



Re-Inventing Local Government for the Town and Village of New Paltz

Communities



Town of
New Paltz, NY



Village of
New Paltz, NY

New Paltz Government Efficiency & Effectiveness Project
Committee Meeting
Monday, July 11th, 2011
9:00 AM, Village Hall

Presented By

**FAIRWEATHER
CONSULTING**
SPECIALISTS IN STRATEGIC CHANGE

Government Law Center

ALBANY LAW SCHOOL • 99 NEW SCOTLAND AVENUE, ALBANY, NEW YORK

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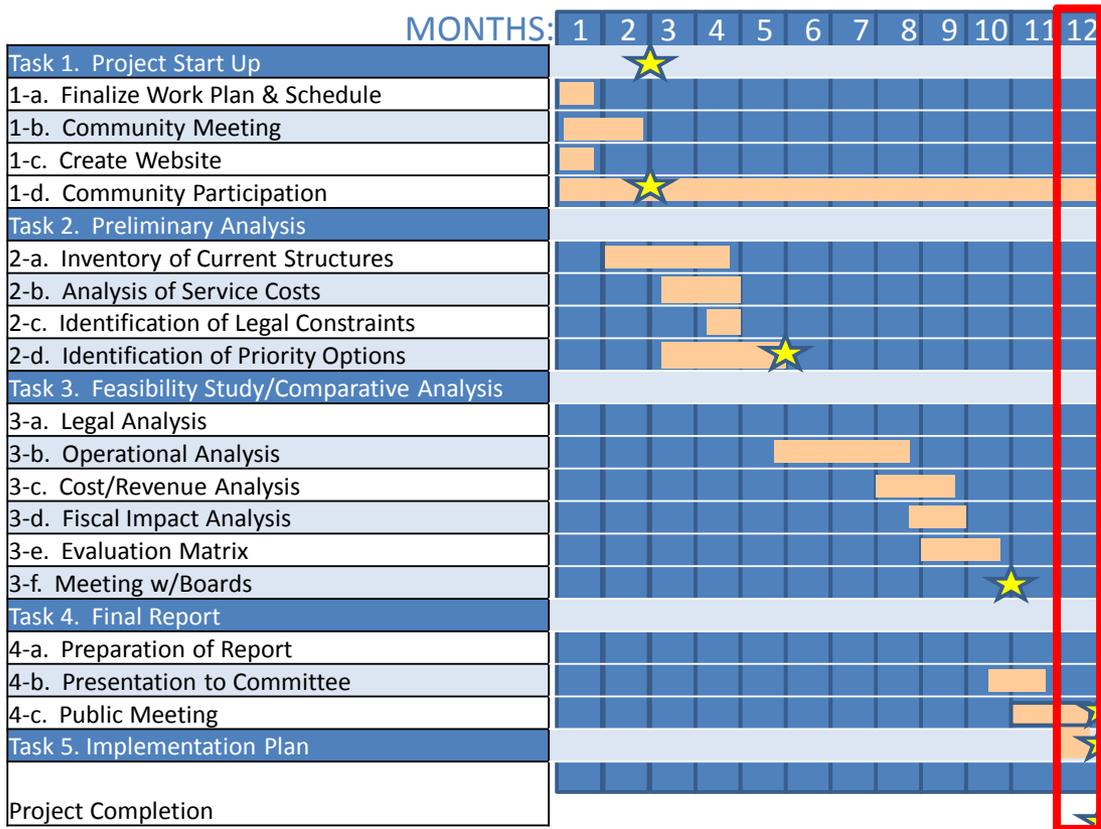


Agenda for July 11th Meeting

Agenda Item	Topics
Project Management Report	Status of Project Work Plan and Schedule
Project Status Update	Full Consolidation Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Confirming the Preliminary Design Options</i> • <i>Factors to be Determined by the Steering Committee</i>
	Shared Services Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Preliminary Recommendations for Shared Services Structure</i> • <i>Determining the Impact of Shared Services</i>
Next Steps	Finalize Shared Services Study
	Develop Final Full Consolidation Study
	Draft Final Recommendations for Committee Review
Other Business	CAC Update and Public Comments



