

Village of Limestone Dissolution Plan

The information gathered in this draft plan follows a template laid out in the document *Consolidation, Dissolution, and Annexation of Town and Villages How To Guide*, provided by the New York Department of State. Specifically, the organization of information follows a format suggested on pp. 3-7 of that document.

Additional information was included based on recommendations provided by the Center for Government Research. Thanks to Charlie Zettek, CGR's Vice President and Director of Government Management Services, for answering all our questions in a helpful and timely manner.

We offer our gratitude to Rosemary Fowler and Sandy McAndrew, the Village and Town clerks, who've been instrumental in the collection of data.

Planning Board members:

Chris Mackowski, chair

Robert Woods,* vice chair

Linda Brown*

Roland Corbin

Dave Frederick (ex officio)

Joyce Lucco*

William Rounsville

Todd Yonkers*

* denotes out-of-village committee members

Budgets

The following budget summaries provide ready comparisons between the Village, the Town, and the Town if the Village was dissolved. The Village budget is the June 2008-May 2009 budget (the most recent available at the time this plan was drafted), and the Town budget is the 2009 budget.

The combined municipal budget—the Town’s budget if the Village was dissolved—was drafted by the Town Clerk and the Town Supervisor, both of whom would be responsible for drafting the budget. Village financial information was provided by the Village Clerk.

Of particular note: Town taxes will go down, despite the added costs associated with picking up Village services, because the Town currently has a large fund balance in its Town-Outside-of-Village side of the budget. After dissolution, that fund balance will become part of the Town’s general fund and will be available for tax relief.

Complete copies of the budgets are available in Appendix A.

Following the budget summaries is a table that compares the current tax rates on a \$100,000 house to the tax rates if the Village dissolved.

VILLAGE OF LIMESTONE BUDGET SUMMARY June 08-May 09

SOURCE	APPROPRI.	REVENUES	ESTIMATE FUND BAL.	RAISED BY PROP TAX	TAX RATE 2009-10	TAX RATE 2008-09
GENERAL FUND	278,428.00	55,850.00	116,688.00	105,890.00		\$11.16
SEWER	181,585.00	91,817.00	78,258.00	11,510.00		(\$65.00 flat fee)
WATER	55,342.00	55,342.00				
YOUTH REC	16,630.00	13,130.00	3,500.00			

TOWN OF CARROLLTON BUDGET SUMMARY 2009

SOURCE	APPROPRI.	REVENUES	ESTIMATE FUND BAL.	RAISED BY PROP TAX	TAX RATE 2009	TAX RATE 2008
GENERAL FUND A-TOWNWIDE	281,845	112,010	45,000	124,835	\$1.87	\$1.54
HIGHWAY DA-TOWNWIDE	72,580	1,400	0	71,180	\$1.07	\$1.30
TOTAL TOWNWIDE	354,425	113,410	45,000	196,015	\$2.94	\$2.84
GENERAL FUND B- OUTSIDE VIL	34,668	31,168	3,500	0	0	0
HIGHWAY DB-OUTSIDE VILLAGE	250,100	169,175	80,925	0	0	0
TOTAL TOWN OUTSIDE VILLAGE	284,768	200,343	84,425	0	0	
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT	110,040	0	0	110,040	\$1.68	1.67
SEWER DISTRICT #1 O&M	36,054	16,865	12,000	7,189	0	
(1/2 \$7,189 raised on front footage, 1/2 raised assessed value)				Per foot	0.181	0.62
				Per thou.	0.865	2.92
ASSESSMENTS						
INSIDE VILLAGE	9,430,052					
OUTSIDE VILLAGE	57,314,432					
TOTAL	66,744,484					
FIRE PROTECTION	65,604,052					
SEWER FRONT FOOTAGE	19,827					
SEWER DISTRICT ASSESSMENT	4,252,900					
TOWNWIDE RATE (TOWN INCLUDING VILLAGE)				\$4.62		
TOWN OUTSIDE VILLAGE (TOWN OUTSIDE VILLAGE)				\$4.62		
TAX RATE FOR THOSE IN SEWER DISTRICT				\$5.67		

