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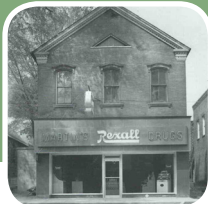


Group

SURVEYING  
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# Village of Port Henry

## THE STUDY OF DISSOLUTION



*October 2015*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Village of Port Henry would like to recognize and thank the many staff people of the Village of Port Henry and the Town of Moriah for providing valuable data, and local input and guidance to the consultants throughout the process in order to produce this study of dissolution for our residents.

John Rodat  
Public Signals LLC.  
518-573-7473  
[www.publicsignals.com](http://www.publicsignals.com)

### **Consultants**

Laberge Group  
4 Computer Drive West  
Albany, New York 12205  
518-458-7112  
[www.labergegroup.com](http://www.labergegroup.com)



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## I. Summary

On June 25, 2015, the electorate of the Village of Port Henry submitted a petition for dissolution in accordance with the New N.Y. Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act (Article 17-A of the General Municipal Law). The petition contained 112 valid signatures out of 144. The Village Clerk reviewed and certified the petition on July 2nd and on July 31st the Village Board passed a resolution calling for a referendum on the proposed dissolution by the electors on October 27, 2015. The dissolution process will follow the Voter-Initiated timeline outlined in General Municipal Law Article 17-A (*see flow chart on page 5*). A summary of the pro’s and con’s of the dissolution of Port Henry can be seen below.

<b>Pro’s of the Dissolution of Port Henry: “Why you might vote yes”</b>	
<b>CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT TAX CREDIT (CETC)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax payers may receive a CETC tax credit. (Not an annual guarantee).</li> </ul>	
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor and Trustees will all be abolished. The government will be streamlined through the Town.</li> <li>• The Village currently pays for a portion of the Town Clerk position for duties in Town-Outside the Village (TOV) that does not directly benefit the Village. If dissolved the Village residents will now benefit from services.</li> <li>• Code Enforcement work load could be distributed between both Village and Town to improve inspection needs.</li> </ul>	
<b>HIGHWAY &amp; DPW</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Village DPW employees will be transferred to the Town. If dissolution occurs, the work load could be distributed to improve efficiencies.</li> <li>• Sidewalks within the Village boundaries will continue to be maintained, repaired, and plowed.</li> <li>• Broad Street, if dissolved will become a county road and the Town will be reimbursed for maintenance and repairs from the county (approximately \$3,261 for 6/10 of a mile).</li> <li>• Beaches and Campgrounds would be maintained.</li> <li>• Village residents currently pay for Town Highway Superintendent and would now benefit from services.</li> </ul>	
<b>FIRE SERVICES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Town’s preferred option is to expand the Moriah Fire District to serve the Village.</li> <li>• A larger district could result in improved coordination of volunteers.</li> <li>• Moriah Fire Districts could gain additional equipment, volunteers, and buildings benefiting both Town and Village residents.</li> </ul>	



<b>Con’s of the Dissolution of Port Henry: “Why you might vote no”</b>
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently residents have a larger percentage of the voice in what is determined for the Village. Post dissolution, decisions for the Village would be determined townwide.</li> <li>• The expenses associated with the Town Clerk, the Village Clerk and the Treasurer would continue if all positions are transferred.</li> </ul>
<b>SANITATION &amp; GARBAGE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May be a part of a Special District determined by the Town Board. Would be an increased cost to Village residents.</li> </ul>
<b>SIDEWALKS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sidewalks would be maintained through a Special District determined by the Town Board. Would be an increased cost to Village residents.</li> </ul>
<b>ZONING</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Village is in the process of creating a Zoning Law to protect commercial uses downtown.</li> <li>• Upon dissolution, the Zoning Law could be repealed if no action is taken by the Town.</li> <li>• If the Zoning Law is not adopted before dissolution, the Town is not required to initiate zoning.</li> </ul>
<b>WATER SERVICES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village residents would continue to pay the Village’s Water Treatment Plant Debt and maintenance and repairs within the Village’s system.</li> <li>• Should the Village be connected to the Town’s system, Village residents would also pay a capital improvement cost to connect the systems, and maintenance and repairs to the Town’s Water Treatment Plant and system.</li> </ul>
<b>FIRE SERVICES:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Village Fire Department would be dissolved.</li> <li>• Moriah Fire District costs for Village residents would increase to \$1.88/1,000, (currently only \$1.71/1,000).</li> <li>• Property owner’s insurance rates could increase due to change in fire ratings.</li> <li>• Response time to serve the Village would likely increase due to the location of the Moriah Fire District Firehouse.</li> <li>• Longer drives could put volunteers at greater risk when traveling to and from Village response areas.</li> </ul>
<b>DEBT DISTRICT</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village residents would have to pay outstanding debt, liabilities, workman’s comp insurance, and any retirement benefits.</li> </ul>
<p><b>*All Special Districts are subject to Town Board approval.</b></p>

## How will services and functions of the Village change?

Based upon the feedback received from the Town and Village municipal officials, the following recommendations were made in regard to the continuation or termination of existing Village services and personnel should the Village dissolve. These recommendations were made in an effort to provide the most efficient and cost effective solution while continuing to maintain special services that add to Port Henry’s unique character within the Town of Moriah. The following **Table 1** provides an overview of the potential post-dissolution conditions to Village residents. However, since Village residents are also residents of the Town, in many cases, services will continue to be provided by the Town of Moriah. All special districts are subject to Town Board approval. See Section IV for full details.

<b>Table 1: Summary of Potential Post Dissolution Conditions</b>		
Service	Expenses to General and DPW Services <sup>1</sup>	Cost Change
<b>Mayor</b>	This part-time position will be abolished. The Town Supervisor will assume all duties and responsibilities of the Village Mayor. Since the Village would no longer exist upon dissolution, there would be no expenses associated with the Mayor.	<b>\$0.0</b>
<b>Village Board of Trustees</b>	The Village Board of Trustees will be abolished. All functions and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees will be assumed by the will Town Board. The elected Town Board will continue to represent former Village residents.	<b>\$0.0</b>
<b>Clerk &amp; Treasurer</b>	Two full-time positions will be added to the Town. The Deputy Town Clerk position will become available and there may become a need for a code enforcement clerk and extra help during the tax season. The position of code enforcement clerk is currently not filled. The position may be created as a full time position for the Village’s Treasurer.	<b>\$24,390.50</b>
<b>Attorney for the Village</b>	Duties will be absorbed by the Town Attorney. No cost adjustment is accounted for at this time.	<b>\$0.0</b>
<b>Election Inspectors</b>	Duties will be absorbed by Town Election Inspectors. No cost adjustment is accounted for at this time.	<b>\$0.0</b>
<b>Village Hall</b>	Village Hall will become Town property. Future costs are based on the assumption that the Town will allocate funds towards the continued maintenance and operation of Village Hall. The Town of Moriah will determine the appropriate use of the building.	<b>\$15,250</b>
<b>Special Items/Contingency</b>	The Village budgets \$18,555 for unallocated insurance (special items), \$1,026 for dues (special items), and \$20,000 for contingency. Half of the unallocated insurance will be transferred to the Town and the other half designated to the Water and Sewer Special District, special items will be abolished, and the contingency fund of \$20,000 will be added to the Town of Moriah’s expenditures.	<b>\$29,277.50</b>
<b>Code Enforcement</b>	The duties of Building Inspector will be added to the Town’s Building Inspector duties. The Town should consider hiring an additional employee to help with the increased workload. No cost adjustment is accounted for at this time.	<b>\$0.0</b>
<b>Community Environment</b>	Funds will be included in the Town’s future budget for the continuation of services. The expenses are associated with flowers, signs, and landscaping improvements.	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Street Maintenance and Permanent Improvements</b>	Funds will be included in the Town’s DPW future budget. This includes administration, personal services, contractual work, and permanent improvements equipment.	<b>\$230,987</b>
<b>Street Lighting</b>	The electricity and maintenance expenses associated with the Village’s street lights will be transferred to the Town’s DPW.	<b>\$27,000</b>

**Table 1:  
Summary of Potential Post Dissolution Conditions**

Service	Expenses to General and DPW Services <sup>1</sup>	Cost Change
<b>Snow Removal</b>	Funds will be included in the Town's DPW future budget for the continuation of snow removal services and salt expenses, including Town owned properties within the former Village boundaries.	<b>\$57,000</b>
<b>Recreation</b>	The Village budget for Champ RV Park includes personal services, equipment, contractual expenses, joint recreation projects, and youth programs. Funds will be included in the Town's future budget for the continuation of recreation services at Champ RV Park.	<b>\$80,040</b>
<b>Culture</b>	Library, historian, and annual celebrations; the funds will be added to the Town expenditures.	<b>\$7,100</b>
<b>Employee Benefits &amp; Taxes</b>	The Village currently includes state retirement, social security, worker's compensation, disability, and medical insurance. These benefits will be transferred to the Town's General and DPW budgets upon dissolution.	<b>\$172,978.80</b>
<b>Public Sewer</b>	The Village budget includes an Engineer which is paid \$5,000. Special items include unallocated insurance at \$11,500, dues at \$500, and contingent account allocated at \$15,000. Two employees operate the treatment plant. The Village's overall joint sewer system budget is currently \$201,132 for maintenance, expenses, fees, equipment, utilities, and taxes; for the total sewer expenditures of \$273,300.  The Village of Port Henry is currently beginning a two phase Sewer Improvement Project. The first phase is completely paid off by a \$500,000 grant. The second phase has been partially paid for and will include a loan which comes to \$1,046,063. This project is not accounted for in the 2015-2016 Village Budget. The loan will only be charged to residents within the Village. The sanitary sewer service area will be reconstituted as a sewer district in the outcome of Village dissolution. <sup>3</sup>	<b>NA<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Public Water</b>	An establishment of a Port Henry Water District for the use, maintenance, and repairs of water lines within the existing Village. The current budget for Village water totals to \$296,710. The water service area will be reconstituted as a new water district in the outcome of Village dissolution. <sup>3</sup>	<b>NA<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Total New to Town Budget</b>		<b>\$644,523.80</b>
Service	Expenses to Special Districts <sup>2</sup>	Cost Change
<b>Sidewalk</b>	The expenses associated with the Village sidewalk maintenance and snow removal will be paid through a special taxing district by property-owners within the area of the former Village. <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$7,500<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Sanitation</b>	The expenses associated with the Village garbage pick-up and street cleaning will be paid through a special taxing district by property-owners within the area of the former Village. <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$28,200<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Combined Fire District</b>	The Village Fire Department has a budget of \$108,945. One of four options will be decided on post dissolution. The Town has expressed that the preferred option is to expand the Moriah Fire District to serve the Village. The following combined Fire District includes the cost of Port Henry and Moriah which is \$197,298.	<b>\$197,298<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Debt</b>	The expenses associated with Village debt include any general existing debt in the Village and will be paid through a special taxing district by residents within the former Village boundaries.	<b>\$24,639<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Total Special Tax District Budget<sup>2</sup></b>		<b>\$257,637</b>



