

*Village of Wolcott
Interim Dissolution Study
Public Information Meeting 1*



Overview of Presentation

- How Did We Get Here?
- The Dissolution Process
- What is an Interim Dissolution Study?
- What is a Dissolution Plan
- Next Steps
- Questions & Answers on Process / Public Comment

Meeting Decorum

- Please sign up to ask a question.
- Speakers will be selected in order from the sign-in sheet.
- Questions will be received at the end of the presentation.

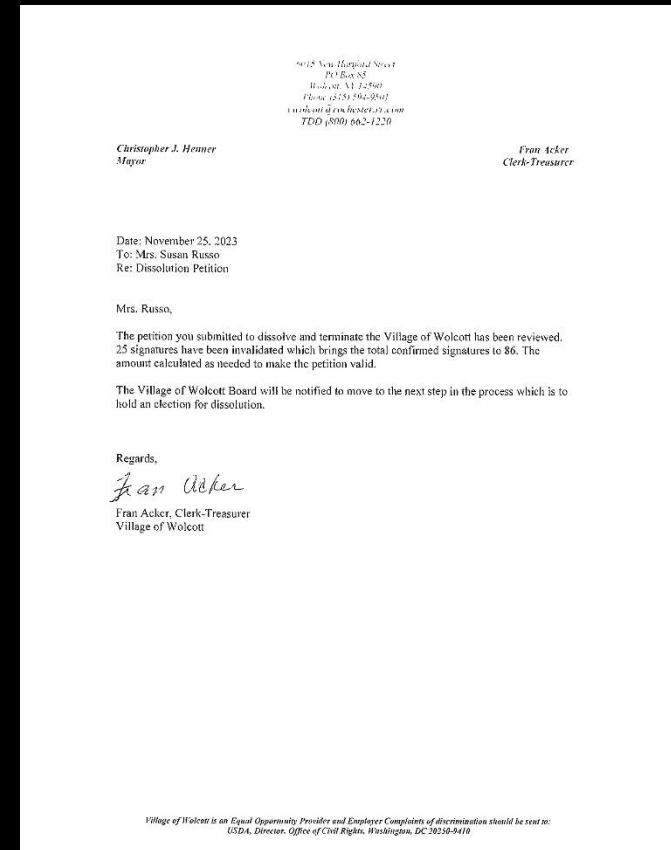
How Did We Get Here? Initiation of Process

- “The Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act provides a process for citizens to petition for a public vote on dissolving or consolidating local governments. The Dissolution or Consolidation process may also be initiated by a local governing board.”
- The first step shall be a petition, said petition must be signed by at **least 10%** of the number of electors.
- The Wolcott process is a citizen-initiated process.
- The petition was to vote on dissolution, not to prepare a study to look at the topic.

How Did We Get Here? Steps toward Dissolution in Wolcott to Date:

Citizen-Initiated Reorganization

- [November 15, 2023](#)
the electorate of the Village of Wolcott submitted a petition for Dissolution.
- [November 25, 2023](#)
the Village Clerk reviewed and certified the petition.



How Did We Get Here? Steps toward Dissolution in Wolcott to Date:

- On [December 21, 2023](#) the Village Board met to enact a resolution calling for a Referendum on the proposed Dissolution no less than 60 days and no more than 90 days from the meeting.
- The date of the referendum has been set for [March 12, 2024](#).
- No further action is required of the Village Board until after the referendum.
- The Village can choose to provide information prior to the referendum in the form of an *Interim Dissolution Study*.

How Did We Get Here? Dissolution vs. Consolidation

	Dissolution	Consolidation
Definition	The termination of a local government entity.	The elimination of the original governments and the forming of a new local government entity or the merger of one surviving government entity with the other absorbed into it.
Services	May end or be assumed by another local government entity that may provide the service at the same or different level.	May eliminate both entity's services and form new government services or retain one government entity's services and absorb additional services from the other entity.
Documents	Dissolution Plan - Contains the terms and information regarding the dissolution of a local government entity.	Consolidation Plan - Both the Town and Village get to vote on the plan.

