

**Village of Chaumont
Dissolution Study Committee Meeting
Meeting #4 – August 28 @ 6:00 p.m., Municipal Building
Minutes**

Committee Members Present:

Scott Aubertine (Town Supervisor), Ed Demattia (Town Resident), Robin Grovesteen (phoned in, Village Resident), Fred Jackson (Village Resident), Bill Johnson (Town Resident), Jim Morrow (Village Trustee), Scott Radley (Village Resident), Valerie Rust (Village Mayor), Pat Weston (Town Highway Superintendent)

Public Members: Ted Smith, Don Bourquin, Julia Gosier, Pat Reome

Meeting started at 6:00 pm

1. Presentation #4: Fire & Rescue Services and Local Laws

A general summary of the way fire and rescue services are provided in NY was provided to the committee, followed by information about how the Town of Lyme and Village of Chaumont provide those services to their residents. Information was also provided about the Chaumont Volunteer Fire Company Inc. and the Three Mile Bay Fire Company Inc., number and type of calls in the Village and Town, and a breakdown of the costs of fire services. The committee had the following comments on the presentation:

- i. There was discussion about the differences between a Fire District, Fire Protection District, and a Village, and how each of those entities can provide fire and rescue services to their residents. The Village does not have a Village Fire Department; they contract for services with an independent fire company. The Town has one Fire Protection District that covers the entire town, excluding the Village, and the Town contracts with two independent fire companies.
- ii. Slide 11 – changed to show that the Town pays \$78,500 for fire services and \$10,000 for first responder services to Chaumont Volunteer Fire Company; and \$78,500 for fire services and \$35,000 for EMS ambulance services to Three Mile Bay Fire Company. The costs for first responder and ambulance services are paid out of the Town's General Town-wide fund, which means that both Town and Village residents are paying for those rescue services. Fire services in the Village are funded through Village taxes, and fire services in the Town are funded through the Fire Protection District.
- iii. Slide 12 – comment on the difference between a district and service area. This map shows the two service areas for Chaumont Volunteer Fire Company Inc. and Three Mile Bay Fire Company Inc., and both companies operate in the one Town Fire Protection District.
- iv. Slide 17 – modified to clarify that the Village only pays for fire services as part of their contract; the Town pays for rescue and ambulance services out of its General Town-wide Fund that covers the Town and the Village. The numbers and calculations did not change.
- v. Slide 21 – updated to show the most current dog control law in the Town was passed in 2017, and that law is identical to the Village law passed that same year.

- vi. Slide 23 – it was noted that some of the older laws may have been superseded by newer laws, particularly laws that pertain to land development code. During a more in-depth local law review, the older laws could be disregarded and just the newer laws would be relevant.
- vii. There was discussion about local laws being specific to certain areas of the Town, for instance, regulating wood burning stoves or farm animals in more densely populated hamlets in a town but not in the more rural areas.
- viii. There was discussion about Village laws being in effect for two years after dissolution or until they are superseded by a Town law.

2. Discuss Draft Existing Conditions Report

- i. The committee reviewed the meeting schedule and noted that we are nearing the end of the Existing Conditions phase. This was the last topic for existing conditions and S. Carter will write the Draft Existing Conditions Report for the committee to review at the September meeting. She will send it out ahead of the meeting and the committee should review it and come to the meeting with comments and suggestions; they should also contact S. Carter if they find any mistakes or corrections before the meeting.

3. Other Business

Village NYS Retirement Deficiency

S. Carter explained to the committee that the Village Clerk forwarded information to S. Carter this week regarding a deficiency the Village has to pay to the NYS Retirement System to make up for several years where the Village was not participating but had employees who were eligible. The Village pays an annual installment to pay off this deficiency and has only paid 6 of 25 installments. S. Carter called the NYS and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS) office and spoke with Principal Accountant in Employer Billing Services Richard Hruby about this deficiency and what would happen to it if the Village were to dissolve. R. Hruby explained that the balance, which currently is about \$40,000, would pass to the Town in the event of dissolution. He has seen this situation before with Villages that dissolved, and most of them paid the balance off before dissolution to avoid the obligation going to the Town. In the event of dissolution, if the Village did not pay the balance off, the NYSLRS would negotiate payments with the Town, and the Town would apply these costs to the former Village area taxpayers, not the whole Town. S. Carter will add this information to the Existing Conditions Report under the Employee Benefits section.

Question on Village fund balance and assets

A few committee members asked what happens to the Village fund balance and assets if the Village dissolves. The Village can sell assets and use fund balance to pay off debts or complete projects. Assets that are not sold and unexpended fund balance will go to the Town. The Village can request that funds go into certain districts that benefit the former Village residents, like water, sewer, or lighting districts. The Village can also refund the Village taxpayers the unexpended fund balance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. Next meeting will be September 25 at 6:00 pm.

Meeting	Month	Location
#1 Kickoff and Demographics	June 3	Lyme School Library
#2 What Exists: Municipal Financials	June 26	Municipal Building
#3 What Exists: Municipal Officials & Employees, Public Works, Water & Sewer	August 1	Municipal Building
#4 What Exists: Local Laws, Fire & Ambulance	August 28	Municipal Building
#5 What Exists: Draft Existing Conditions Report	September 25	Municipal Building
#6 Public Meeting #1 - Existing Conditions	October 23	Municipal Building
#7 Alternatives: Dissolution and Other Shared Services Options	November 26	Municipal Building
#8 Alternatives: Second Meeting	December 18	Municipal Building
#9 Draft Alternatives Report	January 22	Municipal Building
#10 Public Meeting #2 - Alternatives	February 26	Municipal Building
#11 Final Dissolution Report and Plan	March 25	Municipal Building