

# Village of New Paltz, New York

## Dissolution Plan



**Public Informational Meeting #1**  
**January 15, 2025**

# LABERGE GROUP

## MUNICIPAL SOLUTIONS TEAM



**BEN H. SYDEN, AICP**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**KATHLEEN ROONEY**  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
SPECIALIST

# Laberge Group Hands on Experience

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## Development AND implementation of reorganization studies/plans:

- Former Village of Fort Johnson / Town of Amsterdam Dissolution Study/Plan and Implementation, Montgomery County
- Village of Tannersville/Town of Hunter, Greene County, Dissolution Plan
- Village and Town of Lake George, Study of Dissolution, Warren County
- Village of Wolcott/Town of Wolcott, Wayne County, Dissolution Study
- Village of Highland Falls /Town of Highlands Dissolution Study, Orange County
- Former Village of South Nyack / Town of Orangetown Dissolution Plan and Implementation, Rockland County
- Village and Town of Pawling – Consolidation Study, Dutchess County
- Village of Spencer Dissolution Study, Tioga County
- Former Village of Mastic Beach / Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County
- Former Village of Port Henry / Town of Moriah, Essex County
- Former Village of Salem / Town of Salem, Washington County
- Former Village of Van Etten / Town of Van Etten, Chemung County

# INITIATION OF THE PROCESS

- The Village of New Paltz Dissolution process is a board-initiated process.
- **A new Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act** was enacted in 2010 and provides for a revised process:
  - Village Board of Trustees may initiate the process; however, it must study the impacts of dissolution and develop and adopt a proposed plan before holding a referendum by the Village voters.
- Prior to 2010, 39 New York Villages had been dissolved.
- Since 2010, 23 Villages have dissolved – most recent is the Village of Fort Johnson – 12/31/23.
- Since 2010 , **31** Village have voted not to dissolve.

# WHAT IS A DISSOLUTION PLAN?

- A Dissolution Plan must address all the legal requirements outlined in Article 17-A of the NYS General Municipal Law.
- The Plan is non-binding on the Town. Post dissolution all decision making would reside with the Town Board.
- Prior to the Referendum, the Plan provide residents with information of how the Dissolution might impact them:
  - Possible conditions for services and how they will be delivered
  - Estimated impact on property taxes for Village taxpayers
  - Disposition plan for Village's assets & liabilities (with estimated values)
  - Potential Impact Land Use and Zoning
  - Potential Impact on Village Local Laws and Codes
  - Potential plan for the transfer/elimination of employees
  - Proposed Date of Dissolution
  - Estimated transition and implementation costs of dissolution

