

**Village of Morristown  
Dissolution Study Committee Meeting  
Meeting #3 – April 25 @ 6:00 p.m., Morristown Fire Hall  
Minutes**

**Attendance**

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

**Public:** Kevin Crosby, Wayne Sardullo, Frank Putman, Janet Newtown, Don Merritt, Jim Kelly, JoAnne Marcellett, Pat Reagen, Ron Wright, Judy Wright, Earl Barse, Joanne Vaillancourt, Mike Bogart, Randy Wright, Sally Palao, Manny Palao

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

**1. Presentation: Municipal Services and Financials**

- S. Carter and H. Bonisteel-Schweitzer provided an overview of the municipal officials, employees, and local laws for the Village and Town of Morristown.
- A summary of the presentation follows:
  - o The Village has 2 trustees and 1 mayor.
  - o There are a total of 6 Village staff members (4 full-time and 2 part-time); and 3 elected officials
  - o DPW staff were paid entirely out of sewer fund in FYE16 and FYE17; labor will be split between the General Fund and the Sewer Fund in FYE18.
  - o The total paid for Village employee wages in FYE16 was \$153,155 and the total benefits paid were \$109,173.
  - o Four full-time Village employees are eligible for medical insurance benefits.
  - o The buy-out for the DPW Superintendent medical insurance was \$9,000 per year.
  - o Full-time Village employees have an individual contract that outlines their compensation and benefits. These contracts are renewed annually at the start of the fiscal year (June 1). The Town has an employee hand-book for non-Union employees. Town Highway employees are part of the Teamsters union and their contract outlines their benefits.
  - o Workers' Compensation is provided by the St. Lawrence County and they determine the cost of coverage for all St. Lawrence County municipalities. This is paid for through County charge-backs on real property tax bills.
  - o The Town has a total of 9 full-time employees, 11 part-time employees, and 3 seasonal Youth Program employees that earned a total of \$464,437 in wages for FYE16 and received benefits of \$243,990.
  - o The Village and Town benefits as percentages of total salaries are 71% and 53%, respectively.
  - o Comment: There was a 1-year anomaly in 2016 for the Town of about \$50,000 because the NYS Retirement system required an additional 1-time payment because of several new employees receiving the benefit and a salary increase for the Hwy Superintendent. This will be footnoted in the Existing Conditions Report.

- The Town has a smaller number of laws when compared to the Village. This is typical and Villages often have more laws than Towns.
- The Town and the Village have several laws that cover similar topics.
- The Village has some laws that are duplicative with respect to the topics they cover and could be consolidated (i.e., dog control, regulation of junk/clutter/garbage, etc.).
- The Town and the Village both has zoning and subdivision use laws. These could be consolidated into a consistent zoning plan for the Town and Village combined.
- There are several Village laws that the Village may want to consider keeping for the former Village area if dissolution occurs. There are also some laws that would likely be unnecessary if the Village dissolved.
- A Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) was adopted in 1991. A Waterfront Consistency Review law is part of the LWRP that was previously adopted.
- Slide 4: corrected spelling of Gouverneur and Heuvelton.
- Slide 11: corrected to include the Historian, the Animal Control Officer, and 3 Part-time Youth Program Staff in the Social Security Benefits box.

## 2. Dissolution Study Meetings and Topics

- The upcoming meeting schedule was reviewed with the Committee. The next meeting will be on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and the topic covered will be Fire Department.

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Month</b>
#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
<b>#4 What Exists: Fire Department</b>	<b>May 23, 2017</b>
#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