**Table 1:  
Summary of Potential Post Dissolution Conditions**

Service	Expenses to General and DPW Services <sup>1</sup>	Cost Change
Service	Revenues to General Services	Cost Change
<b>Real Property &amp; Tax Items</b>	Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTS) and interest and penalties on real property tax.	<b>(\$22,000)</b>
<b>Non-Property Taxes</b>	Non-property Tax Distribution by County and Franchises will be gained by the Town in the outcome of Village dissolution.	<b>(\$50,000)</b>
<b>General Government Fees</b>	Clerk fees will be transferred to the Town's revenue base.	<b>(\$125)</b>
<b>Health</b>	Funds from vital statistic fees.	<b>(\$300)</b>
<b>Culture &amp; Recreation</b>	Park and recreations charges and special recreational facility charges will be transferred to the Town upon dissolution.	<b>(\$104,000)</b>
<b>Intergovernmental Charges</b>	The Town contracts for fire protection services for areas of the Town of Moriah that fall outside of the fire department and district's boundaries. The Village's Fire Department is paid \$26,000 for fire protection services.	<b>(\$0.0)</b>
<b>Use of Money and Property</b>	Interest, earnings, and rental of real property funds.	<b>(\$5,825)</b>
<b>Licenses and Permits</b>	Bingo licenses and permits.	<b>(\$850)</b>
<b>State Aid</b>	State revenue sharing (per capita) at \$11,500, mortgage tax at \$3,500, other governmental aid at \$1,000, and consolidated highway aid at \$72,000.	<b>(\$88,000)</b>
<b>Total New Revenue to Town</b>		<b>(\$271,100)</b>

**Notes:**

1. Upon dissolution, the Town Board may re-consider the options presented above, and conclude that there are other preferred options that are in the best interest of the community at large.
2. A special taxing district is not a governing body; rather it is a taxing mechanism to properties which receive additional services within the Town.
3. Public sewer and public water are based on additional fees and will continue to be an extra charge in the case of dissolution.

## Summary of Revenues

The Village of Port Henry receives incoming revenue from the general fund and DPW. Real property taxes, non-property taxes, franchises, general government, health, culture and recreation, home and community services, intergovernmental charges, use of money and property, licenses and permits, and state aid are all resources which the Village relies on to generate its revenue. Based on fy 2015-2016 the Village's revenue came to \$874,494. Upon dissolution, the Village will transfer \$271,100 worth of its revenue to the Town. This addition of revenue includes \$22,000 in other real property tax items, \$50,000 in non-property taxes, clerk fees totaling to \$125, funds from vital statistics fees (\$300), \$104,000 in park and recreation charges from beach and campground rentals, use of money and property which comes to \$5,825, bingo licenses and permits (\$850), and state aid (state revenue sharing, mortgage tax, general governmental aid, and consolidated highway aid) which comes to \$88,000.

<b>Table 2 Summary of Estimated Cost Shift to Town Budget</b>	
<b>Summary of Budget Shift (Revenues &amp; Expenditures)</b>	
Total New Town Expenditures	\$644,523.80
Total New Town Revenues	(\$271,100.00)
Total New Special Districts	\$257,637.00
<b>Total Cost Shift to Town (excluding Special Districts)</b>	<b>\$373,423.80</b>

The following table displays the new expenditures and revenues that the Town of Moriah will acquire from the Village in the result of the dissolution of Port Henry. In addition, dependant upon organizational decisions made by the Town Board, additional special taxing districts will be added to former residents within the Village boundaries.

**Map of Port Henry**

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## II. Introduction

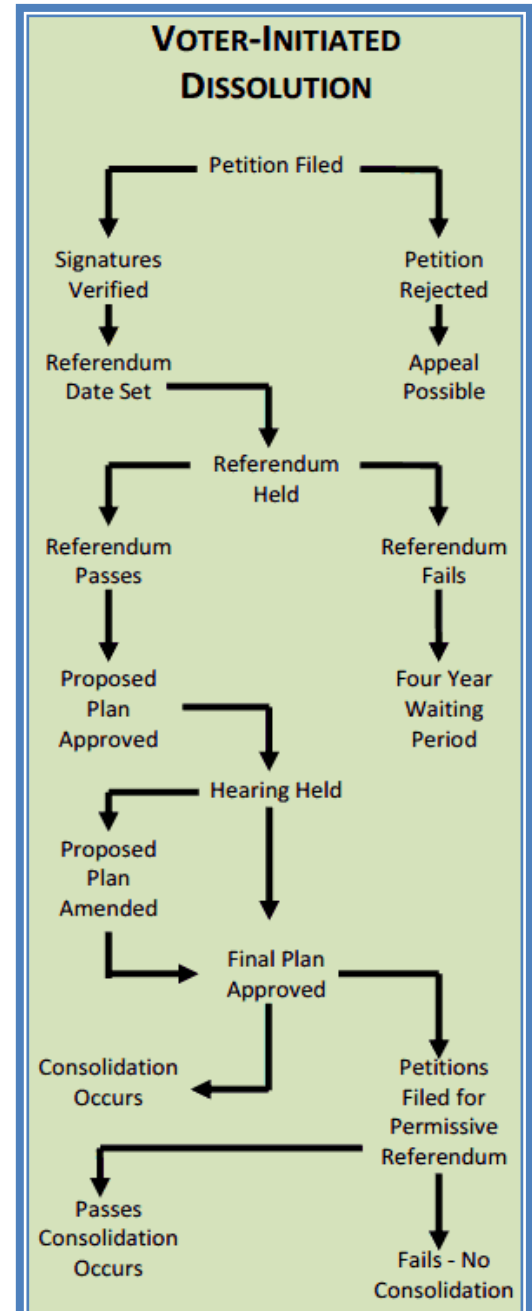
### Background on Voter-Initiated Reorganization

Unlike a Board-Initiated process, in a Voter Initiated process, the full detailed plan for dissolution will not be developed until after the referendum affirms whether or not the dissolution will take place. However, in order to provide the voters of the Village of Port Henry with information on local governance and the fiscal impacts of dissolution, the Village initiated the development of the Study of Dissolution.

Through the process of the Study of Dissolution, the Village of Port Henry and Town of Moriah were asked to provide valuable local input and guidance to the consultant through a series of work sessions which focused on a review of the village and town budgets, financial obligations, future taxes, and governance as well as discussions about service continuity should the Village dissolution vote pass. Each community was asked to consider sensitive issues, such as what services currently performed by the Village will be continued to be provided by the Town; what services will be terminated; the various mechanisms to continue and finance certain services; the future of existing Village employees, what potential Village laws and regulations will require the Town’s attention, and the overall potential fiscal impact of dissolution on Village and Town taxpayers. This interim report is the culmination of the Village and Town’s initial ideas about what options would best serve the community if the Village dissolves in order to provide the public with an understanding of a potential post dissolution scenario.

### What will happen after the Referendum?

On October 27th, registered Village of Port Henry voters will be asked to vote “yes” or “no” on a proposition to dissolve the Village of Port Henry. Dissolution is a process whereby a Village ceases to exist as a government entity; therefore, the Village of Port Henry would effectively consolidate with the Town of Moriah. If the referendum fails, (i.e., the majority of the votes cast are “no”), dissolution of the Village will not take place and the dissolution process may not be initiated again for a period of four years from the date for the referendum in accordance with NYS GML Article 17-A.



Source: The New NY Government Reorganization & Citizen Empowerment Act: A summary of the process for consolidation and dissolution, NYS DOS, June 2009

If the referendum passes (i.e., the majority of votes cast are “yes”), the Village Board will be required to develop and accept a complete plan of dissolution within 180 days. The Dissolution Plan will include the required elements of General Municipal Law Article 17-A, Title 3 §775, and will specify when the Village, as a separate government, will cease to exist; which municipal services will continue after dissolution; how the costs of those services will be paid for; a fiscal estimate of the cost of dissolution; how Village-owned assets will be transferred or disposed of; how any remaining liabilities and debts will be paid for following the entity's dissolution; and findings as to whether any local laws, ordinances, rules or regulations of the Village shall remain in effect after the effective date of the dissolution.

Following the development and acceptance of this Dissolution Plan by the Village of Port Henry, the Village will facilitate a public hearing on the Dissolution Plan. Following the public hearing the Dissolution Plan will be finalized and adopted. Registered voters in the Village of Port Henry will then have an additional 45 days to petition for a permissive referendum on the Final Dissolution Plan. If a referendum containing signatures from not less than 25% of the registered voters of the Village is filed with the Village Clerk, a second vote will be held to determine whether the majority of Village voters approve implementation of the Final Dissolution Plan.

### **Purpose of the Study of Dissolution**

It is important to note that this Study of Dissolution is not intended to be a detailed Dissolution Plan. As required by NYS Law, the Village of Port Henry will only develop the detailed Dissolution Plan if the referendum passes on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The purpose of this Study of Dissolution is to provide the public with information prior to the October 27<sup>th</sup> referendum to assist with making an educated decision about the affects of dissolution on Village services and taxes, should the referendum pass. This Study of Dissolution is divided into the following main sections:

- ◆ Summary of demographic and socio-economic data to highlight current and past trends to aid municipal officials with understanding trends as it may relate to future decisions and future delivery of services.
- ◆ Summary of the existing government services and functions currently delivered by the Village of Port Henry, including current operations, existing Village personnel, Village-owned equipment and other fixed assets, Village laws and land use regulations. This section is completed with a summary of potential post-dissolution conditions and potential services.
- ◆ Summary of existing Village local laws and regulations that will need to be considered by the Town of Moriah should dissolution pass.
- ◆ Summary of current fiscal conditions and an estimate of the fiscal impact/cost of dissolution including the potential property tax impact of the changes.

### **Funding for the Study of Dissolution**

The Village of Port Henry applied for a grant through the Citizens Re-Organization Empowerment Grant (CREG) program, which is administered by the New York Department of State Division of Local Government Services, through the Local Government Efficiency Program (LGE). Because the dissolution was a voter initiated process, Expedited Reorganization Assistance was provided by the program to cover costs associated with the development and dissemination of information to the electors prior to the required referendum and to further develop a detailed Dissolution Plan following an affirmative vote.

