

Village of Morristown Dissolution Study - Public Informational Meeting #1 Notes

11/28/17

Public Q&A and Comments

1. **Comment** – PowerPoint Slide 11, 2nd bullet, should say “sewer bills” not “water bills”
2. **Comment** – PowerPoint Slide 16, Table, should say “increase” instead of “decrease” for town tax rate.
3. **Question** – Now that this process has taken place, at what point must the Village dissolve? Is there a point at which a Village generally SHOULD dissolve? Maybe because it can’t continue to raise tax rates to run the Village because residents can’t afford to pay higher rates?
 - a. Answer - The Village registered voters are the only people that can decide if a Village should be created or dissolved, based on the way that municipal law is structured. Everyone has a certain set of priorities that will cause them to vote a certain way on dissolution. Some of the factors that individual taxpayers may value differently and inform their decision include tax rates, having village government intact, local job losses, increased government efficiency, etc.
4. **Question** – Why do Village residents pay so much more than Town residents for the same fire services?
 - a. Answer – The Village has a smaller taxable assessed value, so their cost per \$1,000 per assessed value for their fire district is higher than the costs paid for by taxpayers in the larger Town fire protection district and Brier Hill fire district.
5. **Question** – If the Village board decided not to proceed with a referendum on dissolution, what are the options to move this forward?
 - a. Answer – If Village resident taxpayers want to proceed with the process, then they would either have to convince the board to move forward or a petition would have to be filed.
6. **Question** – Could you elaborate more on the taxable assessed values for the Village and Town?
 - a. Answer – The Village’s TAV is \$26M vs. \$181M for the Town including the Village. Taxable Assessed Value is one factor that affects tax rates and the total amount of taxes that residents pay; the tax levy also affects the tax rates.
7. **Question** – Do lower taxes promote development and is there data on how dissolution affected development in Villages that have dissolved?
 - a. Answer – The factors that go into attracting development to a certain area are numerous and complex. A developer may look for areas with low taxes, but may also look for: available land to purchase or existing established industrial parks; water, sewer, and storm infrastructure; local workforce availability and population; access to major highways, rail service, and airports; etc. The Authority and the DOS are not aware of any data pertaining to development impacts in Villages post-dissolution, but the DOS would be interested in developing that kind of data. Carrie Tuttle suggested that Morristown residents talk to their neighbors in Edwards and Hermon who live in Villages that recently dissolved to get an idea of their experiences with dissolution. An audience member recommended that the Village might invite other municipalities that have dissolved to share their experiences.

8. Question – Why haven't the Village board members attended any of the dissolution meetings?

- a. Answer – Mayor Shatraw responded that the Village board members have been invited to every meeting and they can't be forced to attend.

9. Question – When can a petition be filed?

- a. Answer – A petition can be filed at any time and signatures on the petition don't expire (as long as a person is alive and the signature can be validated).

10. Question – How close are the projected savings to actual savings when dissolution occurs?

- a. Answer – In the Authority's and the DOS's experience, they actual savings are usually very close, if not slightly higher, than projected.