# BOARD INITIATED DISSOLUTION PLANNING PROCESS

**WE ARE  
HERE**



Collect and Analyze Data & Stakeholder Input

Study the Impacts of Dissolution

Develop Study Document and  
DRAFT Proposed Dissolution Plan

Village Board Endorse  
DRAFT Proposed Dissolution Plan

Hold Public Hearing  
on Proposed Plan

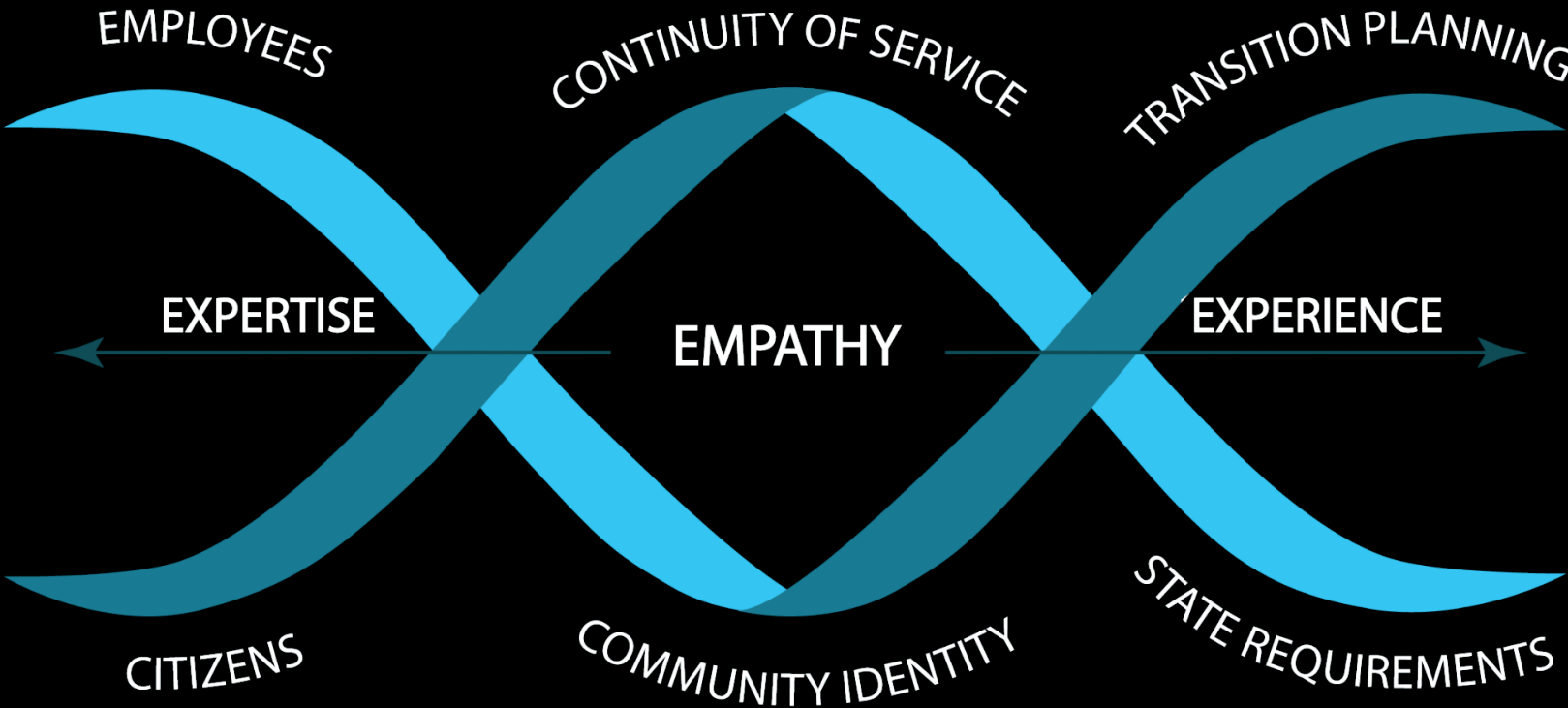
Revise the Proposed  
Dissolution Plan as Needed

Village Board Vote to Stop the Process or Amend/Adopt  
Final Dissolution Plan & Set Referendum Date

**REFERENDUM**

# APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DISSOLUTION PLAN

# DISSOLUTION PLAN DNA





# TEST FOR THE VOTER: DOES IT MAKE SENSE OR CENTS?

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**Governance:** How will the proposed dissolution impact who and how decisions are made related to Village services, land use and codes?

**Fiscal Impact:** Will the proposed dissolution reduce the current Village's costs now or in the future?

**Services and Community Norms:** Will the proposed dissolution:

- Continue/discontinue various Village services?
- Improve the current delivery of Village services?
- Deliver services more efficiently
- Maintain/change Village zoning codes?
- Maintain or change to quality of life codes and their enforcement?