### III. Demographic & Socio-Economic Overview

#### Overview

Population densities, geography, and level of service play a critical role in the difference in how operational cost differs from community to community. As illustrated in **Table 3: Municipal Characteristics Summary**, according to the 2010 Census, 1,194 residents reside within the 1.2 square mile area that encompasses the Village, and 4,798 residents reside within the 64.7 square mile area that encompasses the Town of Moriah. The number of persons per square mile is 75.4 within the Town of Moriah, while the Village of Port Henry boasts 958.7 people per square miles. The American Community Survey (ACS) indicates that the Town of Moriah’s median household income of \$45,143 is higher than that of the Village of Port Henry’s at \$36,818.

It is important to note that the following demographic and socio-economic data is based on information derived from the U.S. Census and does not take into account any approved, proposed or pending development projects that may have occurred following the 2010 decennial Census or may have been available in the 2012 American Community Survey.

	<b>(V) Port</b>	<b>(T) Moriah</b>
Population (2010)	1,194	4,798
Land Area (square miles)	1.4	64.7
Population per square mile	958.7	75.4
Households (2009-2013 ACS)	450	1,728
Median household income (2009-2013 ACS)	\$36,818	\$45,143
Total Centerline Miles	6.35	78.43
Local (Town/Village-owned) Centerline Miles	6.35	42.60

*Source: US Census 2010, ACS 2009-2013*

#### Population

Local population growth and decline is dependent on several factors including economic expansion, environmental capacity, housing suitability, age-driven needs and regional desirability. According to U.S. Census data, the Village of Port Henry and the Town of Moriah’s population have both experienced increases and decreases from 1990 to 2010. The Village of Port Henry decreased by 8.8% from 1990 to 2000 and increased by 3.6% from 2000 to 2010, for an overall decrease in total growth of 5.5% since 1990. The Town of Moriah increased by 0.2% from 1990 to 2000 and decreased by 1.7% from 2000 to 2010 for an overall decrease in total growth rate of 1.5%, which can be seen in **Table 4: Population Trends**.

<b>Year</b>	<b>(V) Port Henry</b>		<b>(T) Moriah</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Growth</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Growth</b>
<b>1990</b>	1,263	NA	4,869	NA
<b>2000</b>	1,152	-8.8%	4,879	0.2%
<b>2010</b>	1,194	3.6%	4,798	-1.7%

*Source: US Census 1990, 2000, 2010*



## Road Network

**Table 5: Road Centerline Mileage**, provides a summary of road mileage by municipality. There are a total of 48.95 local centerline miles within the Town of Moriah and the Village of Port Henry. Additionally, there are 35.83 miles of County centerline roads and 6.21 miles of New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) centerline roads within the Town of Moriah.

There are roughly 93.13 miles of public roadway in the Town and Village combined. The majority of the road network, is made up of local roads at about 52.6% (48.95 miles), followed by County miles at 38.5% (35.83 miles), and State miles at 8.7% (8.1 miles).

According to the NYS Local Roads Listing, roads within the Village are made up of asphalt (6.3 miles) and unpaved (0.05 miles), while the roads within the Town are made up of asphalt (80.58 miles) or unpaved (12.45 miles).

	(V) Port Henry	(T) Moriah	Combined
Total Local Mileage (Village)	6.35	42.60	48.95
County Mileage	0.00	35.83	35.83
NYSDOT Mileage	1.89	6.21	8.1
<b>Total Centerline Mileage</b>	<b>8.49</b>	<b>84.64</b>	<b>93.13</b>

*Source: New York State Department of Transportation Highway Inventory 2014*

## Age Distribution

According to the ACS 2009-2013 5 Year Estimates, the Town of Moriah's greatest concentration of population falls within the age range 55-64 (17%) and the Village of Port Henry's greatest concentration of population falls within the age range 45-54 (16%). According to **Table 6: Age Comparison**, the next largest age cohorts in the Town are 45-54 at 16% and the Village are the 35-44 age range at 14%. The median ages for the Town and the Village are 40 and 37.4 respectively.

Age	(V) Port Henry		(T) Moriah	
	Total	%	Total	%
<b>0-14</b>	283	24%	861	18%
<b>15-19</b>	55	5%	392	8%
<b>20-24</b>	45	4%	277	6%
<b>25-34</b>	166	14%	488	10%
<b>35-44</b>	170	14%	617	13%
<b>45-54</b>	192	16%	742	16%
<b>55-64</b>	135	11%	789	17%
<b>65-74</b>	65	6%	388	8%
<b>75+</b>	76	6%	230	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4,784</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Median Age</b>	<b>37.4</b>		<b>40</b>	

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2009-2013*

## Household Composition

The U.S. Census Bureau provides information on household composition, which describes in detail the individuals and families living within the Town and Village boundaries. According to **Table 7: Household Composition**, the majority of households in the Town and Village are Family Households (72% and 65.3% respectively).

Non-family households also include individuals living alone. The average household size in the Village of Port Henry is 2.61 persons, while the average household size in the Town of Moriah is only nominally higher 2.66 persons. The Town of Moriah has an average family size of 3.15 persons and the Village of Port Henry has an average family size at 3.09 persons.

	(V) Port Henry		(T) Moriah	
	Total	%	Total	%
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Family Households</b>	294	65.3%	1,245	72.0%
<b>Nonfamily households</b>	156	34.7%	483	28.0%
<b>Households with Children &lt; 18</b>	155	34.4%	543	31.4%
<b>Households with Persons &gt; 60</b>	147	32.7%	688	39.8%
<b>Average household size</b>	<b>2.61</b>		<b>2.66</b>	
<b>Average family size</b>	<b>3.09</b>		<b>3.15</b>	

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2009-2013*

## Housing Stock

The availability, affordability, and condition of housing within a community are important factors that residents and employers take into consideration when accessing the quality of life afforded by a particular place. In addition, home ownership is directly linked to household spending on services and supplies for home improvements, home furnishings, and other home-related items. Therefore, housing is a key component of the local economy as it contributes to the overall image and desirability of the community.

Subject	(V) Port Henry		(T) Moriah	
	Number	%	Number	%
<b>OCCUPANCY STATUS</b>				
Total housing units	624	100.0%	2,218	100.0%
Occupied housing units	450	72.1%	1,728	77.9%
Vacant housing units	174	27.9%	490	22.1%
<b>TENURE</b>				
Occupied housing units	450	100.0%	1,728	100.0%
Owner occupied	316	70.2%	1,313	76.0%
Renter occupied	134	29.8%	415	24.0%
<b>VACANCY STATUS</b>				
Vacant housing units	174	100.0%	490	100.0%
For rent	17	9.8%	35	7.1%
Rented, not occupied	3	1.7%	3	0.6%
For sale only	47	27.0%	47	9.6%
Sold, not occupied	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	36	20.7%	194	39.6%
Other vacant	71	40.8%	211	43.1%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010*

According to the ACS 2009-2013 Census data, the Village of Port Henry contains a total of 624 housing units of which 450 are occupied and 174 are vacant. The Town of Moriah contains a total of 2,218 housing units of which 1,728 are occupied and 490 are vacant. According to **Table 8: Housing Types**, of the 450 occupied housing units in the Village, 316 are owner occupied while 134 are renter occupied. Of the 1,728 occupied housing units in the Town, 1,313 are owner occupied and 415 are renter occupied.

## Income

Household income is the total income of all members of a household regardless of their relationship to each other. The amount of income is an indicator of the local economy. Understanding the income characteristics of the community is also important in determining a community’s health as well as the ability of residents to maintain their housing, contribute to the local tax base, and participate in the economy.

**Table 9: Household Income**, demonstrates that the median household income in the Town of Moriah and the Village of Port Henry have remained fairly comparable. Based on 2009-2013 ACS 5-year estimates, the median household income in the Town of Moriah was \$45,143, while the Village of Port Henry was \$36,818. From 2000 and 2012, the Town’s median household income increased by \$13,240, and the Village’s median household income increased only by \$7,512.

	<b>(V) Port Henry</b>				<b>(T) Moriah</b>			
	<b>2000</b>		<b>2013</b>		<b>2000</b>		<b>2013</b>	
	<b># of Households</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b># of Households</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b># of Households</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b># of Households</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
<b>less than \$25,000</b>	194	43.3%	144	31.9%	726	38.0%	325	18.8%
<b>\$25,000 to \$49,999</b>	136	30.3%	110	24.4%	656	34.4%	669	38.7%
<b>\$50,000 to \$74,999</b>	79	17.6%	83	18.4%	297	15.6%	320	18.5%
<b>\$75,000 to \$99,999</b>	17	3.8%	25	5.6%	147	7.7%	198	11.4%
<b>\$100,000 or more</b>	22	4.8%	88	19.5%	83	4.3%	216	12.5%
<b>Total Households</b>	448	100.0%	450	100.0%	1,909	100.0%	1,728	100.0%
<b>Median HH Income</b>	\$29,306		<b>\$36,818</b>		\$31,903		<b>\$45,143</b>	

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, 2009-2013 American Community Survey*



## IV. Existing & Future Services, Expenditures & Debts

As a part of the initial data gathering process, the consultant interviewed various members of the Town and Village staff to discuss existing municipal services and how they are provided and funded. The following is a summary of all services and functions currently provided by the Village of Port Henry directly, and their related cost according to the 2015-2016 Village Budget. Additional details are provided in regards to which services will be transferred to the Town, abolished, or needed to be included in a special taxing district. In cases where services or personnel are shared through existing agreements between the Town and Village, it is noted as such.

### Employee Summary

The following table represents elected officials and full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees based on the Village’s 2015-2016 fiscal year (fy) and the Town’s 2015 fy.

Table 10 Current Employees					
Port Henry and Moriah Current Employees					
Area	Village FT	Village PT	Town FT	Town PT	Totals
Mayor/Supervisor		1		1	2
Trustees/Town Board		4		4	8
Highway	5		10		15
Water/Sewer/WWTP	2		3		5
Bldgs. & Grounds			2		2
Transfer Station			1	1	2
Court			3		2
Administration	2		3		5
Assessor				3	3
Code Enforcement		1		1	2
Seniors- Driver				1	1
Animal Control				1	1
Beach/Campground**		3	3	2	8
Fire Chief		1			1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>57</b>

*Notes:\*\*Beach/Campground employees are seasonal*

### Employee Benefits

Both Village and Town employees receive insurance through Excellus. Total Village employee benefits costs come to \$229,345. Retirement benefits costs come to \$46,883. Currently one employee is receiving workers compensation which is budgeted at \$57,154. These costs are based on data from fy 2015-2016. The village currently has retired employees and one spouse receiving benefits. If a retiree dies, all benefits for the spouse discontinue.