How Did We Get Here? New York State Precedent and Enabling Legislation

- Prior to 2010, 39 New York Villages had been dissolved.
- Effective March 21, 2010 – New York State General Municipal Law 17-A “Dissolution and Dissolution of Local Government.” Under Article 17-A, **19 Villages have chosen to dissolve, 30 voted not to.**
- NYS GML 17-A provides guidance for citizens and local governments regarding Dissolution and Dissolution of government bodies, duties and roles.
- Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit = 15% of the joint general fund tax levy.

How Did We Get Here?

Villages Dissolved

1900-2024

Roxbury - 1900
Prattsville - 1900
Rifton - 1919
LaFargeville - 1922
Brookfield - 1923
Oramel - 1925
Newfield - 1926
Pleasant Valley - 1926
Marlborough - 1928
Northville - 1930
Old Forge - 1933
Forestport - 1938
North Bangor - 1939
The Landing - 1939
Downsville - 1950
Amchir - 1968
Prattsburg - 1972
Pelham - 1975
N. Pelham - 1975
Fort Covington- 1976
Friendship - 1977
Belleville - 1979

Rosendale - 1979
Savannah - 1979
Elizabethtown - 1981
Bloomingdale - 1985
Pine Hill - 1985
Woodhull - 1986
East Bloomfield - 1990
Holcomb - 1990
Pine Valley - 1990
Ticonderoga - 1992
Westport - 1992
Henderson - 1992
Schenevus - 1993
Fillmore - 1994
Moors - 1994
Andes - 2003
Pike - Wyoming - 2009
Limestone - 2010
East Randolph - 2011
Randolph - 2011
Perrysburg - 2011
Seneca Falls - 2011

Edwards - 2012
Altmar - 2013
Keeseville - 2014
Bridgewater - 2014
Lyons - 2015
Prospect - 2015
Salem - 2016
Hermon - 2016
Forestville - 2016
Macedon - 2017
Port Henry - 2017
Herrings - 2017
Barneveld - 2017
Cherry Creek - 2017
Mastic Beach - 2017
Harrisville - 2018
Van Etten - 2018
Morristown - 2019
South Nyack - 2022
Fort Johnson - 2023

Overview of the Proposed Dissolution Process: Prior to Referendum

- The Village has chosen to develop an *Interim Dissolution Study*. Consultants will interview Village and Town officials and staff, review municipal data, and develop the *Study* and other memoranda.
- Links to the *Study* will be available at <https://labergegroup.com/Wolcott/>
- This website will be accessible from the Village website.
- There will be a second public information meeting close to the date of the referendum.

Overview of the Proposed Dissolution Study Process: Referendum

The referendum vote shall be:

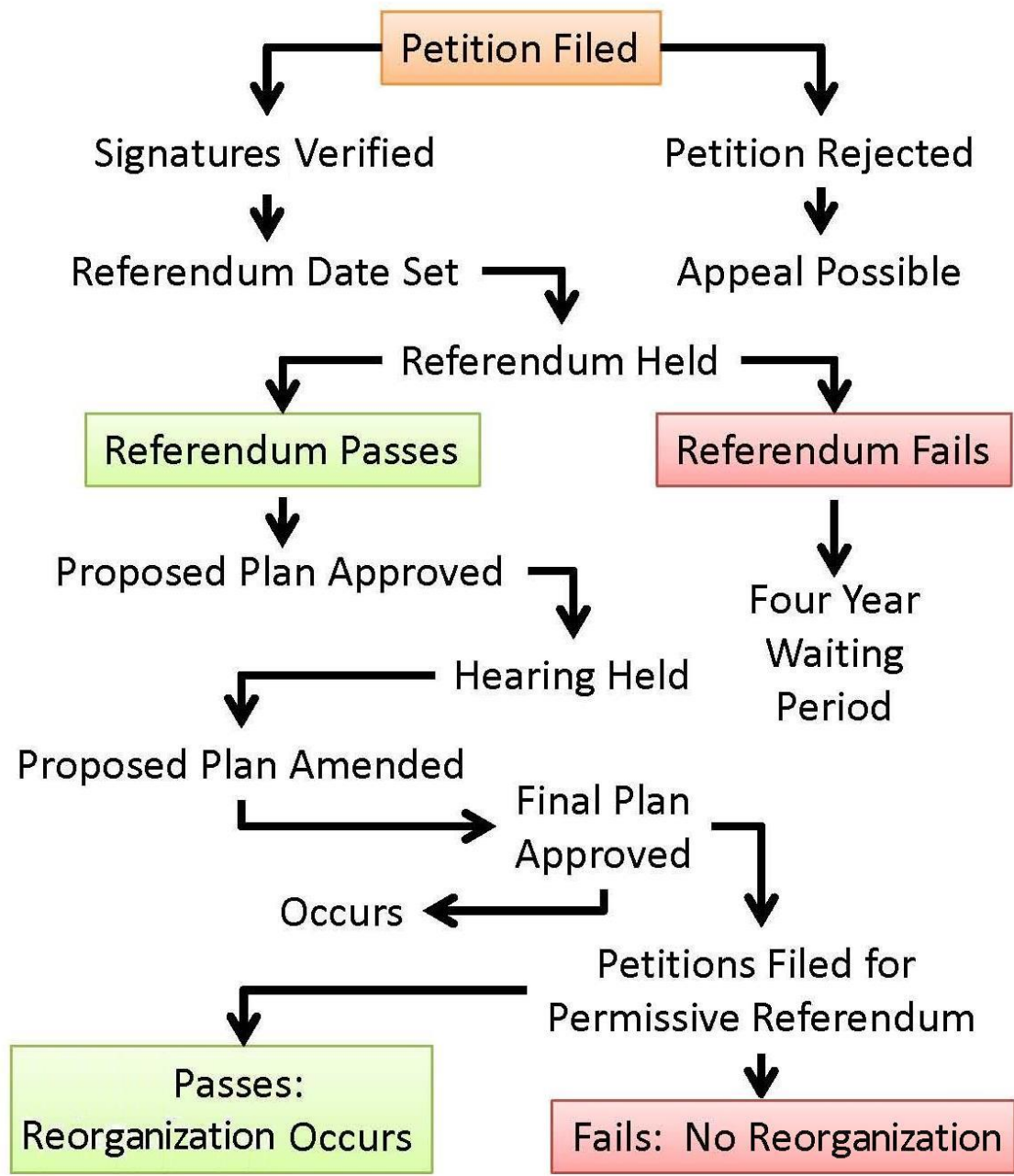
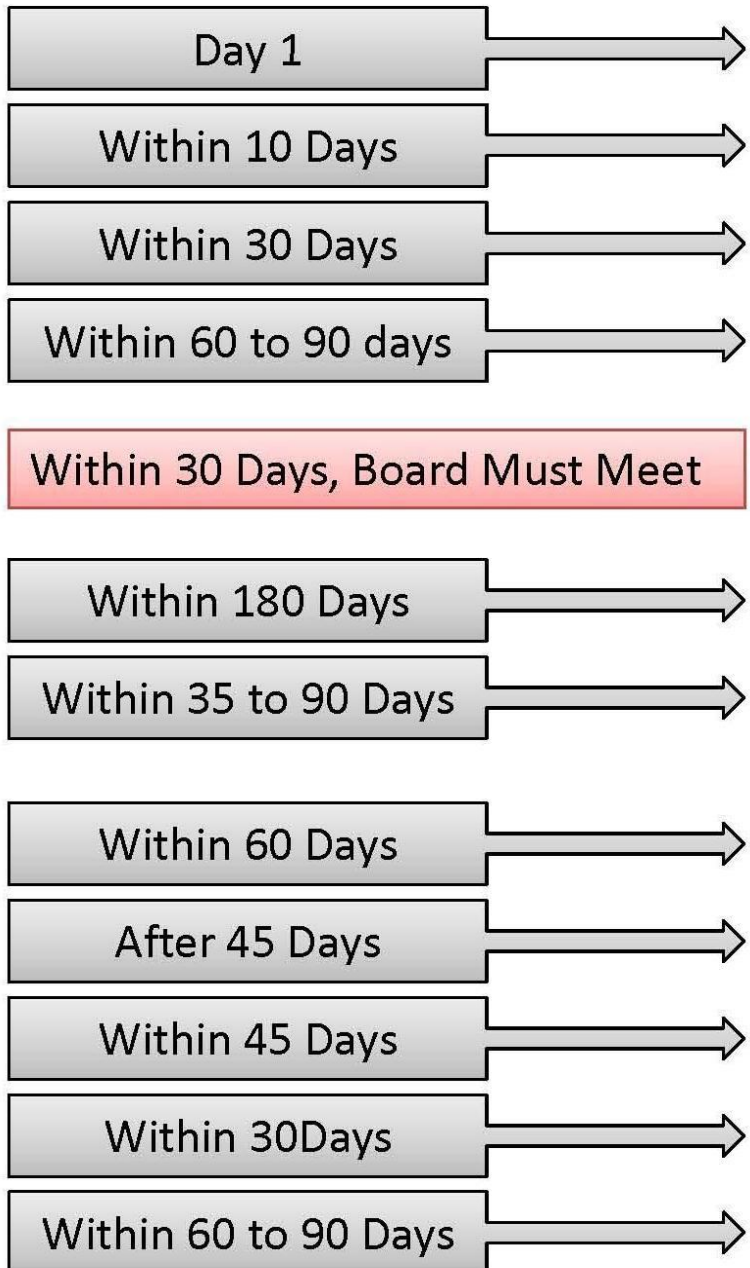
Tuesday, March 12th, 2024 at Village Hall.