# WHAT VILLAGE RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW

## ABOUT DISSOLUTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- **While Article 17-A call for the Village to develop a Dissolution Plan, it is really not Village issue but a Town issue.**
- **Collaboration with the Town:** Town leadership and staff participating in the process, providing information, will assist in the development of the Plan all aimed at the development of a realistic plan that the Town participated in - though they're NOT obligated to do so.
- **Town Role in Decision to Dissolve:** Town voters do not have a vote in the referendum to dissolve the Village.
- **Plan Development:** If the Village electorate votes yes, the Town will be responsible for managing NEW OBLIGATIONS. With this in mind, the Village and Town are coordinating to determining the “what,” “who,” and “how” services will be provided – SNOW PLOWING | ROADS | STREETLIGHTS | WATER | PARKS | SIDEWALKS.
- **Post Dissolution Town Role in Service Provision:** Upon dissolution, the Town will be responsible for governance, services, local laws and taxing.
- **Realistic Plan Development:** Coordinated development by both Town and Village rather than a Village “wish list.” The Town is NOT BOUND by the plan, but is actively participating to smooth the transition.

# LOCALLY DRIVEN PLANNING PROCESS

The Village is establishing a Steering Committee to provide project oversight and direction and four (4) subject matter inter-governmental workgroups to provide input into the current state and to assist in the development of the elements of the Proposed Dissolution Plan; particularly the post dissolution services, service delivery, staffing and potential fiscal impact.

## Steering Committee

**Land Use  
Planning and  
Zoning  
Workgroup**

**Public Works,  
Water &  
Sewer  
Workgroup**

**Administration,  
Staffing,  
Facilities &  
Fiscal  
Workgroup**

**Village Codes  
and Local  
Laws  
Workgroup**

**Village and Town Government  
Leadership and Department  
Stakeholder Interviews and  
Ongoing Input**

**Public Engagement,  
Input and Feedback**

# PLANNING PROCESS

## PROJECT WORKGROUPS

- Review Data & Analyses
- Propose Preferred Post Dissolution Framework for Services & Service Models
- Provide Input on Post Dissolution Staff and Other Resource Needs
- Strategize Approaches to Integration of Local Laws, Land Use Boards, Equipment, etc.
- Frame Options to Support Smooth Transition

## MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

- Provide Data & Information
- Participate in interviews
- Provide Ongoing Input & Feedback on Current & Potential Post Dissolution Services, Service Delivery and Fiscal Condition
- Identified Key Issues
- Recommend Approaches to Post Dissolution Service and Service Delivery

**COLLABORATION**

**COMMUNICATION**

**LOCAL OWNERSHIP**

# HOW IS THE VILLAGE INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY IN THE PLANNING PROCESS?

## PROACTIVELY ADDRESS CONCERNS

### PUBLIC MEETINGS (2)

- Share facts and dispel misconceptions
- Answer any questions
- building consensus, finding common ground, and collaborating on solutions

### PROJECT WEBSITE

- All documents, meeting notices, and FAQ on the project website
- Website updated weekly
- E-mail notification of website updates

### ON-LINE Q & A

- Forms available online to dialog & address questions & concerns
- Access to objective information on the potential post dissolution conditions

### PUBLIC HEARING

- Hearing held prior to Board vote on final proposed plan
- Public input on dissolution and the proposed plan
- Communicate perspectives, concerns and recommended actions

[www.LabergeGroup.com/NewPaltz](http://www.LabergeGroup.com/NewPaltz)

**TRANSPARENT**

**AVAILABLE**

**ACCESSIBLE**

# WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE REVIEWED & ANALYZED?

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## **Financial Data**

- Annual budgets and historical actual revenues and expenditure by line item
- Property tax bills, property tax rates and taxable assessed values.
- Water & Sewer Rates for village outside the Village users and calculations
- Annual Financial Reports and any audits

## **Assets**

- Village owned property listing: address, S/B/L, Assessed value, market value
- Property, Vehicle and Equipment Insurance Schedules with Values
- Insurance coverage package by category with associated premiums
- Appraisals of Village Property (if available)
- Fund balance, bank accounts balances etc.

