

Chaumont Dissolution Study Public Informational Meeting #2
February 26, 2020, 7:00 pm, Chaumont Fire Hall
Meeting Notes

Attendance

Committee Members:

Scott Aubertine (Town Supervisor), Ed Demattia (Town Resident), Robin Grovesteen (Village Resident), Jim Morrow (Village Trustee), Valerie Rust by phone (Village Mayor), Marcie Travers-Barth (Town Resident)

Consultants:

Development Authority of the North Country: Star Carter, Carrie Tuttle

Public:

27 public attendees signed in (please see attached sign-in sheet)

Meeting started at 7:00 pm

1. Welcome and Introductions

S. Carter opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming to the second Public Informational Meeting for the Chaumont Dissolution Study. S. Carter introduced the Development Authority of the North Country staff and the members of the Dissolution Study Committee introduced themselves. A letter from Mayor Rust was handed out and also read to the attendees. Handouts of the Draft Alternatives Presentation and Report were provided to all attendees.

2. Presentation

S. Carter gave a presentation summarizing the Draft Alternatives Report and the next steps in the dissolution study process.

3. General Public Questions and Answers Summary

Q1: Who gets to vote on the dissolution and why?

A1: Only registered Village voters, in accordance with General Municipal Law under Article 17A, can vote on a referendum to dissolve.

Q2: Could the Town utilize their existing hauler to do Village trash and recycling pickup?

A2: Supervisor Aubertine explained that this could definitely be an option; however the Town would have to procure these services in accordance with the Town's procurement policy which would require competitive bidding/proposals.

Q3: It looks like the Village DPW staff will lose their jobs if the Village dissolves. Is that correct?

A3: The Town has not determined how the additional services that will transfer to the Town will be provided at this stage. That will be determined later in the process.

Q4: Why does NYS incentivize municipal consolidation with the Citizens' Empowerment Tax Credit?

A4: This is done because NYS wants to improve efficiency of delivering local government services by reducing overlapping special districts and government entities.

Q5: Would Chaumont still be called Chaumont and what would happen to the post office?

A5: Nothing would change in terms of the USPS. The Village of Chaumont would become the Hamlet of Chaumont.

Q6: Can other tax projections be computed to show other potential savings by the Village delivery the services in a different manner? It seems that the only cost savings presented are if the Village dissolves.

A6: The Report identifies alternatives to providing services in a different manner.

Q7: Is brush pick-up the only service that would go away with dissolution?

A7: Yes, this is the only service that the Committee recommended to go away in a dissolution scenario.

Q8: Village should implement new way of trash disposal to save money right away.

A8: In light of the new information this dissolution study has brought up, the Village Board is considering options for cost savings. The recycling pick-up services are complicated in that they are currently provided by Village DPW staff and are part of their full-time duties. One of these staff members also holds the appropriate water and sewer licensing to operate the village systems. The Village finds it difficult to only staff these positions with part-time employees, so maintaining the staff as full-time employees is important.

4. Conclusion

S. Carter and the committee thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and invited them to attend the monthly committee meeting in March and the Public Hearing when the Village schedules it.

Meeting ended at 8:50 pm.