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

“Shall the Village of Wolcott be dissolved”

Yes _____ No _____

Voter-Initiated



Overview of the Proposed Dissolution Process After the Referendum

If the vote is “No”

- Dissolution will not take effect; nothing further will occur.
- Dissolution process may not be initiated again for 4 years from the date of the Referendum.
- The Village and Towns may focus on shared services with other entities to reduce costs and improve quality.
- The Village and Towns, or their residents, can still pursue a consolidation, but that is very rare.

Overview of the Proposed Dissolution Process After the Referendum

If the vote is “Yes”, the Village Board:

- Shall meet within 30 days to create a committee & set schedule.
- Shall approve a Dissolution Plan in 180 days or less.
- Shall have one or more public hearings following the approval of the Dissolution Plan (35-90 days after)
- Shall have up to 60 days to **finalize & adopt** the Dissolution Plan based on hearing(s).
- The Final Dissolution Plan is subject to Permissive Referendum (**25% of the electorate**). **THERE IS NOT A GUARANTEED SECOND VOTE.**
- A petition for a second referendum must be submitted within 45 days.

What is an Interim Dissolution Study?

- The *Interim Dissolution Study* is intended to better educate and inform the public of the Dissolution process and potential outcomes.
- The *Study* will summarize a potential new government model of service delivery and identify pros/cons associated with Dissolution.
- The *Study* will provide a potential fiscal impact to both Village and Town residents.
- Information will be shared through public meetings, a pamphlet, the *Interim Dissolution Study* website, and email updates to subscribers.

What is an Interim Dissolution Study?

The *Interim Dissolution Study* includes:

- Summary of Existing Government Services and Functions
- Review of Municipal Services
- Potential Post-Dissolution Conditions
- Listing of Local Laws & Land Use Regulations
- Potential Fiscal Impact: Tax Impact of Dissolution
 - **Option 1:** Projected Tax Impact of Dissolution, with Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit (CETC) Savings
Highly likely to be available and granted upon Dissolution.
 - **Option 2:** Projected Tax Impact of Dissolution, without CETC Savings

What is the Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit?

- An incentive provided by New York State when two local governments consolidate.
- Based on a formula of 15% of the combined property tax levy at the time of local governmental Dissolution.
- **70% must** be used towards the reduction of the tax levy.
- **30% may** be used for further tax reduction or capital improvement projects.

