

Village of Tannersville, New York

Dissolution Study and Plan



PUBLIC MEETING – APRIL 15, 2024

LABERGE GROUP

MUNICIPAL SOLUTIONS EXPERTS



BEN H. SYDEN, AICP
VICE PRESIDENT



KATHLEEN A. ROONEY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SPECIALIST



HANDS ON EXPERIENCE

Laberge Group is well versed in the **development AND implementation of GML Article 17-A reorganization studies/plans** :

- Former Village of Fort Johnson / Town of Amsterdam Dissolution Study/Plan and Implementation, Montgomery County
- Village and Town of Lake George, Study of Dissolution, Warren County
- Village of Wolcott/Town of Wolcott, Wayne County
- 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

WHAT IS A DISSOLUTION STUDY/PLAN?

- A Dissolution Plan must address all the legal requirements outlined in Article 17-A of the GM
- 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 them:
 - Possible conditions for services and how they will be delivered
 - Estimated impact on property taxes for Village taxpayers
 - Disposition of Village's assets & liabilities
 - Potential Impact Land Use and Zoning
 - Potential Impact on Other Village Local Laws and Codes
 - Potential plan for the transfer/elimination of employees
 - Proposed Date of Dissolution

DISTINCTION BETWEEN DISSOLUTION AND CONSOLIDATION

	Dissolution	Consolidation
Definition	Termination of the Village	Creation of a new Town Government
Voting	Village voters only	Village voters and Town Voters
Process	Village develops the dissolution plan; however, Town government will make all decisions post dissolution.	Village and Town negotiate and execute a consolidation agreement prior to the vote.

INITIATION OF THE PROCESS

- The Village of Tannersville 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.

BOARD INITIATED DISSOLUTION PROCESS

We are Here 



COMMUNITY-CENTRIC APPROACH

CUSTOMIZED SOLUTION

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

CUSTOMIZED SOLUTION FOR THE VILLAGE OF TANNERSVILLE:

- Village and Town Stakeholder Driven Study and Plan Development.
- Safeguarding Community / Hamlet Identity.
- Provision of Services reflecting community values.
- Community-Specific Transition Strategies.
 - Potential Need for Creation of Special Taxation Districts for Village-Specific Services.
 - Employees.
 - Maintaining Priority Services.
- Incorporating Input from Public Engagement Efforts.

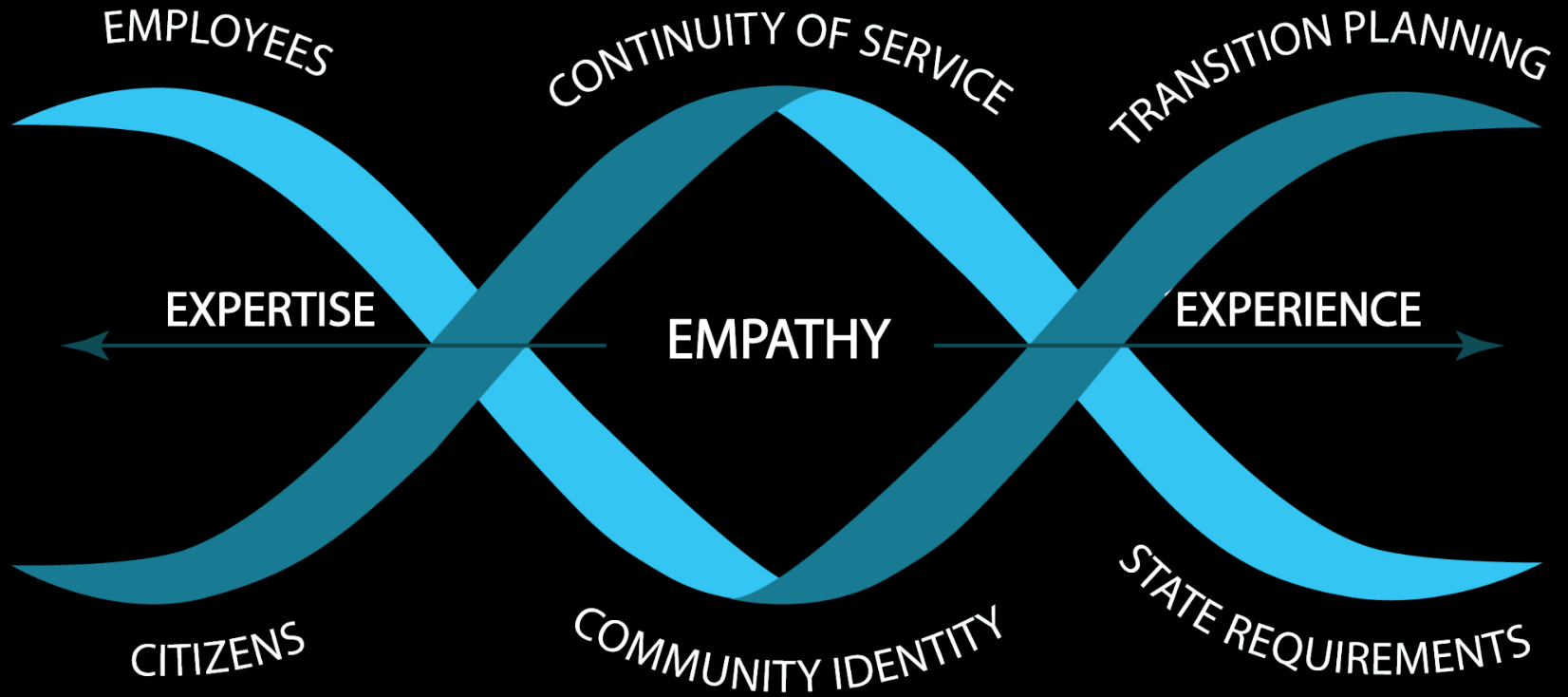
COMMUNITY-CENTRIC APPROACH

CUSTOMIZED SOLUTION

TREPIDATION & CONCERNS REGARDING:

