

**Village of Morristown
Dissolution Study Committee Meeting
Meeting #8 – September 26 @ 6:00 p.m., Morristown Fire Hall
Minutes**

Attendees

Committee: John Barse, Philip Barse, Chris Coffin, Diane LaRock, Jay Moore, John Newtown, Cheryl Shatraw, Michele Whalen, Don Woods, Mark Blanchard

Public: Susan Spilman, Dona Hoaker, Tom Bell, Kevin Crosby, Frank Putnam, JoAnne Marcelletta, Wayne Sardullo, Joanne and Ted Zoli, John Wright, Rich Rubsamen, Earl Barse, Kathy Pomeroy, David Murray, Pat Reagan, Dean Hoffman, Chris Fay, Wayne Moquin, James Kelly, Randy Wright, Andy Van Tassel, Sally Palao, Manny Palao, Shawn MacCauley

1. S. Carter reviewed the project meeting schedule and another Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday 10/16 at 6:00 p.m.

2. Presentation: Alternatives

S. Carter facilitated the committee discussion on alternatives to Village services and expenses:

- The Committee agreed that the following Contractual and Equipment & Capital Outlay Expenses would be eliminated:
 - Mayor, Contractual
 - Village Board, Contractual
 - Village Clerk/Treasurer, Contractual and Equipment & Capital Outlay
 - Assessment, Contractual
 - Law, Contractual
 - Elections, Contractual
- The Committee agreed, as noted below, on how handle the following Contractual and Equipment & Capital Outlay Expenses:
 - Buildings – The Village spends \$4,813 annually for building maintenance. The Committee agrees that this cost should be moved to the Town.
 - Central Garage – Does the Town need the garage? Yes, there is water/sewer equipment that the Town would need to store in the building. The cell phone reimbursement, uniform allowance and DPW random drug testing should be removed from this line item and added back into the respective water, sewer or the Highway Dept. based on whether the Town elects to add any additional MEOs. \$19,202 minus \$4,550 will be shifted to the Town. The Village provides an allowance for uniforms and cell phones, they do not provide the actual phones.

- Unallocated Insurance – If the Village dissolves then the Town will be responsible for the insurance costs of all formerly-owned Village buildings. It was recommended that the Town review the list to determine whether the insured cost would be consistent if added to the Town’s policy, which equipment may be eliminated, and which equipment should be accounted for in the water and/or sewer district instead of the town-wide general or highway funds. The Mayor explained that the Village has already been working with their insurance carrier, outside of dissolution, and the Committee does not believe there are any savings on insurance outside of dissolution.
- Municipal Association Dues – The Committee agrees this cost would be eliminated with dissolution (\$727).
- Public Health – The Committee agrees this cost would go away as this cost is used for a retainer (\$200). The Committee wondered if this cost could be eliminated outside of dissolution. The Mayor will check into this.
- Sidewalks – The Committee agreed that the \$1,835 for sidewalk replacements/repairs be moved over to the Town Highway fund.
- Playground and Recreation Centers – The Committee agreed that the \$8,307 would be moved to the Town expenses.
- Special Recreation Facility – The Village spent \$2,986 in FYE16 for special recreation facilities which includes Bayside Park Marina, boat docks, the bath house and park lighting. The Committee agreed this expense would move to the town and that there are no opportunities for cost savings outside of dissolution.
- Joint Recreation Program – The Committee is recommending that the \$3500 move to the town and future negotiations could consider transitioning some of this cost to the school.
- Library – The Committee is recommending that the \$2,000 that the Village currently pays move to the Town. There are no opportunities for savings in this line item and the Committee agrees that this is a valuable resource for the community.
- Historian – The Village pays \$300 for its historian. The Committee agreed that the conservative approach is to move the \$300 presently budgeted to the Town expense.
- Celebrations – The Committee agrees that the Village costs of \$5,235 should continue to be invested because it’s an important part of economic development for the hamlet and encourages tourism.

- Shade Tree – The Committee agreed that \$1,350 in expenses should be moved to the Town.
 - Zoning - The Committee agreed that \$92 would be eliminated if the Village dissolves and there is no opportunities for savings in this line item outside of dissolution.
 - Planning - The Committee agreed that \$74 would be eliminated if the Village dissolves and there is no opportunities for savings in this line item outside of dissolution.
 - Maintenance of Streets – The Committee requested additional detail on the \$96,406 in expenses to determine if some of these expenses are related to vehicles or other equipment that may be eliminated by the Town in the event of dissolution.
- Capital Project Fund – These expenses are one-time expenditures since they are not on-going annual expenses. The Committee agreed these expenses should be removed from the calculations for tax impacts.
- General Fund Debt/Fire Truck – The remaining balance for the Fire Truck debt at the end of FYE16 was \$325,725. Additional information is needed on whether this asset can be sold to the Fire District, or volunteer Fire Department so the Committee understands its options.
- Fire Services - Committee members were split on whether a Fire District should be created or whether the Town Fire Protection District should be expanded to include the former Village but in the end there seemed to be more Committee members that think a Town Fire Protection district makes sense, would more fairly distribute costs, and not create another layer of government.
- Lighting – The Committee agreed to incorporate lighting into the town-wide general fund to be consistent with the way other lighting areas are served in the Town (\$10,415). [A SLIDE ON THIS WAS MISSING IN THE ALTERNATIVES REPORT AND WILL BE ADDED BACK IN].
- Wages and Benefits – If the Village dissolves all wages and benefits for the Village would be eliminated. However, some of these duties may be assumed by Town personnel and in such case the Committee will need to account for these benefits in the new Town expenses.
- Village Mayor - this position would be eliminated in the event of dissolution.
 - Village Board – the board would be eliminated in the event of dissolution.
 - Village Elections Inspector – there would be no more Village elections so these positions would go away.
 - Village Clerk/Treasurer – Village treasurer tasks and several Clerk duties would be eliminated in the event of dissolution. The current Clerk/Treasurer estimates that 11% of her time is spent do

water/sewer related tasks. The Committee agreed to transfer \$3,000 to the Town to cover additional duties and \$3,135 will be split equally between the water and sewer fund.

- Village DPW Staff - \$63,197 in expenses are being spent on non-water/sewer DPW tasks. The Town will determine how they will deliver the services and what the costs will be.

- Water – \$27,870 is water system wages is estimated to be spent on labor for operation and maintenance; plus the \$1,567 of Clerk/Treasurer time for water/sewer billing.
- Sewer - \$25,608 is sewer system wages is estimated to be spent on labor for operation and maintenance.
- Other Efficiencies?

3. Schedule additional meeting to go over results from Alternatives discussion.

- The committee will most likely need an additional meeting before the October 24 meeting.

4. Dissolution Study Meetings and Topics

Meeting	Month
#1 Kickoff and Demographics	February 28, 2017
#2 What Exists: Municipal Financials	March 28, 2017
#3 What Exists: Municipal Officials, Employees & Local Laws	April 25, 2017
#4 What Exists: Fire Department	May 23, 2017
#5 What Exists: Dept. of Public Works, Water, Sewer & Highway Dept.	June 27, 2017
#6 Draft Existing Conditions Report	July 25, 2017
#7 Public Meeting #1 - Existing Conditions	August 22, 2017
#8 Alternatives	September 26, 2017
#9 Alternatives #2	October 16, 2017
#9 Draft Alternatives Report	October 24, 2017
#10 Public Meeting #2 - Alternatives	November 28, 2017
#11 Final Dissolution Report and Plan	December 26, 2017
#12 Public Hearing (if recommended by committee)	January 23, 2018