Interim Dissolution Study

Estimated CETC for the Towns of Wolcott and Butler

Municipality	Class	2022 RPT Levy	15% RPT Levy	Total Town Population w/ Village	Village Population	% of Village Pop in Town	Annual Credit Received by Town
Wolcott	Town	\$816,409	\$122,461	4,002	1252	80.5%	\$155,147
Butler	Town	\$492,670	<u>\$73,900</u>	1,832	304	19.5%	\$37,672
Average of 15% of Town Levies			\$98,181				
Wolcott	Village	\$630,921	<u>\$94,638</u>				
Total Credit to be Split between Towns			\$192,819	5,834	1556		\$192,819

Sources: OSC 2022 Property Tax Levy Data and 2020 U.S. Census

Final Dissolution Plan

In the event that the vote passes and Dissolution is to occur, the *Final Dissolution Plan* will give residents an idea of how the Dissolution might affect them:

- Provide an estimate of the cost/benefit of dissolution
- Outline future conditions for delivery of services
- Outline any potential plan for the transfer or elimination of public employee positions
- Discuss how options affect the quality or level of service provided
- Review possible scenarios for the disposition of Village assets, liabilities, and indebtedness

The Village, Towns, and consultant team have begun the process to:

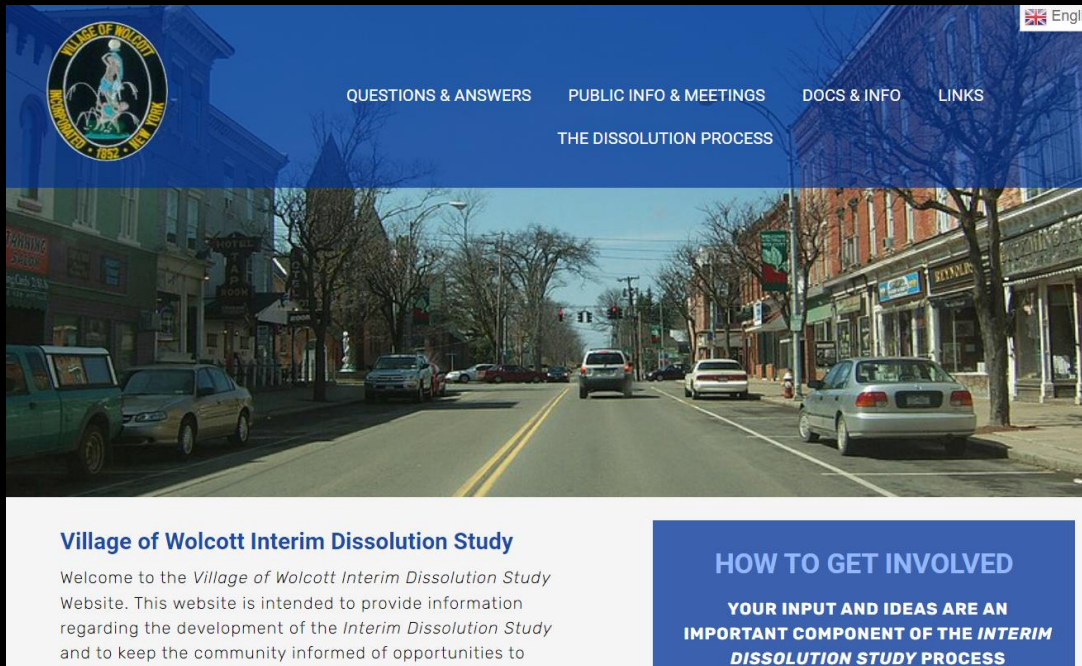
- Collect & analyze data from the Village and Towns, i.e. Budgets, financial reports and inventories of assets, liabilities, personnel, and equipment
- Research options for continuing critical services
- Assess feasibility and general impact of options
 - Is it legally, operationally and politically doable?
 - How is it likely to affect costs and level of service?

Questions/Comments

For More Information...

Interim Dissolution Study Website

www.labergegroup.com/Wolcott



Village of Wolcott Interim Dissolution Study

Welcome to the *Village of Wolcott Interim Dissolution Study* Website. This website is intended to provide information regarding the development of the *Interim Dissolution Study* and to keep the community informed of opportunities to

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

YOUR INPUT AND IDEAS ARE AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THE INTERIM DISSOLUTION STUDY PROCESS

- Access the latest information
- Submit Your Questions
- Sign-up for Email Updates regarding upcoming events and information as it becomes available