- COMMUNITY IDENTITY
- REPRESENTATION
- SERVICE DELIVERY & CONTINUITY
 - SEWER SERVICES
 - WATER SERVICES, ASSETS & RATES
 - SIDEWALK SNOW CLEARING
 - STREETLIGHTS
 - FIRE SERVICES
- FISCAL IMPACT TO TANNERSVILLE TAXPAYER
- VILLAGE EMPLOYEES

DISSOLUTION STUDY/PLAN DNA



EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*WORK **CLOSELY** WITH THE COMMUNITY
PROACTIVELY ADDRESS CONCERNS*

PUBLIC MEETINGS (3)

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

PROJECT WEBSITE AND ON-LINE Q & A

- Forms available online to dialog and address questions and concerns
- All documents and FAQ on the project website
- Website updated weekly
- E-mail notification of website updates

PRE- REFERENDUM BROCHURE

- Additional public access to objective information on the potential post dissolution conditions

www.LabergeGroup.com/Tannersville

TRANSPARENT

AVAILABLE

ACCESSIBLE

VILLAGE & TOWN STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

DATA COLLECTION, INTERVIEWS, INFORMATION EXCHANGE & WORK SESSIONS

- Ongoing communication with Village and Town leadership and staff.
- Collaborate with Village and Town staff on data collection and analysis.
- Conduct interviews with Village and Town representatives, key staff and stakeholders.
- Conduct Joint Village-Town subject matter working sessions.
- Provide ongoing input & feedback on current services, service delivery and fiscal condition.
- Identify key issues.
- Seek and provide input on potential post dissolution services, service delivery and & fiscal impacts.

COLLABORATION

COMMUNICATION

LOCAL OWNERSHIP

DISSOLUTION PLAN PROGRESS TO DATE

- Held kick-off meeting with Village leadership to establish process
- Working with Village and Town staff on data collection & analysis
- Establish dedicated Website: www.LabergeGroup.com/Tannersville
- Established a FAQ process for the public
- Interviewed Village department representatives
 - Village Clerk/Treasurer
 - Highway Supervisor
 - Chief Water Operator
 - Village Engineer
 - Village Justice (4/16)
 - Fire Commissioner, Joint Fire District
 - ZBA Chair
- Setting Up Interviews with Town Department representatives
- Identifying Key Issues

EMERGING TOPICS AND KEY TOUCHPOINTS

- **Representation and Voice in Government**
- **Village Identity**
- **Critical Services**
 - **Water and Water Rates**
 - **DEP Sewer Services continued at no cost**
 - **Public Works - snow plowing of roads, sidewalks, public lots, etc.**
 - **Fire Services**
 - **Code Enforcement**
- **Continued Focus on Village Community Development & Grants**
 - **Downtown Revitalization Initiative**
 - **Lake Front and Beach Improvement**
 - **Maintenance and operation of Village Parks and Public Spaces**
 - **Continued investment in water system assets**
- **Village Zoning and Other Quality of Life Local Laws and Ordinances**

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 that is paid annually in perpetuity to the Town.

Village 2023/2024 Levy \$ 447,984
Town 2024 Levy \$ 2,754,851

Village of Tannersville and the Town of Hunter		
Estimated Citizens Empowerment Tax Credit		
Maximum CETC for Tax Reduction	100%	\$480,425
Minimum CETC for Tax Reduction	70%	\$336,298
Maximum CETC -Discretionary	30%	\$144,128
<p><i>1. CETC is contingent upon annual New York State appropriations and is not a guarantee.</i></p> <p><i>2. Calculations based on 2023-2024 Village Levy and 2024 Town Tax Levy. The final CETC is based on the municipal budgets in the year prior to dissolution.</i></p>		
<p><i>Source: Village of Tannersville 2023-2024 Adopted Budget and 2024 Town of Hunter Adopted Budget</i></p>		

WHERE ARE WE GOING FROM HERE?

Preliminary Timeline

Second Public Informational Meeting	June 2024
Draft Plan to Village Board of Trustees	July 2024
Village Board Vote on Endorsement of Proposed Plan & Set Date for Referendum	July/ Aug 2024
Third Public Informational & Public Hearing	Aug/Sept 2024
Make Plan Revisions & Village Board Approves Plan Or Decides to End Process	Sept 2024
Hold Referendum (no less than 60 days & not more than 90 days from the date Board called for the Referendum)	Late Fall 2024

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 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.

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

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/Tannersville

Laberge
ENGINEERING
ARCHITECTURE



Group
SURVEYING
PLANNING

Thank you!

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