

- The Village has four elected trustees that serve on the Board of Trustees
- Upon dissolution, the Village Board of Trustees would be dissolved.

Cemetery

- Upon dissolution, the Mount Hope and Canfield cemeteries would become responsibility of the town.
- Perpetual care funds would transfer to town

Projected Service Impacts

Clerk / Treasurer

- Performs clerical, administrative and janitorial duties at the village hall and for the water system, working around 20 hrs/week.
- Upon dissolution, functions currently supported by the general fund would be eliminated. Water system and Cemetery roles would be taken by a position within the town.

Projected Service Impacts

Code Enforcement

- Current village Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) works approximately 3 hrs/week
- Code enforcement expenses would move from the village to the town upon dissolution.

Service Impacts

Village of Van Etten Fire Department

- 20 Members
 - Fully volunteer
 - 7 EMT
 - 8 interior FF
- Responds to about one (1) call per week/50 year
 - mostly medical calls
 - basic life support EMS
- Rated in the middle-third of fire departments in NYS
- Has not participated in state training offered by Chemung County in two of the last three years
- \$56,000 budgeted expense in 2017-18

Service Impacts

Community Fire and Rescue

It is likely that the Village of Van Etten Fire Department will dissolve if the village dissolves and the area will be served by the Community Fire & Rescue department (CFR) in the Town of Van Etten.

- About CFR:
 - responded to nearly 2 calls a week/ 100 calls a year over the last three years
 - 55 members: 38 active FF, 20 EMS
 - has a similar, but newer, fleet of equipment
 - Has participated in approximately 1,000 hours of state sponsored state training offered by Chemung County in past two years
 - Also rated in middle third of fire departments

Service Impacts

Local Laws

Under state dissolution law, all village local laws remain in effect for two years after dissolution or until acted upon by the Town Board

Mayor

After dissolution, the Town Supervisor would serve as the chief executive for the whole town. There would be savings related to the Mayor's salary.

Service Impacts

Refuse Removal

- Currently contracted with Frank's Disposal Service for \$1,050/month
- Residents purchase stickers at \$3 each for bag removal
- After dissolution, the Town is unlikely to continue the service for refuse collection.
- Residents of the village would need to seek their own arrangements
- For two bags a week, \$150 more per year out of pocket,

Service Impacts

Real Property and Equipment

Upon dissolution, all remaining property becomes the property of the town

Village of Van Etten Real Property Replacement	
Location	Valuation
Village Hall	\$696,000
Main Water Pump	\$458,000
Water Tank	\$180,000
Secondary Pump House	\$95,000
Fire Station	\$490,000

Service Impacts

Roads

Upon dissolution, the town would receive responsibility for maintenance of village roads. They would similarly receive the CHIPs funding and be able to maintain the current road network.

Sidewalks

Upon dissolution, the town likely establish a Special Sidewalk District for the purpose of raising funds for the maintenance and development of sidewalks inside the former village. CHIPS money can be used for this purpose.

Service Impacts

Skate Park

- Upon dissolution, the town would become responsible for management of this area and would provide for upkeep of the park.

Streetlights

- Upon dissolution, the town would likely establish a streetlight district and levy a tax based on assessed value to the property in the former village.

Service Impacts

Water Services

- Serves 204 customers
- All operations for the water system are funded through a separate village budget

Water service will be maintained after dissolution through the use of special district, governed by the Town Board

Service Impacts

Youth Services

The Village and Town currently contribute to a youth program managed by the Town of Spencer. The town would continue to contribute after dissolution and all residents would be eligible to participate.

Other Services

Upon dissolution, the town may continue community beautification and flood control projects.

Other Impacts & Considerations

Community Identity

- The center of the community would not be incorporated as a government, but would continue to exist unchanged.
- Future use of village buildings will impact the sense of community for non-governmental activities.

Future Expenses

- The current village budget model (may be challenging to sustain in the future
- The village fire department is likely to need newer apparatus and gear in the near future, a large expense that will have to be funded by taxes or grants

Dissolution Process

Village residents vote whether or not to dissolve on November 13, 2017.

- If the decision is to dissolve, the Village Board will need to create a dissolution plan outlining action steps.
- The plan must be adopted by the Village Board within 180 days of the dissolution vote.
- The time between a vote and actual dissolution is usually more than a year.
- State grants may be available to defray costs for dissolution.

Study Information

- Visit www.cgr.org/van-etten
- Copies of full report will be shared with both clerk's offices

Village of Van Etten: Dissolution Impact Study

Fiscal and Service Impact of Dissolution Overview

HOME

ABOUT THE STUDY

MEETINGS

DOCUMENTS

GET INVOLVED

MAP

LINKS



This website is designed to facilitate community engagement as the Village of Van Etten considers dissolution.

A citizen petition requesting a vote on dissolution was certified in August 2017. The study process began in September 2017. The residents will vote on dissolution on Monday, November 13th, 2017. The Village of Van Etten has engaged [CGR](#) to conduct an overview of the fiscal and service impacts of dissolution.

A public presentation of the Fiscal and Service Impact Report of Dissolution will be made on October 24, 2107 at 7 pm at the Spencer-Van Etten Elementary School. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. This meeting will be streamed live via [Facebook](#).

Please check back often for updates, and be sure to sign up online to receive email alerts as new information is added.

SUBSCRIBE TO ALERTS

EMAIL STUDY TEAM