#### Post Dissolution Conditions:

Upon dissolution, all benefits for personnel transferred would need to be negotiated.

## Unions

Currently, both Village and Town union employees are represented by Teamsters Local 294. 4 DPW staff (not including the superintendent) and 2 Water/Sewer employees that are full-time and under union contracts. The Village and Town’s union contracts are very similar. Both contracts were updated in 2010.

**Post Dissolution Conditions:**

Should dissolution occur employees with benefits would need to be negotiated, including for example retirement, wages, and seniority.

## Fund Balances for the Village and Town

The following table displays total fund balances for the Village and Town. In total the Village’s fund balance comes to \$69,841. In the Town, total fund balances, excluding districts, comes to \$131,192.

<b>Table 11</b>		
<b>Fund Balances</b>		
<b>Port Henry and Moriah Fund Balances</b>		
	Fund/Purpose	Balance
<b>Village of Port Henry</b>	General	\$52,000
	Water (Village-wide)	-
	Sewer (Village-wide)	\$17,841
	Joint Sewer	-
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$69,841</b>
	<b>TOTAL excluding Joint Sewer</b>	<b>\$52,000</b>
<b>Town of Moriah</b>	General Townwide	\$43,920
	General Town Outside Village (TOV)	-
	Highway Townwide	\$25,000
	Highway TOV	\$62,272
	Water District #1	-
	Water District #2	-
	Water District #3	-
	Water District #4	-
	Sewer District	\$58,650
	Fire 1	\$8,000
	Fire 2	\$3,500
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$201,342</b>
	<b>TOTAL excluding Districts</b>	<b>\$131,192</b>

**Post Dissolution Conditions:**

Should dissolution occur, the Village’s fund balance could be used to reduce or eliminate existing Village debts.



## Summary of Revenues

The Village of Port Henry receives incoming revenue from the general fund and DPW. Real property taxes, non-property taxes, franchises, general government, health, culture and recreation, home and community services, intergovernmental charges, use of money and property, licenses and permits, and state aid are all resources which the Village relies on to generate its revenue. Based on fy 2015-2016 the Village’s revenue came to \$874,494. Upon dissolution, the Village will transfer \$271,100 worth of its revenue to the Town. This addition of revenue includes \$22,000 in other real property tax items, \$50,000 in non-property taxes, clerk fees totaling to \$125, funds from vital statistics fees (\$300), \$104,000 in park and recreation charges from beach and campground rentals, use of money and property which comes to \$5,825, bingo licenses and permits (\$850), and state aid (state revenue sharing, mortgage tax, general governmental aid, and consolidated highway aid) which comes to \$88,000.

## Summary of Debt

The Village of Port Henry currently has a general, water (Village-wide), and sewer (Village-wide) debt. In the case of dissolution, any debt that previously was incurred by the Village would be paid by Village residents. The water and sewer district debt would stay with the respective water and sewer users. Other debt that is not eliminated prior to dissolution would be included in a debt district to levy only former Village residents in order to pay off the remaining debt. The total principal outstanding debt can be seen in the table below (**Table 12**).

Table 12 Village Debt	
Village of Port Henry Debt	
Fund/Service	Outstanding Debt
General	\$56,980
Water (Village-wide)	\$1,911,676
Sewer (Village-wide)	\$263,515
<b>Village TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,232,171</b>
<b>Village TOTAL Minus Water and Sewer</b>	<b>\$56,980</b>

The water debt is a result of a recent capital upgrade. The Village took on a capital project for the water treatment plant in 2009 through Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) for a total of \$2,378,663 at 0%, which matures in 2038. The Village currently makes a payment every February (\$84,820). The balance owed is \$1,911,676.00.

Similarly, the sewer treatment plant was improved as a result of a bond in 2000, which included \$765,573.00 at 0%. This bond matures in 2021 The Village currently makes a payment every March (\$88,492). The balance remaining is \$263,515.00.

Currently the Village bills its residents for water and sewer use once a year and includes coupons for quarterly payment.

## **Village Mayor and Village Board of Trustees**

The Village is currently governed by an elected Mayor, and a Village Board of Trustees made up of four members. The Mayor's term expires in roughly two years, while three Trustees have a one year term left, and the other has a two year term left. The Mayor and Trustees are responsible for overseeing all Village operations, including finances, staff, and the use of Village property and equipment. According to the 2015-2016 Village Budget, the position of Mayor costs a total of \$8,000 per year, and budgets in \$50 for contractual services for other administrative costs. The approved budget includes funds for four Board of Trustees member's salaries of \$3,750 each, including \$1,000 total for any legislative board contractual services. The total allocation for the Village Mayor and Village Board of Trustees is \$24,050.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

The positions of Village Mayor and the four Board of Trustees positions will be abolished in the outcome of Village dissolution.

## **Clerk & Treasurer**

The Village employs an appointed full time Clerk and full time Treasurer. The Clerk is responsible for maintaining Village files and records, tax preparation, billing, and collection, birth and death certificates, human resources and insurances, taking minutes of Board of Trustees meetings, preparing public notices for all Board and Committee meetings, fielding phone calls, emails, walk-in requests, and for information on all Village services. In addition, the clerk is also involved in administrative tasks related to water and sewer. These tasks (billings) are budgeted under water and sewer and are not taken into account in this segment. According to the 2015-2016 Village Budget, the position of Village Clerk costs a total of \$19,078. This includes the Clerk's personal services which come to \$14,303 and any contractual work which is \$4,775. The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining the Village budget, accounts payable and receivable, payroll, working with the Mayor, and attending meetings as needed. According to the 2015-2016 Village Budget, the position of Village Treasurer costs a total of \$20,775. This includes the Treasurer's personal services which come to \$10,625 and any contractual work which is \$10,150.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

The two full-time positions of the Village Clerk and the Village Treasure will be transferred to the Town in the outcome of Village dissolution. (Note the transfer of employees to the Town is at the Town Board's discretion.)

It is anticipated that there may be additional time needed to take on the role of a full-time code enforcement clerk and help with tax materials during tax season. The total cost associated with the Clerk and Treasurer's salaries total \$39,853.

## **Tax Collector**

The Village's Tax Collector responsibilities are provided by the Village Clerk these costs are associated with the Clerk's contractual costs which was financed in the 2015-2016 Village Budget as \$4,775. These responsibilities include collecting, preparing, and mailing tax bills.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

The costs associated with the Tax Collector will be absorbed by the Town. Currently these duties are provided by the Village Clerk. The Clerk's costs will be transferred to the Town as noted above, therefore these additional costs have also been transferred into the Town of Moriah's expenditures in the outcome of Village dissolution. (Note the transfer of employees to the Town is at the Town Board's discretion.)

## **Attorney for the Village**

The Village budgets \$8,000 per year in contractual services, for an independent contractor that supplies legal assistance and representation. This function is used only on an as needed basis.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

The budget line for legal representation will be abolished in the outcome of Village dissolution.

## **Election Inspectors**

The Village budgeted \$1,000 for a contractual elections inspector for ballots and advertising. The cost of the inspector covers the cost of regular annual village elections.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

The positions of Elections Personnel will be abolished in the outcome of Village dissolution, as will the need for costs associated with Village elections.

## **Code Enforcement**

The Village currently employs one part-time code enforcement officer (CEO). The CEO devotes up to eight hours a week at the Village of Port Henry. The position involves issuing building permits and periodic fire and safety inspections and associated paperwork. Most building permits include additions and garages. The Village's CEO is paid \$6,000.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

Should the Village dissolve, the Town will take on these duties. At this time no additional funds are proposed to be allocated.

## **Village Hall**

According to the 2015-2016 Village Budget, it costs \$15,250 per year to maintain and operate the Village Hall. These costs include general building maintenance and utility items such as printers, faxes, phones, electric, heat, etc.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

Should the Village dissolve this building could be either sold to further reduce or eliminate Village debts; or the Village may transfer the property to the Town. Should the property be transferred, the Town of Moriah would have the responsibility of determining the appropriate end use of the building which will determine the actual costs associated maintenance and operations. For purposes of this analysis, the property has been transferred to the Town and all associated costs have also been transferred.

## **Village-Owned Property**

In addition to the Village Hall, the Village of Port Henry owns nine other properties, including:

- ◆ **Beach House:** 54 Dock Lane in Champ RV Park and Campground. Insurance value \$131,245. In the case of Village dissolution the ownership of the beach house is anticipated to be transferred as a community campground or to the Town.
- ◆ **Bath House:** 54 Dock Lane in Champ RV Park and Campground. Insurance value \$24,977. In the occurrence of Village dissolution, the bath house is anticipated to be transferred as a community campground or to the Town.
- ◆ **Water Filtration Plant:** Pump House Road. Insurance value \$2,249,521. If the Village dissolves the plant is anticipated to be transferred to the Town. Long term use of this plant would be at the discretion of the Town.
- ◆ **Storage Tank:** Pump House Road. Insurance value \$999,048. If the Village dissolves the tank is anticipated to be transferred to the Town and closed down.
- ◆ **Storage Building:** Pump House Road. Insurance value \$53,281. If the Village dissolves the storage building is anticipated to be transferred to the Town and most likely closed down if there is no use of the building.
- ◆ **Chain Fence:** Pump House Road. Insurance value \$36,633. If the Village dissolves the fence is anticipated to be transferred to the Town.
- ◆ **Pump House:** 27 Bulwagga Drive. Insurance value \$37,362. In the case of Village dissolution expenses and maintenance will be transferred to the Town.
- ◆ **New Sewer Plant:** 27 Bulwagga Drive. Insurance value \$8,375,643. In the case of Village dissolution expenses and maintenance will be transferred to the Town.
- ◆ **Highway Garage & Salt Sheds:** Rear 4303 Main Street. Insurance value \$175,479. If the Village dissolves, the garage and sheds are anticipated to be transferred to the Town.
- ◆ **Fire House:** 10 Church Street. Insurance value \$21,400. If dissolution of the Village was to occur; the fire house is anticipated to be transferred to the Town. This property could be sold but due to its unique historic value and character this is not recommended.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

Should the Village dissolve some of these properties could be sold, while others will be required to be transferred. For purposes of this study, all property listed has been transferred to the Town and all associated costs have also been transferred.

