



EDITORIAL: Attend Tuesday hearing on village dissolution plan

By Gazette Editorial Board | [September 2, 2022](#)



Whether or not you live in the village of Fort Johnson or the town of Amsterdam, Tuesday's public hearing on a proposed plan to dissolve the village into the town should be of interest to you – especially if you're a taxpayer or a government official interested in more efficient, less expensive government.

a village board vote on the plan the following week and a voter referendum on the dissolution slated for Nov. 15.

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It's very rare that voters in New York support dissolving any type of government body. Whether it be a village into a town or a small school district into a larger one, residents are often hesitant to give up the identity and history associated with their community or school.

Often, the main reason is an emotional attachment. But if residents start thinking like taxpayers and residents who rely on government services, they're likely to consider dissolution more positively.

New York state has nearly 11,000 government entities. Many government boundaries were formed one, two or three centuries ago, when travel was difficult, extended families lived and worked in the same community, and cooperation among governments to provide services was challenging.

Today, having multiple, overlapping governments performing identical services and having employees performing duplicative tasks is inefficient and unnecessarily costly.

Highway crews from a town, for instance, can often easily plow the streets of a nearby village, negating the need for a village to have its own highway crew.

Government administration, record-keeping, planning and emergency services can be handled in many cases more efficiently and less expensively than having multiple governments perform the same tasks.

As people spread out and become busier, it's also more difficult for small communities especially to find people to serve in government positions, as

are needed to serve.

The proposed plan to dissolve Fort Johnson says dissolving the village into the town will preserve or enhance government functions at a lower cost. Fort Johnson also will retain its history and character, and village residents will be able to serve on the town government. It just won't have its own government entity attached to it.

If you want to learn more about the plan and express your views, Tuesday's public hearing is the place to be.

And if you want to read the plan before you go, click here:

<https://vfjny.org/2022/08/05/proposed-village-of-fort-johnson-dissolution-plan-august-2022/>.

If you live in the town or village, you'll definitely be interested in this hearing. You might even if you don't live there.