## **Liabilities**

- Bonds, BANS, revenue anticipation notes, long term loans, leases or rental agreements including annual debt service schedules & anticipated new debt
- Post-employment benefits i.e., compensated balances, retiree health
- Pending litigation and/or recent settlements or extra ordinary pending tax certiorari cases

# WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE REVIEWED AND ANALYZED?

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## **Employee and Staffing Information**

- List of positions by civil service title, employees, job specs, salaries.
- Employee handbook and /or information on benefits, how they are earned and accrued, overtime rules and rates of pay, holidays and holiday pay.
- Copy of all collective bargaining agreements.
- Copy of health, dental and vision plans for employees and retirees including rates, employee and employer share of premiums & deductibles and co-pays .

## **Other Items**

- Leases/rental agreements (property and equipment), long term agreements/ contracts/easements, intergovernmental agreements and memorandums of understanding.
- Listing of other contracts and review as needed.
- Local laws and Codes.
- Prior studies including appendices.

## **Services and Department Operations**

- Staffing, organizational structure, shifts and service coverage requirements.
- Services provided and service delivery model, roles, equipment & facilities.
- Subject matter specific data, relationships, contracts.

# EMERGING TOPICS AND KEY TOUCHPOINTS

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- **Representation and Voice in Government**
- **Village Identity**
- **Critical Services and Service Delivery**
  - Water and Sewer Services and Rates, including DEP agreements
  - Public Works
  - Fire Service Governance
  - What will happen to Village zoning?
  - Village representation on Town Planning Board and ZBA
  - Workload of combined Planning Board and ZBA
  - Village representation and workload impact
- **What happens to Village local laws and codes?**
- **What will be the property tax Impact for both Village and Town outside Village taxpayers?**
- **How will Village employees be protected?**
- **What will happen to Village property, other assets and liabilities?**



# WHAT HAPPENS TO VILLAGE CODES & LOCAL LAWS?

## GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW (GML) ARTICLE 17-A §774 (K)

All Village local laws or ordinances remain in effect for up to 2 years post dissolution unless repealed or modified by the Town and shall be enforced by the Town within the former Village as if they had been duly adopted by the Town Board.

## VILLAGE ZONING AND OTHER LAND USE CODES

The Land Use Planning and Zoning Workgroup will :

- Compare codes , evaluate possible integration approaches such as “hybrid model”.
- If possible. Identify preferred approach to integration
- Outline critical issues that need to be addressed
- Develop preliminary road map for transition and initial implementation

## OTHER VILLAGE CODES

- Conduct a preliminary side by side review of Village and Town Codes.
- Note possible preliminary actions: 1)Village code is no longer applicable; 2) Village code is unique to Village and should be adopted, 3) Town and Village have the same code and Village code could be repealed; 4) Town and Village codes are similar or potentially in conflict. A review and modifications may be necessary.
- Identify Town local laws that may impact the Village and develop possible options to address.

# WHAT'S INVOLVED IN PROJECTING THE FISCAL IMPACT?

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## I. Village and Town Transition and Implementation Costs

## II. Long Term Structural Fiscal Impacts on Village and Town residents.

- Steering Committee/Workgroup input on post-dissolution services, delivery and costs.
- Shift of Village tax levy to Town-wide & Special District Tax bases and Shift of Town outside Village property tax levy to town-wide tax base.
- Impact of the Citizens Empowerment Tax Credit (CETC).
- Possible Cost Savings from gained efficiencies, elimination of duplication of functions, etc.

Note: Village and Town of New Paltz currently have in place a strong division of labor and history of shared services that have already achieved savings: Fire, Police, Courts, Assessment, Animal Control, Water Treatment, etc.

- Revenue impacts such as elimination of gross receipt tax or potential increases in revenues such as AIM.
- Cost Changes relative to wages, benefits, fees, contractual services, etc.
- Long term Village fiscal liabilities and use of liquidated Village assets.

# Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit (CETC)

CETC is an incentive = to 15% of the Combined Village and Town Tax Levies in the year prior to Dissolution OR \$1,000,000 which every is less. In the case of New Paltz, the CETC is \$1M.