## **Insurance/Contingency Fund**

The 2015-2016 Village Budget included the following special items: unallocated insurance (\$18,555 per year), additional dues budget (\$1,026); and a contingency budget (\$20,000); for a total of \$39,581.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

These special items will be abolished in the outcome of Village dissolution, but the contingency fund of \$20,000 has been recommended to be added into the Town of Moriah's expenditures for the purpose of any unanticipated expenses. In addition, half of the unallocated insurance will be added to the Town's general fund for water and sewer related costs at \$9,277.50.

## **Law Enforcement**

The Village pays the Town of Moriah \$3,000 a year for police and court services. This service has been run by the Town of Moriah for the past ten years.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

In the outcome of Village dissolution, the budget line for law enforcement will be abolished in the outcome of Village dissolution. In addition, this will no longer be a revenue source for the Town of Moriah.

## **Community Environment**

According to the 2015-2016 Village Budget, \$500 is spent annually on beautification items such as flowers, signs and landscaping improvements.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

If the Village dissolves the funds set aside for beautification efforts will be transferred to the Town for the continuation of services.

## **Snow Removal**

The Village of Port Henry allocates \$57,000 a year for snow removal services. This includes the costs associated with staff time and overtime for removal of snow from the Village's roads, sidewalks, and Village properties, as well as the costs of salt and sand.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

Should the Village dissolve these funds will be transferred to the Town Highway Department expenditures and continue to be used for snow removal services at Town owned properties within the former Village boundaries.



## **Recreation**

According to the 2015-2016 Village Budget, \$80,040 is spent annually on recreation services provided to the Village. The Village currently provides three seasonal lifeguards at \$10 per hour. In total, the 2015-2016 Village Budget has allocated \$80,040 towards recreational expenses. This total includes, recreation personal services at \$16,440, recreation equipment at \$1,500, contractual services at \$43,000, joint recreation projects at \$16,000 and pays the Town \$3,100 for the Moriah Youth Program.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

If the dissolution occurs the Town will take on these expenses and determine the future need for the three seasonal lifeguard positions.

## **Beaches and Campgrounds**

Both the Town and Village own a campground with lakefront beaches and operate them on very similar terms. Management of the campgrounds is contracted out to individuals who live on site in the summer and are paid a flat fee plus free use of one campsite. The season opens and closes for both campgrounds from May to October. Both sites are plowed in the winter to allow access by ice fishermen.

The vast majority of gross receipts on both campgrounds come from users that rent their site for the entire season. Monthly, weekly and daily rentals also occur, as well as users that rent for only part of the entire season at reduced seasonal rates.

It is important to note that both the Town and Village provide general liability insurance coverage to their campgrounds through their respective municipal policies.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

If the dissolution occurs the Town be responsible for maintaining all beaches and campgrounds. The Town will determine the future need for the three seasonal lifeguard positions.

## **Culture**

The Village of Port Henry allocates \$7,100 a year for the library, historian, and annual celebrations. The library is not-for-profit and receives \$4,000. The Village's Historian is contractual and is allocated \$100 per year. The Village pays the Town of Moriah \$3,000 a year for celebrations such as the Labor Day Parade.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

In the outcome of Village dissolution, these small expenditures will become townwide expenditures.

## **Street & Sidewalk Maintenance**

The Village of Port Henry allocates \$194,487 a year according to the 2015–2016 Budget for street maintenance personal services at \$87,487, contractual maintenance at \$35,000 and \$72,000 for permanent improvements equipment within the Village. Both the funds for street maintenance and permanent improvements will be added to the future Town of Moriah Highway Department expenditures in the outcome of Village dissolution. The Village of Port Henry also maintains and repairs all Village sidewalks. The 2015-2016 Budget for sidewalk personal services and contractual works totals to \$7,500.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

If the Village dissolves, it has been expressed that a Sidewalk District would be desired to continue sidewalk maintenance services for residents within the Village’s boundaries. The most cost effective solution would be to continue to utilize the DPW personnel that are transferred to the Town. However, the creation of this special district is at the discretion of the Town Board.

For purposes of understanding the cost shift related to sidewalks two options have been evaluated later in this study, Option 1 includes the costs of sidewalks as a special district (utilizing Town personnel) and Option 2 excludes all costs associated with sidewalks.

## **Street Lighting**

The Village of Port Henry’s residents pay for street lights within the Village boundary and additionally are billed for the street lights throughout the Town. Electricity and maintenance of the street lighting costs in the Village come to \$27,000 a year.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

If the Village dissolves, all costs associated with street lighting will be transferred to the Town. It has been expressed that all street lighting costs would be included as part of the general fund, similar to the other townwide lighting expenses.

## **Sanitation**

The Village of Port Henry allocates \$23,100 a year for garbage and recycling pick up. This includes the DPW’s time once a week for approximately 5 hours to collect garbage and transport it to the transfer station. The transfer station is closed every Monday to accommodate the Village. In addition the Village spends \$5,100 is spent annually on street cleaning.

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

If the Village dissolves, it has been expressed that Sanitation District would be desired to continue this service as currently provided. The most cost effective solution would be to continue to utilize the DPW personnel that are transferred to the Town. However, this service is not currently provided to other residents of the Town. Therefore, it would be at the discretion of the Town Board to create a special district for this special service to the former Village area or to create a special district that utilizes a private hauler. Should a private hauler be used, the costs are anticipated to be exponentially higher.

For purposes of understanding the cost shift related to sanitation two options have been evaluated in this study, Option 1 includes the costs of sanitation as a special district (utilizing Town personnel) and Option 2 excludes all costs associated with sanitation. The costs of a private hauler were not explored as they were anticipated to be significantly higher.

## **Fire Prevention & Control**

### **Village of Port Henry Fire Department**

The Port Henry Fire Department is rich in history. Dating back to 1874, the fire department is one of the oldest in New York State. The original firehouse is still in existence and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The community members take pride in their large volunteer fire department and have honored their firefighters on Inspection Day and Labor Day. Today Port Henry's Fire Department continues to represent a strong staple in the Village.

Village fire services are provided by the Port Henry Volunteer Fire Department. Unlike the Town, the Village's fire department is governed by the Village which is included in the general municipal budget. Fire services include fire suppression, accident victim extrication, surface ice boat rescue, boat/water rescue, and dive rescue capabilities. Equipment includes 3 fire engines, 1 rescue van, 1 bush truck, and 1 rescue boat. In the Village, all areas have hydrants. There are 53 members whom are all volunteers. As of October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the fire department has responded to 54 calls, with an average response time of 3.18 minutes, and 8.88 responders per call. The Village of Port Henry residents currently pay \$1.71 /1,000 to support the fire department.

Since 2003, the Port Henry Fire Department has pursued over 38 grants and has won a total of \$276,382. This commitment to obtain additional funds goes hand in hand with the Fire Department's mission statement that, "we will provide superior services to our Village residents and neighbors that may include fire suppression, accident victim extrication, ice rescue, and dive rescue capabilities."

The Fire Department's total 2015-2016 Village Budget is \$108,945. These expenses include equipment at \$20,000, operations at \$14,000, utilities at \$11,500, liability insurance at \$13,500, capital reserve at \$2,505, maintenance at \$4,000, workers compensation insurance at \$11,100, and a lease purchase agreement on a 2009 E-One pumper at \$32,341. The Port Henry Fire Department received \$26,000 in revenue from the Town of Moriah for contracted fire protection services.



## IV. Existing & Future Services, Expenditures & Debts

### Town Fire Districts

The residents of the Town are served by two all-volunteer fire districts (Moriah and Mineville-Witherbee). The distances between them range from two to six miles apart. Together, with the Village of Port Henry Fire Department, the three also provide fire service to a large geographic area of the Town known as the Town of Moriah fire protection district. None provide EMS service, although each assists the Town with a separate volunteer ambulance squad when needed and responds (along with the ambulance squad) to motor vehicle accidents (MVAs). When there is a structure fire anywhere in the Town, all three fire companies are activated. Essex County Dispatch, located in the Town of Elizabethtown, handles dispatch for all of the companies. The stations are strictly volunteer and are not staffed in the night, but firefighters can be contacted by pager when dispatchers activate their company. In the event of an emergency, Moriah fire district is the designated emergency operation center for the Town.

The Town of Moriah, like all other towns covered by NYS law, does not have the authority to run a fire department. In 2015, and for the last year, the Town has paid a total of \$78,000, giving each fire district and the Village \$26,000 to provide coverage in the fire protection district. The \$78,000 annual expense is borne by the property owners within the fire protection district.

The table below summarizes what currently exists in the Village and TOV regarding fire services.

<b>Table 13 Comparison of Fire Services</b>			
	<b>Moriah F.D.</b>	<b>Mineville-Witherbee</b>	<b>Port Henry F.D.</b>
<b>Service Calls (2014)</b>	70	39	89
<b>Response Time</b>	5 minutes	<10 minutes	<4 minutes
<b>Number of Responders</b>	10 to 12	10 in the day to 19 in the evening	9
<b>Volunteers</b>	47 members (for years had 50)	19 active members (full roster = 25-30)	53 members (full roster = 60)
<b>Budget</b>	\$143,425 (district tax levy 2015)  \$26,000 (revenue from fire protection district contract)	\$95,656 (district tax levy 2015)  \$26,000 (revenue from fire protection district contract)	\$108,945 (‘15-‘16 tax levy)  \$26,000 (revenue from fire protection district contract)
<b>Actual Budget</b>	<b>\$117,425</b>	<b>\$69,656</b>	<b>\$82,945</b>
<b>Fire Protection Costs Per 1,000</b>	<b>\$2.06</b>	<b>\$0.99</b>	<b>\$1.71</b>

**Post Dissolution Conditions:**

If the Village dissolves, there are several options that to be considered with regards to the Village's fire services. These options include: 1) creating an independent Port Henry Fire Company; 2) contracting with the Mineville-Witherbee and Moriah Fire Districts to include the Village; 3) creating a new fire district; 4) and expanding Moriah's Fire District.

A final option has not been determined at this time. The Town of Moriah has expressed preference for Option 4 (the expansion of the Moriah Fire District or a combination of expanding both Moriah and the Mineville-Witherbee Districts). The following information summaries each option and additional detail is included in the pro's and con's section of this study (**Section VI**).

**Option 1:** The Village Fire Department becomes an independent fire company and the Town contracts with the company to serve the Port Henry fire protection district.

In order to be eligible to engage contractually with the Town to provide fire protection services the current Village Fire Department would be dissolved and it would need to become a separately incorporated volunteer fire company. An independent fire company is a special not-for-profit corporation formed to provide fire protection services to a fire district or fire protection district under contract. The contract would be with the Town of Moriah. Under this Option 1, the Town Board would have the authority to set taxes to pay for the services. The existing assets of the Village of Port Henry Fire Department would be transferred to the Town upon dissolution of the Village. The new fire company could then lease them from the Town for a very nominal fee.