**TOWN OF CARROLLTON BUDGET SUMMARY FOR 2009
IF NO VILLAGE OF LIMESTONE EXISTED**

SOURCE	APPROPRI.	REVENUES	ESTIMATE FUND BAL.	RAISED BY PROP TAX	TAX RATE 2009	TAX RATE 2008
GENERAL FUND A- TOWNWIDE	331,943	177,725	48,500	105,718	\$1.58	\$1.54
HIGHWAY DA- TOWNWIDE	340,115	207,500	81,000	51,615	\$0.77	\$1.30
TOTAL TOWNWIDE	672,058	385,225	161,000	125,833	\$2.36	\$2.84
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT	110,040	0	0	110,040	\$1.68	1.67
SEWER DISTRICT #1 O&M	41,296	16,415	12,000	12,881	0	
(1/2 \$7,189 raised on front footage, 1/2 raised assessed value)				Per foot	0.325	0.62
				Per thou.	1.534	2.92
VILLAGE SEWER	76,346	61,346	5,000	1,000		
VILLAGE WATER	59,152	59,152	0	0		
ASSESSMENTS						
TOWN INCLUDING VILLAGE	66,744,484					
	65,604,052					
FIRE PROTECTION	65,604,052					
SEWER FRONT FOOTAGE	19,827					
SEWER DISTRICT ASSESSMENT	4,252,900					
TOWNWIDE RATE (TOWN INCLUDING VILLAGE)					\$4.04	
TAX RATE FOR THOSE IN TOWN SEWER DISTRICT					\$5.90	
TAX RATE FOR THOSE IN VILLAGE SEWER DISTRICT					\$4.04 (plus \$65 flat fee for each household)	
TAX RATE FOR THOSE IN VILLAGE WATER DISTRICT					\$4.04	

Tax Rates on a \$100,000 House

Tax Rate Now

<i>HOUSE IN TOWN</i>		<i>HOUSE IN VILLAGE</i>	
COUNTY	916	COUNTY	916
TOWN	294	TOWN	294
FIRE	168	FIRE	168
SEWER	87	VILLAGE	1,116
SEWER FT FOOT	<u>18</u>	VILLAGE SEWER	<u>65</u>
TOTAL	\$1,483	TOTAL	\$2,559

Merged Tax Rate

<i>HOUSE IN TOWN</i>		<i>HOUSE IN VILLAGE</i>	
COUNTY	\$916	COUNTY	\$916
TOWN	235	TOWN	235
FIRE	168	FIRE	168
SEWER (PER THOU)	87	VILLAGE (FLAT RATE)	<u>65</u>
SEWER (FRONT FT)	<u>18</u>		
TOTAL	\$1,424	TOTAL	\$1,384

Additional Financial Issues

State Incentive Aid

The state provides incentive money to municipalities affected by the dissolution of a Village. If Limestone dissolves, the Town would get \$750,000 in state aid, doled out over five years:

Year One	\$250,000
Year Two	\$200,000
Year Three	\$150,000
Year Four	\$100,000
Year Five	\$50,000

The Town would have fifteen months between the vote and actual dissolution to develop a plan on how to use the money to mitigate any additional tax burden on all Town residents (including those in the former Village).

Additional Costs/Revenues

An examination of the Town budget compared to the “Town if the Village No Longer Existed” budget shows that, after dissolution, the Town would pick up an additional \$15,430 in expenses on the “A” side of the budget (the non-highway side).¹ The Town would also pick up an additional \$17,435 in highway expenses.² That’s a total of \$32,865 in additional expenses the Town would be responsible for.

