

**Village of Morristown  
Dissolution Study Committee Meeting  
Meeting #5 – June 27, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m., Morristown Fire Hall  
Minutes**

**Attendees**

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

**Public:** Ted Zoli, Audrey Mullarney, Earl Barse, Wayne Sardullo Jr., Wayne Sardullo Sr., Don Merritt, Janet Newtown, Will Gerard, Sue Gerard, Patrick Mullarney, Wayne Mogum, Charles Gore, JoAnne Marcelletta, Richard Johnson II, Randy Wright, Pat Corcorcan, KC Corcorcan, Susan Gail Spilman, Frank Putnam, Judy Wright

**Consultants:** Star Carter, Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer

**1.** The Dissolution Study Committee Members introduced themselves to the public attending the committee meeting.

**2. Presentation: DPW, Water, Sewer, Highway, Street Lighting**

- S. Carter reviewed the schedule and reminded the committee that this was the last topic of the Existing Conditions phase of the study. Next month the committee will review the draft Existing Conditions report and prepare for the Public Informational Meeting on August 22, 2017.

- S. Carter provided an overview of the Department of Public Works, Water, Sewer, Town Highway Department, and Street Lighting services.

- A summary of the discussion follows:

- Slide 5 - DPW Street Maintenance:
  - Question: How much did the Village receive in Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funds last year and how that money is used? Answer: The Village received \$26,367 in 2016 and CHIPS funds are used for paving and gravel material for street repairs and maintenance.
  - Question: Does the Town also receive CHIPS funds and how is the amount determined? Answer: Yes, last year the Town received \$112,613. CHIPS is calculated annually based on several factors, including the total number of miles of roads in a municipality. The amount changes year to year.
  - Question: If the Village dissolves, does the Town receive additional CHIPS funds? Answer: Yes, essentially the CHIPS funding would remain unchanged as a result of dissolution because the Village street miles would be added to the Town road total and factored in to the annual CHIPS allocation to the Town.
  
- Slide 7 - DPW Sidewalks:

- Question: If the sidewalks are owned by property owners, why does the Village pay to replace them? Answer from Mayor Shatraw: the Village repairs sidewalks for the safety of residents and pedestrians.
- Question: Where is the documentation that states property owners own sidewalks? Answer: Sidewalks are maintained in accordance with municipal law and Village policies for maintenance. Typically property owners own up to the centerline of the street; however, there is a public right of way that allows for public use of the street and sidewalks. Some property deeds describe this and some do not; every deed and property can be different. Municipalities have policies and/or local laws regarding sidewalk ownership and responsibility. Morristown has a 2009 Village policy regarding sidewalks (see attached copy of policy provided by Village Clerk). In the context of dissolution, the issue being discussed by the Committee is the service provided by the Village to repair and replace sidewalks and how much that service costs. In FYE 2016, the Village budgeted \$10,000 for sidewalk replacement and spent \$1,835. The language on Slide 7 was modified to mirror the Village policy language.
- Slide 11 - Village-owned Property: After the meeting, a question was brought up to S. Carter regarding the ownership of Parcel # 83.041-4-14 at the end of Ann St. The County records show the Village owns the parcel, but the Village thinks they gave the parcel to the Central School several years ago. S. Carter confirmed with SLC Real Property on 6-29-17 that the parcel is owned by the Village, according to their records. The Village will follow up on this to see if they have documentation showing transfer of the parcel. A footnote was added to Slide 11 regarding the question of ownership of this parcel.
- Village Water and Sewer Districts Question: if the Village dissolved, what would happen to the Village Water and Sewer Districts? Answer: If the Village dissolved, the Town would create a new Water District and a new Sewer District for the former Village area, and the residents currently receiving and paying for these services would continue to pay for them as part of the new districts. Debts currently held by the Village water and sewer districts would stay with those same districts after dissolution.
- Water and Sewer District Debt Question: Are the water and sewer rates reduced when debts are paid off? Answer from Mayor Shatraw and Supervisor Putnam: No, the rates stay the same and the revenue stays within the appropriate district fund (example: sewer district 1 revenue can only be used for sewer district 1 expenses) and is used to maintain the infrastructure.
- Town Sewer District Consolidation Question: Could the Town consolidate its sewer districts? Answer: Sewer district consolidation can be complicated and requires the consideration of several factors, including rates, debts, etc.; however, if the Town wanted to consider sewer district consolidation, there is funding available to conduct a study to look at the impacts. This is a separate issue from Village municipal dissolution.

## 2. Dissolution Study Meetings and Topics

- The upcoming meeting schedule was reviewed with the Committee. The next meeting will be on July 25, 2017 and the committee will review the Draft Existing Conditions Report and prep for the Public Informational Meeting.

<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
#4 What Exists: Fire Department	May 23, 2017
<b>#5 What Exists: Dept. of Public Works, Water, Sewer &amp; Highway Dept.</b>	<b>June 27, 2017</b>
#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

## Village Sidewalk Policy - June 2009

### Sidewalk Policy Village of Morristown

1. Homeowners are responsible for maintaining their own sidewalks.
2. The Village of Morristown will budget funds each year for sidewalk replacement. The village Department of Public works will inspect all sidewalks each year and determine which areas will be replaced.
2. The village will provide the following:
  - Removal of old sidewalk
  - Install new 3000 psi concrete with fiber or rebar and crushed stone
  - Remove any objects that may damage new sidewalk
  - Clean and restore area
3. Homeowners may submit a letter of request at any time to have their sidewalk replaced if it is not on the list that year.
  - Homeowner shall purchase materials
  - Department of Public works will provide labor
4. Sidewalk repair shall be done between May 1<sup>st</sup> - October 31<sup>st</sup>. Earlier or later shall depend on weather.