**Option 2:** The Village Fire Department dissolves and the Town contracts with either or both of the existing fire districts (Moriah and/or Mineville-Witherbee) to provide fire services to the Port Henry as part of the Town's fire protection district. With dissolution, the assets of the Village of Port Henry Fire Department would become Town assets and these assets could be leased to one or both fire districts for a nominal fee.

**Option 3:** The area served by the existing Village of Port Henry Fire Department would become a new fire district. The new district would function the same as the two existing Town fire districts. It is also possible that the new district and could continue its service to the Town's fire protection district (the strip of land along Lake Champlain that is currently served under contract between the Town and the Village of Port Henry's Fire Department).

Under NYS law, a town board may establish a fire district on its own motion or upon receipt of a petition from owners of 50% of the resident-owned taxable assessed valuation in the proposed district. Whichever method is used, the town board must hold a public hearing and determine that all properties which will be included will benefit, that all properties which benefit have been included, and that the creation of the district is in the public interest.

**Option 4:** The Moriah Fire District could be expanded to incorporate the area now served by the Village of Port Henry Fire Department. The Town of Moriah has expressed the most interest in this option. This option eliminates the need for another tax district for fire and consolidates services. This

option could potentially lower taxes for the Moriah Fire District (for the Town outside of the Village) as the tax base would be increased. The Town Board, would need to have one or more public hearings for the district expansion and a majority of the commissioners of the Moriah Fire District would have to consent in writing to the expansion, following adoption of a Town Board resolution.

### **Water**

Currently, two of the Village employees' work half their time overseeing the water treatment plant (with the remainder of their time spent running the joint wastewater treatment facility). The Village in 2014 operated with a 4 person staff which was determined inefficient. Staffing was returned in 2015 to the 5-person DPW crew with responsibilities that included water-related maintenance and repair on water transmission lines.

The Village is metered and charges accordingly, with no property tax for its Water Fund. The Town is unmetered and charges on a per-user basis (i.e., one hookup, one charge) for operations and maintenance costs as well as an ad valorem property tax levy to cover debt service.

Both the Town and Village have recently constructed state-of-the-art water filtration plants with significant subsidies from various state and federal sources. The peak demand for the Village is approximately 200,000 gpd per day (gpd) and 450,000 gpd for the Town. The Town's system is capable of delivering 1,300,000 gpd, and has sufficient capacity at the Town's filtration plant to easily accommodate the peak flow demand on record at both the Village and the Town simultaneously.

The Village's water filtration plant recently underwent significant improvements in 2009. The debt associated with this improvement was through EFC for \$2,378,663 at 0%, which matures in 2038. The Village currently makes a payment every February. The balance owed is \$1,911,676.00.

#### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

Should the Village dissolve, Village residents would be included in a new water district that represents the former village. Residents would be responsible for the remaining debt associated with the Village's water treatment plant, maintenance, and any repairs within the Village's system.

The Town has indicated that the Town's water treatment plant has capacity to accommodate the water needs of the Village. The Town has expressed concern with operating two plants long-term, therefore there is the possibility that the Village's water plant would eventually be closed and the Village residents would be connected to the Town's system.

Should this occur, the Village residents would be responsible for the associated capital improvements to connect the systems and to provide a booster pump which have been previously estimated by the Town to cost \$275,000. In addition, the Village residents would then be also responsible for the Town's water treatment plant and Town system, as well as any outstanding debts on the Village system.



## **Sewer**

The original sewage treatment plant was built in 1964 and served only the Village. However, in 1986, the Town and Village jointly undertook a major upgrade and connected the Town into the plant that is located in the Village and discharges into Lake Champlain. The Village of Port Henry has a joint sanitary sewer system that was almost entirely rebuilt in 2000 in order to upgrade and connect the Town. The Village bonded \$765,573.00 at 0%, which matures in 2021. The Village currently makes a payment every March (\$88,492). The balance remaining is \$263,515.00.

The Village of Port Henry is currently beginning a two phase Sewer Improvement Project. The first phase is completely paid by a \$500,000 grant. The second phase has been partially paid for and will include a loan which comes to \$1,046,063. This project is not accounted for in the 2015-2016 Village Budget. The loan will only be charged to residents within the Village. This debt would be added to the existing sewer debt currently incurred by Village residents.

The Village sewer budget includes personal and contractual services for the sewer, sanitary sewer, and sewage treatment/disposal which totals to \$154,337. Two employees operate the treatment plant (the same employees operate the Village's filtration plant). The sanitary sewer service area will be reconstituted as a Sewer District in the outcome of Village dissolution. The Village is known as the fiduciary agent of the joint treatment plant. Therefore, costs are divided between the Town and Village's individual sewer funds at 65% Town and 35% Village.

As with the water filtration plants, there appears to be a large amount of capacity respective to peak flow demand on record of 1.7 million gallons per day (gpd) and with a total capacity of 2,750,000 gpd (while average daily flow is approximately 400,000 gpd).

### **Post Dissolution Conditions:**

Upon dissolution, the Village residents will continue to pay sewer fees for use and all associated debt on the Village's sewer treatment plant. The Village would likely be included in a separate district from the Town to account for the debts divided between the Town and Village.



## V. Local Laws & Land Use Regulations

All Village laws and ordinances will remain effective for up to two years after the date of dissolution. At any point during this two year period, the Town of Moriah Town Board may review existing laws and consider them for adoption by the Town and may revise them as necessary at their discretion. If no action is taken by the Town Board within the two year period, the law(s) will be automatically repealed.

### Zoning Law

The Village of Port Henry is currently in the process of establishing a Zoning Law that will:

- ◆ Protect the downtown commercial area from additional street-level residential use;
- ◆ Protect the commercial and residential areas from “industrial” development; and
- ◆ Allow significant freedom (minimum restrictions) in both commercial and residential areas’ uses and development).

The Zoning Law is designed to create a “Commercial-Retail” zone along Main Street and part of Broad Street with design guidelines. A moratorium is currently in place prohibiting residential development on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of commercial buildings downtown. Upon the adoption of the Zoning Law the moratorium would be lifted. Additional zones that the Town is considering include “Residential”, “Commercial-Retail”, and “Industrial” zones. The Village is currently in the process of creating a zoning board of appeals and a planning board to oversee its Zoning Law.

As with all other local laws, the Village Zoning will remain effective for up to two years after the date of dissolution. The Town of Moriah does not have a Planning or Zoning Board. There is no zoning law in the TOV other than what is mandated by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA).

Should dissolution occur, the Village would recommend that the Town Board consider adopting a zoning law exclusively for the former village area. This would allow the Town to effectively oversee land use issues within the former Village without impacting development and land use outside the former Village. The Town Board must follow the procedures outlined in Article 16 of NYS Town Law. If no action is taken by the Town Board with the two year period, the Village Zoning Law would be repealed.



### Other Local Laws

Should the Village of Port Henry dissolve the Village will be required to examine all of its local laws. Currently, the Village does have a comprehensive list of all its local laws, and a final review will be necessary to determine which Village Laws will not become part of Town law. The following list includes Local Laws, (1968 – 2015) that are currently in effect in the Village of Port Henry:

## V. Local Laws & Land Use Regulations

Year	Law #	Title of Law
1968	1	Public Notice Relating to Adoption of Local Laws
1968	2	Stop Intersections for Certain Streets
1968		Amendment to Village Ordinance (Parking of Vehicles)
1969	1	Removal of Ice Fish Shanties
1970	1	Compensation of Village Officers
1970	2	Conduct of Officers and Employees
1972	1	Regulation of Automobile Junk Yards
1972	2	Dumps
1973	1	Dog Leash Law (Repealed and Replaced by 2009 Law 2)
1973	2	Public Notice Relating to Adoption of Local Laws
1973	3	General Powers of the Village Board
1974	1	Stop & Yield Intersections
1975	2	Use of Village Water (Repealed and Replaced by 2011 Law 2)
1975	2	Flood Prone Areas
1976	1	Providing for the Regulation of Hawkers, Peddlers and Solicitors
1976	2	Exemption Percentages for Commercial Industries (Repealed)
1977	1	Open Meeting Law
1978	1	Requiring Written Notice of Alleged Defective Highway
1979	1	Overnight Parking (Abolished)
1979	2	Tax Abatement
1981	1	Rubbish and Abandoned Vehicles
1983	1	Open Container
1984	2	Flood Control
1985	1	Sewer Rates – Point System (with 1986 amendment)
1987	1	Flood Damage Prevention
1988	1	Regulation of Parking Along Main and Broad Streets
1989	1	Development Review Law
1990	1	Abolish police Department
1991	1	Sewer Rent Increase
1994	1	Administer and Enforcement of NYS Fire Protection and Building Codes (Repealed and Replaced by 2009 Law 3)
1994	2	Assessing Unit Terminated
1995	1	Property Maintenance Regulations (Repealed by 2012 Law 3)
2003	1	Restricting Adult Uses
2004	1	Prohibiting Skateboards, Scooters, etc. from Main Street
2004	2	Prohibiting Farm Animals in the Village
2007	1	Development Review Law (Revised)
2007	2	Outdoor Furnace Regulations
2009	1	Administration/Enforcement – NYS Uniform Fire Prevention & Bldg Code
2009	2	Regulation of Dogs in the Village
2011	1	Establishing a Moratorium on Street Level Residential Development (Expired)
2011	2	Water Law (Repealed and Replaced 1975 Law 1)
		Water Consumption Rate Schedule (May, 2011; Revised August, 8 2011)
		Water Consumption Rate Schedule (Effective May 1, 2012)
		Water Consumption Rate Schedule (Effective May 1, 2015)
2011	3	Requiring Certificate of Occupancy
2011	4	Extending the Moratorium on Street Level Residential Development (Expired; Extension on 2012 Law 2)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Law #</b>	<b>Title of Law</b>
2012	1	Tax Cap Override
2012	2	Extending the Moratorium on Street Level Residential Development (Expired; Extension on 2013 Law 2)
2012	3	Unsafe Structure Law
2013	1	Tax Cap Override
2013	2	Extending the Moratorium on Street Level Residential Development (Expired; Extension on 2013 Law 3)
2013	3	Extending the Moratorium on Street Level Residential Development (Expired; Extension on 2014 Law 2)
2014	1	Tax Cap Override
2014	2	Extending the Moratorium on Street Level Residential Development (Expired; Extension on 2014 Law 3)
2014	3	Extending the Moratorium on Street Level Residential Development (Expired; Extension on 2015 Law 2)
2015	1	Tax Cap Override
2015	2	Extending the Moratorium on Street Level Residential Development in a Portion of the Village



## VI. What are the Pro's & Con's of the Dissolution of Port Henry?

### Summary of Pro's and Con's

In New York State, within certain communities it may make sense for local governments to consolidate into a single entity. A town and village could determine that instead of existing as two separate municipal entities, there may be a tax savings or service efficiencies if consolidated into a single town. The following are some of the pros and cons associated with the dissolution of the Village of Port Henry. In addition, the pro's and con's of Fire Services are based on the four options which would be determined by the Town in the outcome of dissolution. The Town has expressed that option four would be the preferred option if the Village were to dissolve.