Those expenses would be offset by the sales tax that the Village currently receives and the state CHIPs money the Village currently receives:

Sales Tax	\$30,000 (formerly collected by Village)
CHIPs Money	\$20,000 (formerly collected by Village)
TOTAL	\$50,000

In effect, the Town would gain \$17,135 in additional annual revenue—plus the \$750,000 in state incentive aid.

¹ This number can be determined by adding the A & B sides of the Town budget and subtracting it from the “A” side of the “Town if the Village No Longer Existed” budget.

² This number can be determined by adding the DA & DB sides of the Town budget and subtracting it from the highway appropriations on the “Town if the Village No Longer Existed” budget.

A. Potential Benefits

If the Village dissolves, resident may face a number of possible benefits and detriments. Possible detriments are discussion in Section B.

- Lower taxes for former Village residents
- Lower taxes for Town residents
- Increased government efficiency
- Simpler budgeting process
- Higher bond rating for public works projects

B. Potential Detriments

- Loss of municipal identity
We will mitigate this by continuing to call ourselves the Hamlet of Limestone (similar to the Hamlet of Vandalia)
- Loss of local control over governance decisions
All Limestone residents can run for elected office in the Town, so everyone still has the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.
- Less support for water and sewer systems
The administration of the water and sewer will remain exactly as it is except the Town board, rather than the Village board, will administer the system. (For more information, see section G)
- Loss of zoning
After dissolution, all Village laws—including zoning laws—will remain in effect within the area of the former Village for two years. After that, all laws expire. However, the Town is currently at work on a Land Use Management Plan that will offer the same kinds of protections a zoning plan would offer; anticipated adoption of that plan will happen prior to the expiration of the Village zoning.

C. Local Officials and Political Considerations

Village Government

Should the Village dissolve, then the Village Board of Trustees will no longer exist. The Town Board will assume responsibility for all governance issues.

The mayor receives \$252.89 per month for their services, for an annual salary of \$3,034.68.

The trustees each receive \$113.56 per month for their services, for an annual salary of \$1,362.72 each (\$2,725.44 total).

Planning Board

The Joint Town/Village Planning Board will become simply the Town Planning Board. Membership will not change because any current Village residents serving on the board can continue to serve because they are also residents of the Town. The Planning Board's bylaws will remain in effect.

The chair of the Planning Board receives \$42 per month for his services, for an annual salary of \$504.

Town Government

The position of Town Supervisor and Town Board members will be unaffected by the Village dissolution.

RECOMMENDATION: *If the Village dissolves, the Town will pick responsibility for paying the Planning Board chair. Payments to other Village officials will no longer be necessary, resulting in an annual \$5,760.12 savings to taxpayers. Town offices will remain unaffected.*

DISCUSSION:

While some Village residents may perceive a loss of local control over governance matters, it's worth remembering that anyone who currently lives in the Village is eligible to run for any Town-wide office. Therefore, while the Village Board of Trustees would no longer exist after dissolution, residents can still run for the Town Board of Supervisors. Likewise, service opportunities exist on the Planning Board, as well.

One further note: According to the Superintendent's office, dissolution would not impact the school district at all.

D. Workforce Impacts

If the Village dissolves, the Town would keep all employees currently employed by the Village. Down the road, personnel issues will be addressed as the Town continues to develop and implement its long-range strategic plan. Staffing efficiencies will be implemented as attrition allows.

The Village currently employs one full-time employee (maintenance worker) and two part-time employees (clerk and youth rec supervisor). The Village employs legal services on an as-needed basis. The full-time and part-time employees would all become Town employees. The contract for legal services would no longer be necessary since the Town already holds a contract of its own for legal services.

Maintenance worker

The Village currently employs a full-time employee who splits his time between general village maintenance and work for the water and sewer systems. The breakdown of his time is generally as follows:

General Village Work	32 hours
Water District	4 hours
Sewer District	4 hours

As part of the general village work, the Village assigns the employee to work five hours per week for the Town on building upkeep in lieu of paying rent for village office space.

The position is a non-union position and will remain a non-union position if the Village dissolves.

