

VILLAGE OF SCHUYLERVILLE

Village Dissolution Study Committee

January 25, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The fifth meeting of the committee appointed to study village dissolution was held on Monday, January 25, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the Village Municipal Center.

The meeting, called to order by Co-Chair Wendy Lukas, was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. Present were Jean Driscoll, Michael Fay, Michael Hughes, Wendy Lukas, James Miers and Robert Stokes. Absent Joan Alheim, Margaret Chiperno, Margaret Ditch and Charles Sherman. Fairweather Consulting was represented by Peter Fairweather and Tim Weidemann. There was one village resident and two Village of Victory residents in attendance as well as Village Attorney Edward Bartholomew. Board Member Jean Driscoll scribed the minutes.

Co-Chair Lukas asked James Miers if the Village Board had taken any action regarding the seat vacated by committee member Roger Sherman who tendered his resignation at the last meeting. Village Attorney Bartholomew had recommended that if the Board had candidates in mind to fill Mr. Sherman's seat that their name be given to the Village Board as soon as possible so that they can revisit this issue and proceed with filling the seat. It was suggested that the seat be filled by a village resident. Jim Miers reported that it was not on the agenda at the Village meeting on January 13th so it was not acted upon.

Minutes of the December 28, 2009 meeting were submitted for approval and no changes were forthcoming. Robert Stokes made the motion that the minutes be approved, James Miers seconded.

Peter Fairweather and Tim Weidemann of Fairweather Consulting were introduced to the Board. Fairweather is the firm that has been hired by the Village of Schuylerville to complete the dissolution study. Peter Fairweather stated they were happy to be chosen and were looking forward to working with the committee. Co-Chair Wendy Lukas asked each committee member to introduce themselves. Fairweather Consulting then outlined their project expectations as well as those of the Dissolution Committee. The power point presentation included the scope of work, tasks and schedules planned over the next few months that they felt were necessary to complete the dissolution study. Their plan is to have the study completed by September 2010 which should leave ample time for review, additions/changes and approval by the Village Board and in time for a proposition vote in March 2011.

The first order of business is to schedule a "kick-off" public hearing as soon as possible, preferably before the next scheduled meeting in February or possibly at the same time. Co-Chair Lukas mentioned that any public hearing might have to be held somewhere other than the Village Municipal Center in order to accommodate a larger crowd. Two suggestions were The American Legion and the Town Hall, both subject to availability on the target date. Also before the public "kick off" hearing, the general consensus was that it was important to set up an informal meeting with Town Supervisor Tom Wood and Town Board to get their 'take' on the proposed dissolution. Co-Chair Lukas mentioned that the Town would be holding a workshop prior to their February meeting and that that might be the ideal time. Bob Stokes and Michael Fay as Town representatives on the committee should act as liaison between the Town Supervisor and Fairweather Consulting with regard to setting up that meeting.

Fairweather will check their availability for a meeting with the Town as well as for the public hearing. They will also draft a press release with regard to public notification of the first public hearing. Pertinent data will be continually posted on the project's website. Fairweather is aware that reaching the majority of residents in the Village of Schuylerville will have to be more than the website. They recognize that other means of dissemination of information will be required. Releases will be provided to local newspapers and notices will be posted around the village at places like Stewart's, Byron's, etc. It also may require invitations to local special interest groups such as The Schuylerville Lions, the Old Saratoga Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, Senior Citizens, etc.

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The initial public Kick Off meeting will serve as an introduction to the consulting firm and also give the residents an idea what to expect with regard to dissolution. It will also providing hard data such as a laundry list of services and how those services will be handled in the event of dissolution and will address the public's hopes and concerns regarding the dissolution process.

Fairweather's presentation was not completed in the time allowed but each committee member received a hard copy outline for further review, discussion will continue at the next meeting. Discussion of public survey questions was tabled as was the establishment of sub-committees to evaluate public services - water, sewer, garbage, sidewalks, business district, lights, etc. and emergency services - fire and rescue.

Action Items :

- o Informal meeting to be set up with the consulting firm, the Town Supervisor and Board in early February.
- o Fairweather Consulting to draft a release to be reviewed by the committee relative to the proposed initial public Kick Off meeting to be scheduled.
- o Date, time and place for the public "kick-off" hearing to be established and that date publicized through the study website, public notices, publicity release in newspapers and local organizations.
- o Committee will be apprised of any and all interim meeting dates.

With no other items to be consider, Wendy Lukas made the motion to adjourn, James Miers seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Next Meeting : February 22, 2010 at 7:00 pm. Committee members to be kept apprised of interim meetings.