### Pro's of Dissolution

#### CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT TAX CREDIT:

- **Tax Credits.** Upon dissolution, the Town of Moriah is eligible to receive an annual Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit (CETC) to apply towards the reduction of the Town tax levy. By law, a minimum of 70% of the CETC must be applied as a reduction of the tax levy. The remaining 30% may be used to further reduce the tax levy or fund eligible capital improvement projects anywhere in the Town. The CETC is currently an annual tax credit provided by New York State (subject to future appropriations).

#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

- **Streamlined Government.** If dissolution occurs, the Mayor and Trustees will all be abolished. The government will be streamlined through the Town. The Village currently pays for a portion of the Town Clerk position for duties in Town-Outside the Village (TOV) that does not directly benefit the Village. If dissolved the Village will now directly benefit from Town clerk services. A possible code enforcement clerk position could be created by the Town to help the current Code Enforcement Officer to spend more time in the field and less time with clerical duties. The Code Enforcement work load could be distributed between both Village and Town to improve inspection needs.

#### HIGHWAY & DPW:

- **Increased Manpower.** All Village DPW employees will be absorbed by the Town. If dissolution occurs, the work load could improve efficiencies distributed between both Village and Town Staff. With the additional staff, sidewalks within the Village boundaries will continue to be maintained, repaired, and plowed. Additional staff will also help with maintaining Broad Street. If dissolved the street will become a county road and the Town will be reimbursed for maintenance and repairs from the county. For a total of approximately \$3,261 for 6/10 of a mile.

#### FIRE SERVICES:

- **Option 1:** The Village Fire Department becomes an independent fire company and the Town contracts with the company to serve the Port Henry fire protection district. In the result of dissolution, if option one is chosen, the overall autonomy of the Port Henry Fire Department



would be maintained. The number of responders and response time would continue to remain the same and the Fire Department's long and proud history would be maintained.

- **Option 2:** The Village Fire Department dissolves and the Town contracts with either one or both of the existing fire districts (Moriah or Mineville-Witherbee) to provide fire services to the Port Henry fire protection district (the area formerly served by the Village F.D.).
- **Option 3:** The area served by the existing Village Fire Department becomes a new fire district. Services remain generally the same. If dissolved, option 3 calls for a new fire district to be created which could serve the existing Village. This district could also be contracted by the Town to serve a strip of land along Lake Champlain. This option would allow for the existing Village of Port Henry Fire Department to essentially continue to exist in the form of a new fire district.
- **Option 4:** The Moriah Fire District (the closer of the two fire districts to the Village) could be expanded to incorporate the area now served by the Village of Port Henry Fire Department. A larger fire district could mean that the Moriah Fire District could potentially gain additional volunteers, equipment, and buildings that could benefit both the Town and Village. A greater pool of resources could lead to improved coordination of volunteers when responding to a call.

### **Cons of Dissolution**

#### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT:**

- **Smaller voice in government.** Currently residents have a larger percentage of the voice in what is determined for the Village. The Village has a population of 1,194 people while the Town has a population of 4,798 people. If dissolved the decisions for the Village area would be determined townwide.
- **Continued expenses.** The expenses associated with the Town Clerk, the Village Clerk and the Treasurer would continue if all positions are transferred. If dissolved, the Village's Clerk will be transferred to the Town's full-time Deputy Clerk position and the Village's Treasurer will be transferred as a full-time code enforcement clerk and will help with work during the tax season. The transferred positions would result in no cost savings but would be distributed over the entire Town.

#### **SANITATION & GARBAGE:**

- **New Special Tax District.** Garbage/Refuse/Recycling may be a part of a special district and dependent upon a private hauler. Costs are to be determined and would be an increased cost to Village residents. All Special Districts are subject to Town Board approval.

#### **SIDEWALKS:**

- **New Special Tax District.** Sidewalks would be maintained through a Special District determined by the Town Board. If created, this would be an extra tax cost to Village residents for services that could include snow removal, maintenance, and repair of sidewalks within the Village's boundaries. All Special Districts are subject to Town Board approval.



**ZONING:**

- **Zoning could be lost.** The Village is in the process of creating a Zoning Law which will determine a regulatory framework for land use, development, and establish design guidelines for buildings along the Village’s downtown streets. If the dissolution takes place, the Zoning Law could be repealed within two years if no action is taken by the Town Board. If the Village’s Zoning Law is not adopted before dissolution, the Town is not required to consider special zoning exclusively for the Village.

**WATER:**

- **Potential changes to water treatment and increased costs.** Residents would continue to receive treated water from the Village’s water treatment plant. Residents would continue to pay Village’s water treatment plant debt, as well as maintenance and repairs within the Village’s system.
- However, the Town could determine it expensive to operate two water treatment facilities in the Town and would then close the Village plant and connect the Village to the Town’s water treatment system. Should this occur, the Village residents would continue to pay any outstanding debt on the Village’s water treatment plant, as well as maintenance and repairs within the Village’s system. However, Village residents would also be responsible for the capital expenses to connect to the Town’s system (estimated at a cost of approximately \$275,000 to connect the systems), as well as maintenance and repairs to the Town’s Water Treatment Plant and system.

**DEBT DISTRICT**

- Village residents would have to pay outstanding debt, liabilities, workman’s comp insurance, and any retirement benefits until all such debts are paid off.

**FIRE:**

- **Option 1:** The Village of Port Henry Fire Department becomes an independent fire company and the Town contracts with the company to serve the Port Henry fire protection district. In the result of dissolution, the Village of Port Henry Fire Department would lose all its assets to the Town and the independent fire company would then have to lease these assets from the Town. In addition, the fire company would contract with the Town Board directly and annual revenues would be provided by the Town at a negotiated amount.
- **Option 2:** The Village Fire Department dissolves and the Town contracts with either one or both of the existing fire districts (Moriah or Mineville-Witherbee) to provide fire services to the Port Henry fire protection district (the area formerly served by the Village of Port Henry Fire Department). Upon dissolution, response time to serve the Village could increase due to the further distance of both the Moriah Fire District and/or the Minville-Witherbee Fire District’s locations. In addition, property owners of the Village may experience an increase in fire insurance rates due to changes in fire rating.
- **Option 3:** The area served by the existing Village Fire Department becomes a new fire district. This results in a new layer of government. A new fire district would be established at the discretion of the Town Board or upon receipt of a petition from owners of 50% of the resident-owned taxable assessed valuation in the proposed district. This would establish an additional layer of government which goes against the state’s goal to reduce layers of government in New

York. This could also be a time consuming process which would require public hearings and the creation a taxing authority and an elected board of commissioners.

- **Option 4:** The Moriah Fire District could be expanded to incorporate the area now served by the Village of Port Henry Fire Department. If the Moriah Fire District was expanded to serve the Village the Village would lose its individual representation by its historic fire department. It could result in an increase in the response time to serve the Village due to the location of the Moriah Fire District Firehouse. Longer drives could put volunteers at greater risk when traveling to and from Village response areas. The Village of Port Henry residents currently pay \$1.71/1,000 to support the fire department. If Moriah Fire District were to expand to include the Village boundaries, it is anticipated that the Village residents pay an increase of \$0.17 (\$1.88/1,000). Property owner’s insurance rates could increase due to a change in fire ratings.



## **VII. Potential Post-Dissolution Fiscal Impacts**

In order to estimate the fiscal impact of Village dissolution, this study used 2015-2016 fiscal year budget information for the Village of Port Henry and 2015 fiscal year budget information for the Town of Moriah. Using this data as a baseline, the sub-consultant built a fiscal model for post-dissolution conditions to determine what costs would be saved if the Village dissolves, what costs would be included in future Town budgets, and what revenues would continue to be collected in order to calculate the projected tax levies and tax rates.

The tables below are **projections only** and are provided to show what taxes could be anticipated if the Village of Port Henry were to dissolve based upon the service and cost changes recommended in the Interim Report. The information in this section is for illustrative purposes and is a representation of the data available at the time of the development of this Interim Report. The final cost savings is subject to a final determination of the preferred service options as part of the full Dissolution Plan. All special districts will be at the discretion of the Town Board and cannot be fully accounted for at this time. As a result of the work sessions with the Village of Port Henry, two fiscal impacts were desired to be understood. These included:

- **Option 1 Full Services:** This analysis provides a look at essentially keeping all the same services currently provided to the Village, sharing costs where appropriate with the full body of the Town, and creating special districts for all the additional services that the Village currently receives but not the rest of the town (i.e. sanitation, sidewalks, fire, and debt). Water and sewer costs were not included in this analysis as they are currently and would continue to be extra
- **Option 2 Basic Service.** This analysis was intended to provide an understanding of what the potential costs to Village residents would be if only the essential special districts were created (i.e. fire and debt). Under this option, sanitation and sidewalks would be the property owners' responsibility.
- **Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit (CETC).** As noted previously, the CETC is an annual incentive offered to municipalities. However, because the CETC appropriations may be changed by New York State, it is important to understand the tax impacts with and without the CETC to comprehend the full range of fiscal impacts of dissolution on the tax payers. Therefore both Option 1 and Option 2 consider the tax effect with and without the CETC.

### **Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit (CETC)**

New York State provides a Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit (CETC) to municipalities as an incentive when two local governments consolidate. This tax credit is an annual appropriation, based upon a formula of 15% of the combined property tax levy when the local governments consolidate (general and highway tax levy only). If the Village of Port Henry dissolved, the Village government will effectively consolidate with the Town, therefore, the Town would qualify for the annual CETC credit.

Based on 2015 figures, the estimated tax credit to the Town of Moriah would conservatively be \$338,323 per

year. By law, a minimum of 70% (\$236,826) of the CETC must be applied as a reduction of the tax levy. The remaining 30%

(\$101,497) may be used to further reduce the tax levy or fund eligible capital improvement projects any where in the town. As such, the final tax impact is

Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit (CETC)		
Maximum CETC for Tax Reduction	100%	\$338,323
Minimum CETC for Tax Reduction	70%	\$236,826
Maximum CETC for Capital Projects	30%	\$101,497
*CETC is contingent upon New York State appropriations and not an annual guarantee.		

shown as a range between a minimum benefit of 70% of the CETC funds applied to lower the tax levy and a maximum benefit of 100% of the CETC funds applied to lower the tax levy. CETC funds are contingent upon New York State appropriations and not an annual guarantee.