RECOMMENDATION: *If the Village dissolves, the maintenance worker will go to work for the Town. The general breakdown of his responsibilities to the water and sewer systems will remain the same.*

Village clerk

The Village employs a part-time clerk who works twenty hours a week. The clerk would go to work for the Town at the same rate of pay—\$16.77 per hour—resulting in no change in costs, for a total annual salary of \$17,440.80.

The Town will fund one third of that salary through what is currently the Village sewer system, one third through what is currently the Village water system, one

sixth through the Town's current sewer district, and one sixth through the Town's general fund. That would represent a net increase for Town taxpayers of \$2,906.80. The rest would be covered by customers of the respective sewer and water districts.

RECOMMENDATION: *If the Village dissolves, the village clerk will go to work for the Town, at the same number of hours per week. She will be responsible for water and sewer billing.*

Youth Rec Supervisor

As mentioned in Section I, the Village and Town together employ a Youth Rec Supervisor, who receives an annual stipend of \$7,700.

Retired Employees

The Village has no retired employees.

E. Environmental Factors

If the Village dissolves, the current Village Zoning Law will stay in effect in the area that had formerly been the Village until the Town adopts its own town-wide Land Use Management Plan.

No other environmental factors have been identified.

F. Public Safety

Fire protection is currently provided by the Limestone Volunteer Fire Department. The fire district includes the Village and the Town of Carrollton. The dissolution of the Village will not affect the Fire District.

The Village and Town both rely on the New York State Police and the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement. The dissolution of the Village would not affect police coverage.

G. Water and Sewer

Currently, the water and sewer systems are treated as independent water and sewer districts administered by the Village of Limestone. The Town will establish water and sewer districts, per Article 12 of the NYS Town Law.

Only people who are on the water and sewer systems pay for the maintenance of those systems. The Village does not pay for system upkeep from its general fund.

Only people who are on the water and sewer systems pay the debt for those systems.

All of the customers on the water and sewer systems live east of Tuna Creek.

Water & Sewer Rates at a Glance

<i>Residential</i>	Bi-monthly Water	Bi-monthly Sewer	Annual Water	Annual Sewer
Current bill	\$40.50	\$38.00	\$243.00	\$228.00
Bill if municipalities merged	\$47.41	\$44.91	\$284.46	\$269.46
Difference	\$6.91	\$6.91	\$41.46	\$41.46

Commercial

Current bill	\$38.50	\$46.00	\$231.00	\$276.00
Bill if municipalities merged	\$44.98	\$52.48	\$269.88	\$314.88
Difference	\$6.48	\$6.48	\$38.92	\$38.88

Water

The water system currently has 149 customers:

- 121 residential customers
- 12 business customers
- 1 school
- 1 boys home
- 1 Carrollton Heights
- 13 water availability

Customers are billed for their water every two months.

Residential customers pay \$40.50 per billing cycle.

Business customers pay \$38.50 per billing cycle.

The school pays \$1,070.00 per billing cycle.

The boys home pays \$1,177.00 per billing cycle.

Carrollton Heights pays \$630.00 per billing cycle.

TOTAL Income for water system per billing cycle	\$8,499.50
Number of billing cycles per year	x6
Total annual income for water system	\$50,997.00

For the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the water system had an annual operating budget of \$51,000³. In addition, the water system owes \$364,700 in debt. This debt was incurred when the Village rebuilt the water system. Debt on the water system will be paid off in 2035.

The Village already has a plan in place for repaying the debt on the water system. Every water customer already contributes money, as part of their regular water bill, to pay off the debt. That payment plan will continue exactly as is, regardless of whether there is a Village or not.

³ A copy of the water system's 2008-2009 budget is included in the appendices.

Sewer

The sewer system currently has 135 customers:

- 120 residential customers
- 12 business customers
- 1 school
- 1 boys home
- 1 Carrollton Heights

Customers are billed for their sewer every two months.