The credit is paid annually in perpetuity to the Town subject to NYS appropriations.

Village 2024/2025 Levy\*     \$ 1,566,233  
 Town 2025 Levy\*             \$ 12,360,324  
 Combined Levies \$ 13,926,557

*\* 24-25 Village Budget and 25 Town Budget*

Village of New Paltz and the Town of New Paltz		
Estimated Citizens Empowerment Tax Credit		
<b>Maximum CETC for Tax Reduction</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>Minimum CETC for Tax Reduction</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>
<b>Maximum CETC -Discretionary</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>
1. CETC is ongoing annual payment contingent upon annual New York State appropriations as is most State Aid. 2. The final CETC equals 15% of the combined tax levies in the year prior to dissolution OR \$1M; whichever is less.		

# ACTIVITIES TO DATE & NEXT STEPS

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## To date:

- Initial Request for Information from both the Village and Town.
- Established dedicated Website: [www.LabergeGroup.com/NewPaltz](http://www.LabergeGroup.com/NewPaltz)
- Established a FAQ process for public engagement.
- Met with the Village Mayor on 1/7 and with the Town Supervisor 1/13.
- Initial Public Informational Meeting (tonight).

## January/February Next Steps :

- Establish and convene joint Steering Committee and Village-Town Subject Matter Workgroups.
- Analyze data collected.
- Conduct key Village and Town stakeholder interviews.
- Develop summary of the current state and document identified possible post dissolution conditions.

# What is the Tentative Process Timeline?

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## **First Public Information Session**

Jan 2025

Data analysis and stakeholder interviews

Jan - Feb 2025

Steering Committee & Subject matter workgroups  
Establish Dissolution Plan Framework & Content

Jan – April 2025

## **Second Public Information Meeting**

April 2025

Draft Plan and Revisions

May 2025

Village Board Vote on Endorsement of  
Proposed Plan

Early June 2025

**Public Hearing** on Proposed Dissolution Plan

Early July, 2025

Make Plan Revisions & Village Board **Approves**  
**Final Proposed Plan Or Decides to End Process**

**August 6, 2025**

**Referendum** ( 60 – 90 days from the adoption  
Of the Final Proposed Plan by the Board of Trustees)

Nov 4, 2025

# WHAT HAPPENS POST 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.
- Village to address issues with recruitment of candidates for elected Village Offices.
- Village and Town may focus on shared services with other entities to reduce costs and improve quality.
- The Village and Town or their residents can still pursue a consolidation, but that is very rare.

# WHAT HAPPENS POST REFERENDUM?

## If the vote is “Yes”,

- Dissolution will occur on date set in the Dissolution Plan.
- Village will wind down Village Operations.
  - Transfer Properties & Sell and Liquidate Remaining Assets.
- Town will take steps to ramp up expanded operations.
  - Prepare Post Dissolution Budget.
  - Arrange for necessary staffing and equipment.
  - Create potential special districts such as Water District and Lighting Districts.
- Town and Village Continue Coordination to Assure for a Smooth Transition
  - If necessary, establish Inter-municipal Agreements (IMAs) for the provision of bridge services prior to dissolution.

# Q&A FOLLOWING THIS PRESENTATION

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To allow time for the maximum number of attendees to participate:

- Please limit your question to 3 minutes.
- Questions will be answered on a first-come / first served basis.
- If we run out of time to address all questions, we will post the Questions / Comments link again at the end of the Q&A session so that you can ask your question there.
- To provide the greatest opportunity for the largest number of community members to be heard, please refrain from asking a question that has already asked.

[www.LabergeGroup.com/NewPaltz](http://www.LabergeGroup.com/NewPaltz)



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ARCHITECTURE



Group  
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PLANNING

*Thank you!*

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUE  
PARTNERING WITH YOU  
ON THIS IMPORTANT ENDEAVOR