Study Process Nearing Completion, Shifting to Public Outreach



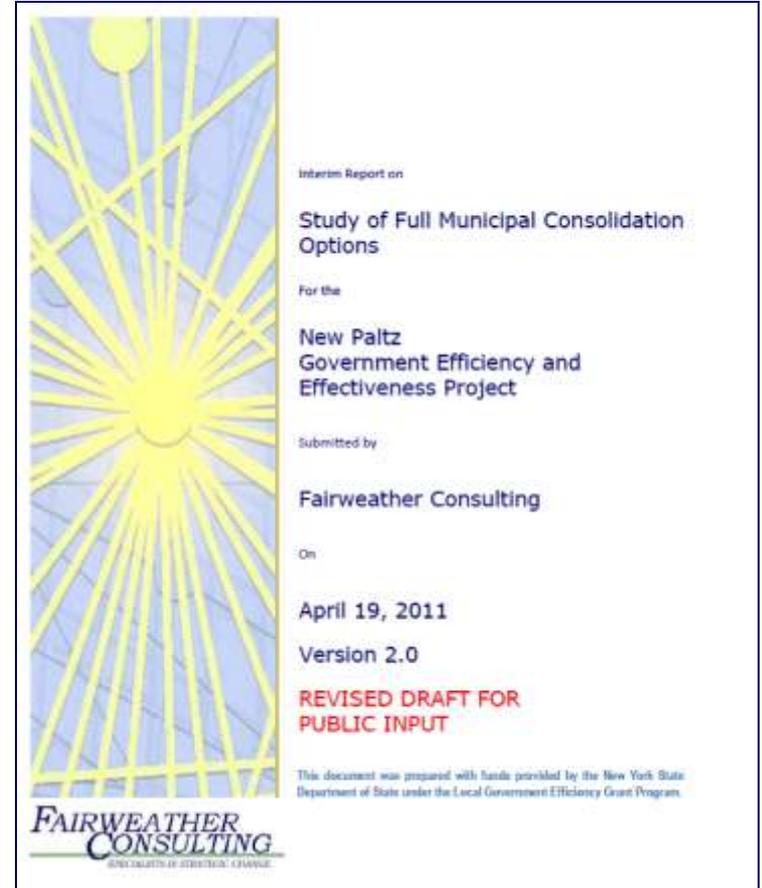
**3 months
of public
outreach**

- Final Full Consolidation Study
- Shared Services Recommendations & Implementation Plan
- Draft Joint Consolidation Agreement and Roadmap (for Boards to review)
- Potential funding sources for implementation



Project Status Update: What's the Purpose of the Full Consolidation Study?

- The driving question is “should we consolidate?”
- But “consolidate” can mean myriad things
 - What type of municipality?
 - What happens to services, employees, assets & debts, etc?
 - How is it likely to affect taxes?
- The Full Consolidation Study seeks to identify the “best” option for consolidation, so that residents can make an informed decision on this tough topic.





Project Status Update: Update on Consolidation Incentive Payments


Citizen
Empowerment
Credit

Replaces the Local Government Efficiency Grant Program Municipal Merger Incentives program. 15% of the newly combined local government tax levy would become an annual tax credit (not to exceed \$1 million). Requires municipalities to use at least 70% of such credit amount for property tax relief, guaranteeing tax relief of about 10%.

- Any success with efforts to contact DOS and DOB and receive clarification or opinion of counsel?

- Barring any change in the DOS/DOB stance, we have the following options to consider:
 - Continue to focus on Coterminous option for full consolidation and look for cost-savings of 5 – 10% to avoid tax increases for TOV residents

 - Incorporate a new option into the final study that creates a single consolidated Town through a joint agreement, and use incentive payments to avoid tax increases for TOV residents



Project Status Update: Our Proposed Design for the Consolidated Municipality

- Either a) a Coterminous Town/Village or b) a consolidated Town only (through joint consolidation process)
- All current special districts continue unchanged, with additional districts created to provide as many services as possible in the current Village-area
- Independent fire company contracts with Town/Village to provide fire protection in two special districts: current TOV area and current Village area
- Elections modified to ward-system, with current Village-area maintained as a separate ward, and with Clerk and Highway Superintendent converted to professional appointed positions



Project Status Update: How Much Savings Can Be Achieved Through Efficiency Improvements?

□ Method 1: Make some assumptions

- For the Draft Full Consolidation Study, we assumed no savings
- Then we worked backwards to show that a 5-10% savings could eliminate tax increases

□ Method 2: Look in depth at one or two services and develop a better estimate

- This is one purpose for the Shared Services Study
- We'll look closely at the potential savings from consolidation of Highway/Streets services and refine our assumptions for other services based on our findings
- Any assumed savings should be based on sound evidence and facts, not just opinions, since we're aiming for a conservative estimate



Project Status Update: Our Proposed Design for Shared Services

□ Highway and DPW

- Consolidate Buildings & Grounds, Sewer and Water services within the Town Highway Department
- Consolidate Town and Village DPW services

□ Equipment Planning & Maintenance

- Develop a process for joint equipment planning between Town, Village, SUNY and School District
- Develop inventory of equipment for all Village and Town departments
- Develop a joint long-range capital budget that reflects opportunities for shared use and purchasing

These structures have been reviewed with Town/Village/SUNY/SD reps. Detailed plans and impact analysis will be reviewed prior to presentation to the Steering Committee.



Next Steps: Finalizing the Study and Developing Recommendations

□ Full Consolidation Study

- Address questions/comments from Community Input Sessions
- Refine the impact analysis based on findings re: efficiency savings
- Develop a draft Joint Consolidation Agreement for Steering Committee's approval

□ Shared Services Study

- Develop detailed plans for proposed shared services structures
- Analyze impact of proposed structures (cost-savings, staffing changes, assets/debts)
- Develop proposed enabling legislation for implementation by Town/Village boards and SUNY/SD reps



Meeting Summary & Wrap-Up

- Community Advisory Committee Co-Chairs' Update
- Recap of key decisions at this meeting
- Study options for Committee to consider
 - Importance of incentive payments versus preserving Village entity
 - Fire protection: pursue option of contract directly with independent fire company?
 - Ward-based structure or elections at-large?
 - Appointed positions exempt or through civil service?
- Next Committee Meeting: **August 18th**, 9 AM at Town Hall
- Symposium in September to Release Project Results?