Residential customers pay \$38.00 per billing cycle.

(That works out to \$19 per residential customer per month.)

Business customers pay \$46.00 per billing cycle.

The school pays \$975.00 per billing cycle.

The boys home pays \$2,376.00 per billing cycle.

Carrollton Heights pays \$704.88 per billing cycle.

TOTAL income for sewer system per billing cycle	\$9,167.88
Number of billing cycles per year	x6
Total annual income for water system	\$55,007.28

Additionally, there are 113 out-of-Village customers on the sewer system.

Out-of-Village customers pay \$13.00 per billing cycle. They are billed eleven times a year instead of six times a year. (That works out to approximately \$11.92 per customer per month.)

113 out-of-Village customers x \$13 =	\$1,469.00
Number of billing cycles per year	x11
Total annual out-of-Village income for sewer system	\$16,159.00

For the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the sewer system had an annual operating budget of \$113,128.00⁴. The Village has set aside \$70,000 in sewer funds for the eventual cleaning of the sewer plant's lagoons, which will need to take place by 2013 (approximately).

The sewer system currently owes \$79,500 in debt for the wastewater treatment plant. That debt will be paid off by 2014 with funds already being collected as part of every sewer customer's regular sewer bill. That payment plan will continue exactly as is, regardless of whether there is a Village or not.

The sewer system also currently owes \$60,000 in debt for the aeration project. That debt will be paid off in 2023 with funds already being collected as part of every

⁴ A copy of the water system's 2008-2009 budget is included in the appendices.

customer's regular sewer bill. That payment plan will continue exactly as is, regardless of whether there is a Village or not.

RECOMMENDATION: *If the Village dissolves, the water and sewer systems will remain independent water and sewer districts. The districts will be administered by the Town board instead of the Village board.*

ALTERNATIVE: *Instead of being administered by the Town board, the water and sewer districts could be administered by a water and sewer authority. The governing board would consist of three individuals whose homes or businesses are on the water and/or sewer systems.*

DISCUSSION:

It's possible that the Town board could be comprised entirely of people who are not on the water and sewer system, so the people making decisions about the water and sewer systems could be people who aren't affected by those decisions at all. However, that's also possible under the current arrangement—the Village board could consist of three people who are not tied into the water and systems.

An advantage of a water and sewer authority would be that people making decisions about the systems are those who would be affected by those decisions, guaranteeing "local" control. A disadvantage of such a system is that it creates an extra level of government, decreasing efficiency.

H. Public Works

Roads

If the Village dissolves, the Town will take over responsibility for road maintenance. This includes patching potholes, cleaning ditches, general road repair, and snowplowing.

The Village currently allocates \$13,812 per year for road maintenance. That money will be absorbed by the Town budget and covered by the assumption of the Village's sales taxes. (See section K for explanation of sales taxes.)

DISCUSSION:

The recent bridge construction project in downtown Limestone was paid for by the Town because the Village did not have the money to fix the bridge. The Town actually has a slightly better bond rating than the Village, which makes it easier to get public works funding.

One major public works project facing the Village is the repair of a sinking section of road along Parkside Drive heading south toward Bradford. The Village has not yet sought repair estimates for this project.

Street Lighting

The Village currently pays \$6,700 per year for streetlights. If the Village dissolves, the Town would pay for the streetlights.

I. Parks and Recreation

The Village of Limestone currently pays \$3,500 toward the operational costs for the Limestone Youth Recreation program. The Youth Rec program also holds its own fund-raisers.

Limestone's contribution	\$3,500
Carrollton's contribution	\$3,500
State aid	\$1,500
Other income (incl. fund-raising)	\$8,130
TOTAL budget:	\$7,000

That budget includes an annual stipend of \$7,700 for the Youth Rec Supervisor, who will be retained if the Village dissolves.

There would be no other impact on Town or Village residents concerning parks and recreation-related issues.

