

Village of Morristown
Dissolution Study Committee Meeting
Meeting #2 – March 28 @ 6:00 p.m., Morristown Fire Hall
Minutes

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Attendance

Committee: Cheryl Shatraw, Mark Blanchard, John Newtown, Philip Barse, Chris Coffin, Don Woods, John Barse, Michele Whalen (by phone)

Public: Wayne Sardullo, Sandra Warren, Frank Putman (had to leave at 6:15 p.m.), Rich Marshall, Janet Newtown, Don Merritt

Consultants: Star Carter, Hartley Bonisteel-Schweitzer, Carrie Tuttle

1. Presentation: Municipal Services and Financials

- S. Carter provided an overview of the municipal services and financial for the Village of Morristown.
- All figures from the presentation come from the Village's FYE 5/31/16 and the Town's FYE12/31/16 Annual Update Documents, which are the most update. Historical financial trending information comes from <http://www.openbooknewyork.com/>. Tax information is provided by St. Lawrence County.
- The Committee was reminded that School and County taxes will not be impacted by Village dissolution, and that water and sewer rates are not impacted by Village dissolution. Additional information about water and sewer districts and costs will be covered in the 5th presentation, on June 27th.
- Additional information was requested on Slide 5 in terms of the breakdown of the State Aid, and how this is computed; specifically the category of "mortgage tax".
- Clarification was provided that the new Village Office/Garage was managed as a capital project and is reported in the Annual Update Document separate from the General/Highway Funds.
- Slide 10 – additional clarification has been added regarding eligible positions for medical benefits. 4 positions are eligible to receive benefits. 1 position does not receive medical benefits and has negotiated an increase in base salary in lieu of coverage.
- Slide 41 – 3rd bullet has been updated to clarify that the Town elects to apply County Sales tax revenue, paid to the Town by the County annually, to offset General Fund Town-Outside and Highway Part-town expenses. If those expenses are less than the annual sales tax revenue then there the there is no tax levied on the Town properties for these expenses.
- Slide 44 – A note was added to explain why the Village and Town Outside Village County tax rates differ. According to the St. Lawrence County Office of Real Property this occurred in FY16 due to an issue of omitted tax. Omitted tax occurs when a property is classified as tax exempt erroneously. When this is discovered and properly classified as taxable, the prior tax that was not collected is levied; thereby creating a one-time effect on the tax rate.
- The Committee was shown other sources of information including the tax rates for St. Lawrence County. Link follows: <https://www.stlawco.org/Departments/RealProperty/>

2. Dissolution Study Meetings and Topics

- S. Carter pointed out that the schedule has been revised to incorporate local laws into the 3rd presentation and Water and Sewer will be covered during the 5th presentation. The revised schedule will be posted on the dissolution committee webpage.

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 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