### Projected Tax Impact of Dissolution (Option 1 Full Services)

As illustrated in **Table 15 (Option 1 Full Services)**, includes costs associated with New Sanitation, New Sidewalk, New Combined Fire Special Districts, and New Debt. All special districts are subject to approval by the Town Board. Property-owners in the Village currently pay a combined rate of \$19.09 per \$1,000 of assessed value (including Village and Town taxes, but excluding additional user fees for water and sewer that are not effected by dissolution). While Town property-owners outside-the-village (TOV) pay a current rate of \$8.26.

Option 1 will transfer all employees and will continue all existing services for sanitation, sidewalk, fire, and debt which are calculated as a special tax for the Village only resulting in a new townwide tax of \$10.01 plus a tax of \$3.11 for Village residents (total new tax rate of \$13.12 per \$1,000 of assessed value without CETC).

Upon dissolution, the projected tax rates for former Village property-owners would decrease by approximately 31.3%, an estimated savings of \$597.30 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Town property-owners would see an estimated increase of 21.2%, an estimated increase of \$174.82 per \$100,000 of assessed value. These estimates do not include the projected tax credit (CETC) which may be used to reduce tax levy (townwide and highway only, no special districts).

When the 70% and 100% of the CETC is applied to Option 1, additional savings would be realized by the Village (**Table 15**). With 70% of CETC:

- ◆ Former Village property-owners taxes would decrease by approximately 37.3%, an estimated savings of \$711.30 per \$100,000 of assessed value.
- ◆ Town property-owners would see an estimated increase of 7.4%, an estimated increase of \$60.82 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

## VII. Potential Post-Dissolution Fiscal Impacts

If the full 100% of CETC was applied:

- ◆ Village property-owners taxes would decrease by approximately 39.8%, an estimated savings of \$759.30 per \$100,000 of assessed value.
- ◆ Town property-owners would see an estimated increase of 1.6%, an estimated increase of \$12.82 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

Village Residents	Current Tax Rate	Tax Rate No CETC	Tax Rate 70% CETC	Tax Rate 100% CETC	Current Property Tax	Property Tax Post Dissolution	Property Tax Change	Percent Change
Village Tax	\$11.78	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,177.91	\$0	-	-
Townwide Tax (Genl & Hwy)	\$7.31	10.01	8.87	8.39	\$731.39	\$990.28	-	-
Current Services (New Special Districts)		\$3.11	\$3.11	\$3.11				
<b>Total With Special Districts - No CETC</b>	<b>\$19.09</b>	<b>\$13.12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,909.30</b>	<b>\$1,312.00</b>	<b>(\$597.30)</b>	<b>-31.3%</b>
<b>Total CETC With Special Districts - 70%</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>\$11.98</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,198.00</b>	<b>(\$711.30)</b>	<b>-37.3%</b>
<b>Total CETC With Special Districts - 100%</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$11.50</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,150.00</b>	<b>(\$759.30)</b>	<b>-39.8%</b>

Town Residents*	Current Tax Rate	Tax Rate No CETC	Tax Rate 70% CETC	Tax Rate 100% CETC	Current Property Tax	Property Tax Post Dissolution	Property Tax Change	Percent Change
Townwide Tax (Genl & Hwy)	\$7.31	10.01	8.87	8.39	\$731.39	\$990.28	-	-
Town Outside of Village Tax (Genl & Hwy)	\$0.95	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$94.79	\$0	-	-
<b>Total - No CETC</b>	<b>\$8.26</b>	<b>\$10.01</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$826.18</b>	<b>\$1,001.00</b>	<b>\$174.82</b>	<b>21.2%</b>
<b>Total CETC - 70%</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>\$8.87</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$887.00</b>	<b>\$60.82</b>	<b>7.4%</b>
<b>Total CETC - 100%</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$8.39</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$839.00</b>	<b>\$12.82</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

**Notes:** \* Eligible for CETC – Only the General Fund and Highway Fund. No Special Districts.  
 \* Town resident's tax is the same in Option 1 and Option2.



## Projected Tax Impact of Dissolution (Option 2 Basic Services)

As previously described above, Option 2 offers a condensed version of services for Village residents and is limited to only the required special districts, the New Combined Fire District and the New Debt District. As a result of Option 2, the townwide tax would again be \$10.01 per 1,000 of assessed value, plus the required special district tax of \$2.38 per \$1,000 for Village residents (total new tax rate of \$12.39 per \$1,000 of assessed value without CETC).

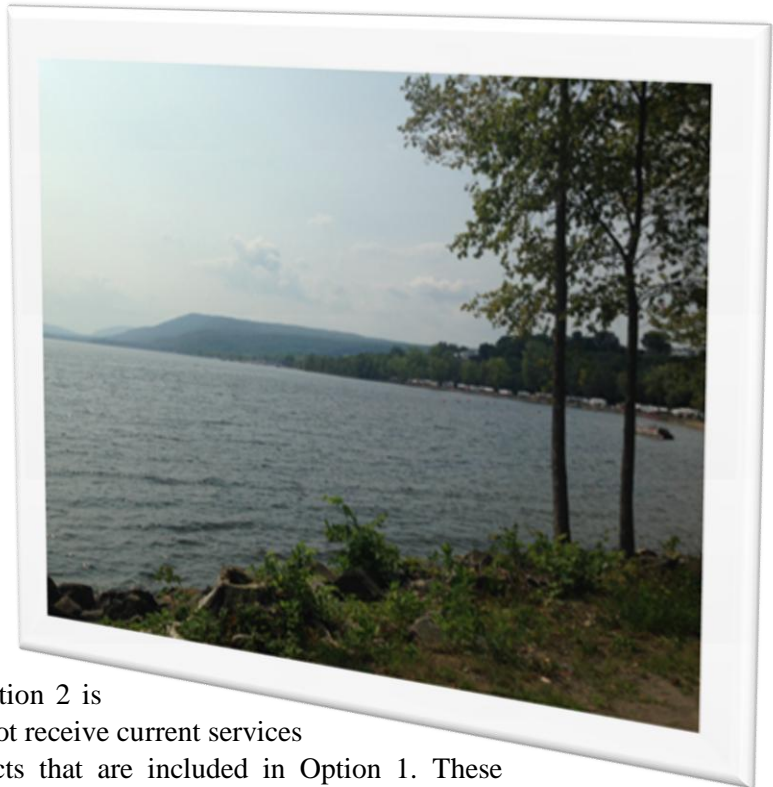
Upon dissolution, the projected tax rates for former Village property-owners would decrease by approximately 35.1%, an estimated savings of \$670.30 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Town property-owners would continue to see an estimated increase of 21.2%, which is equivalent to an estimated increase of \$174.82 per \$100,000 of assessed value. These estimates do not include the projected tax credit (CETC) which may be used to reduce tax levy (townwide and highway only, no special districts).

When the 70% and 100% of the CETC is applied to Option 2, additional savings would be realized by the Village (**Table 16**). With 70% of CETC:

- ◆ Former Village property-owners taxes would decrease by approximately 41.1%, an estimated savings of \$784.30 per \$100,000 of assessed value.
- ◆ Town property-owners would see an estimated increase of 7.4%, an estimated increase of \$60.82 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

If the full 100% of CETC was applied:

- ◆ Village property-owners taxes would decrease by approximately 43.6%, an estimated savings of \$832.30 per \$100,000 of assessed value.
- ◆ Town property-owners would see an estimated increase of 1.6%, an estimated increase of \$12.82 per \$100,000 of assessed value.



Should the Town Board determine that Option 2 is the preferred choice, Village residents will not receive current services such as the sanitation and sidewalk districts that are included in Option 1. These calculations are presented in **Table 16** to show the potential range of savings afforded by the CETC.



**VII. Potential Post-Dissolution Fiscal Impacts**

**Option 2: Village Residents**

	Current Tax Rate	Tax Rate No CETC	Tax Rate 70% CETC	Tax Rate 100% CETC	Current Property Tax	Property Tax Post Dissolution	Property Tax Change	Percent Change
Village Tax	\$11.78	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,177.91	\$0	-	-
Townwide Tax (Genl & Hwy)	\$7.31	10.01	8.87	8.39	\$731.39	\$990.28	-	-
Required Special Districts		\$2.38	\$2.38	\$2.38				
<b>Total With Special Districts - No CETC</b>	<b>\$19.09</b>	<b>\$12.39</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,909.30</b>	<b>\$1,239.00</b>	<b>(\$670.30)</b>	<b>-35.1%</b>
<b>Total CETC With Special Districts - 70%</b>		-	<b>\$11.25</b>	-	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,125.00</b>	<b>(\$784.30)</b>	<b>-41.1%</b>
<b>Total CETC With Special Districts - 100%</b>		-	-	<b>\$10.77</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,077.00</b>	<b>(\$832.30)</b>	<b>-43.6%</b>

**Option 2: Town Residents**

	Current Tax Rate	Tax Rate No CETC	Tax Rate 70% CETC	Tax Rate 100% CETC	Current Property Tax	Property Tax Post Dissolution	Property Tax Change	Percent Change
Townwide Tax (Genl & Hwy)	\$7.31	10.01	8.87	8.39	\$731.39	\$990.28	-	-
Town Outside of Village Tax (Genl & Hwy)	\$0.95	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$94.79	\$0	-	-
<b>Total - No CETC</b>	<b>\$8.26</b>	<b>\$10.01</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$826.18</b>	<b>\$1,001.00</b>	<b>\$174.82</b>	<b>21.2%</b>
<b>Total CETC - 70%</b>		-	<b>\$8.87</b>	-	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$887.00</b>	<b>\$60.82</b>	<b>7.4%</b>
<b>Total CETC - 100%</b>		-	-	<b>\$8.39</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$839.00</b>	<b>\$12.82</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

**Notes:** \* Eligible for CETC – Only the General Fund and Highway Fund. No Special Districts.

\* Town resident’s tax is the same in Option 1 and Option2.



**Appendix A: 2015-2016 Village Budget**

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**Appendix B: 2015 Town Budget**

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## **Appendix C: Cost Shift Analysis**

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**Appendix D: Port Henry Informational Flyer**

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**Appendix E: Public Presentation Material**

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