RECOMMENDATION: *If the Village dissolves, the Town of Carrollton would pick up the Village's share of funding for the Youth Rec program. This will be an additional cost of \$3,500 for Town taxpayers, for a total cost of \$7,000.*

J. General Government

Government costs would decrease by \$5,760.12 per year because Village residents would not be paying the monthly salaries of the Village Board members.

The Town, because it has its own attorney, would not have to pay for the services of a second attorney, so the Village attorney would no longer be required.

The Village currently contracts for a code enforcement officer at \$205 per month. The Town currently contracts for a code enforcement officer at \$4,500 per year, but the code enforcement officer's duties do not include the Village. If the Village dissolves, the tax money that is currently paid to the Village for code enforcement will be paid to the Town instead, and the Town's code enforcement officer will be responsible for covering the entire town (including the former village). The Town will adjust the amount it pays the code enforcement officer so that the Village will be included among his responsibilities.

Other municipal services already provided by the Town rather than the Village include assessment, tax collection, judges, court services, fire district contribution, and dog catcher. The Town will continue to provide these services to all residents.

The Village and Town have an agreement for shared services for the highway department. The Town also already does \$1,000 in pothole repair for the Village each year.

All laws in effect in the Village at the date of dissolution will remain in effect for two years following dissolution, per NYS Village Law Article 19-1910. This includes all Zoning Laws. The law goes on to state, "[T]he Town Board shall have the power at any time to amend or repeal such local laws, ordinances, rules, or regulations in the manner of other local laws, ordinances, rules, or regulations of the Town." The Town is currently developing a Land Use Management Plan for the entire Town, including the area currently encompassed by the Village, and it is anticipated that the Land Use Management Plan will be in effect by the time the Village dissolves.

Upon dissolution, the former records of the Village shall become property of the Town and become part of the Town's records.

K. Financial Factors

The Village sets up its budget as follows⁵:

- General Fund
- Water
- Sewer
- Youth Programs

Because the Village elects to retain its sales taxes, state law requires the Town to divide its budget:

When a town and all villages in the town have elected to received their respective shares of sales tax and use tax in cash, rather than as a credit county and town taxes, the town's share must first be applied for town outside village activities. If any balance additional sales and use tax money remains after elimination of town outside village taxes, such balance may, in the discretion of the town board, be applied toward any of the following: (a) the reduction of general townwide taxes; (b) the reduction of county taxes levied in town outside village area; (c) additional town outside village activities; (d) or any combination thereof.⁶

As a result, the Town sets up its budget as follows⁷:

- General Fund A
- General Fund B
- Highway DA
- Highway DB
- Sewer
- Fire district

Both "B" funds—General Fund B and Highway DB—are specifically set up for out-of-Village expenses. If the Village dissolves, then the Town would not be required to have separate "B" funds because all sales taxes will go to the Town.

⁵ A complete copy of the Village's 2008-2009 budget is available from the Village office.

⁶ From fax provided to the Town by the state Comptroller's office.

⁷ A complete copy of the Town's 2008 budget is available from the Town office.

Village Debt

Sewer	\$60,000.00
Water	\$364,700.00
Wastewater	\$79,500.00
Truck	\$15,750 (\$9,450.00 is owed by the general fund \$3,150.00 is owed by the water system \$3,150.00 is owed by the sewer system)
TOTAL DEBT	\$519,950.00

Real Estate

The Town of Carrollton shall take title to all real estate owned by the Village with the understanding that the Town shall honor all existing agreements between the Village and users of the Village property.

Property will be transferred to the Town without consideration—meaning that complete transfer of Village property to the Town without cost to the Town—and the Town shall, at its option, prepare any and all deeds for the Village to execute prior to the date of dissolution.

The Village of Limestone owns the following real estate:

Sewer Plant (101.071-1-2)	853 Railroad St.
Vacant land (101.071-1-1)	adjacent to sewer plant
Vacant land (110.023-1-5)	456 Main St.
Water tank (110.023-1-7)	446 Main St.
Water plant (101.080-1-4)	Church St.

RECOMMENDATION: *If the Village dissolves, the sewer plant and adjacent property would remain the property of the sewer district. The water tank, the water plant, and the vacant land along Main Street would remain the property of the water district.*

Other Property

The Village of Limestone owns the following property:

The Village owns a pickup truck used for maintenance work. The Village owes \$15,000 on the truck. The water and sewer systems pay toward the truck.

RECOMMENDATION: *If the Village dissolves, Trustees should pay off the debt on the truck prior to dissolution (currently, the Village already plans to do this). After dissolution, the truck would become the property of the water and sewer districts.*

ALTERNATIVE: *After dissolution, the truck would become property of the Town Highway Department.*

The Village owns miscellaneous office equipment, such as a computer, a printer, a fax machine, and other, smaller items. The Village also owns a variety of tools and equipment kept at the water plant and at the sewer plant.

RECOMMENDATION: *If the Village dissolves, all of these items will become property of the water and sewer districts.*

Other Financial Factors

Per the Secretary of State's template, the dissolution study should examine the following factors:

Water—see section G

Sewers—see section G

Storm drainage—The Town and Village already participate in shared services, and workers frequently assist each other with drainage projects. The Town would assume responsibility for all drainage projects.

Refuse disposal—no municipal refuse disposal is provided

Fire—see section F

Parking—no municipal parking services are provided

Parks—see section I

Mortgage tax distribution—Upon dissolution, the mortgage tax revenue currently received by the Village will go to the Town.

Town highway aid—Upon dissolution, the Village’s Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding would become Town revenue. The Town of Carrollton will receive no less in CHIPS funding than the Village and Town would have received in total had the dissolution not occurred. If the Village has any CHIPS money left upon the date of dissolution, that money will transfer to the Town for any highway-related capital projects.

Per capita aid—The Village currently gets \$4,200 in per capita aid from the state. If the Village dissolves, any such aid will go to the Town.

New highway and traffic safety aid—The Village currently gets no such state aid.

State aid for sewage treatment plant maintenance— The Village currently gets no such state aid.

Miscellaneous state assistance—The Village currently gets a few hundred dollars to help support Youth Rec. That amount has continually decreased over the past few years, and the Village clerk does not anticipate that money being available much longer.

Highway financing— The Village currently gets no such financing.

Disposition on traffic fines, fees, etc.—payments for all such fines go to the Town

Impact on tax and debt limits—Dissolution will not have an impact on the Town’s tax and debt limits.

Change in fiscal year and transition financing—The fiscal year the Village runs from June 1-May 30, while the fiscal year of the Town follows the calendar year. If dissolution is approved, Trustees will have to see out the fiscal year then underway, then plan for a six-month budget that would last through December 31 of the following year.

Town and village assessment policies—Assessment services are already provided by the Town rather than the Village, so no change in policies will result.

County assumption of delinquent property taxes—According to New York State Village Law, Section 19-1918, third paragraph: “If at the effective date of such dissolution there remains any uncollected village taxes theretofore levied, including delinquent assessments which are deemed unpaid taxes for purposes of collection, such taxes shall be reported to the legislative body of the county or counties by the supervisors of the town or towns in which said village was situated, and such taxes shall be re-levied upon the property originally liable therefore in a separate column

on the tax roll with 5 percent of the amount thereof in addition thereto in the same manner as returned school taxes are required to be re-levied, and shall be collected by the town tax collector.”

Town budget and tax rates—To get a clearer sense of what dissolution would do to tax rates and the Town budget, please see the financial breakdown that follows. The figures show what the Village and Town each paid in the 2007-2008 fiscal year, which is the most recent year that complete numbers were available for.

L. Alternatives

Aside from deciding whether to dissolve the Village or not, other options exist:

The Town could annex the west side of the Village (those residents not on the water and sewer systems)

The Village could elect not to collect sales taxes, thus simplifying the budget procedure.