

Clarification on the Dissolution Study and Planning Process

There have been a number of questions regarding the Dissolution Study and Planning process as well as the reason behind undertaking this process. The aim of this information sheet is to help clarify both.

The decision whether to dissolve the Village of Tannersville is a decision that can only be made by the voters of the Village of Tannersville. NYS Law sets forth two ways for the Village voters to consider dissolution: 1) citizen initiated and 2) board initiated. Both require the voters to decide.

Background for Undertaking the Village Dissolution Study and Planning Process

Over the past year, there has been considerable community discussion on the topic of dissolution and a Citizen-Initiated Petition calling for a referendum on Village dissolution was circulating among Village residents. If a citizen-initiated petition had been signed by 20% of Village registered voters and submitted, the Board would have been required by NYS Law to hold a referendum on dissolution. The Citizen-Initiated process has a very tight mandated timeframe (3-4 months), and no requirement for any study prior to the vote to provide information on the potential impacts a dissolution might have. For that reason, the Village Board opted to undertake a Board-Initiated Study and Planning Process with the goals of:

- Undertaking a study and planning process to provide information for residents to consider before voting in the referendum.
- Giving the voters more time to consider this important decision before they vote.

The Board-Initiated Study and Planning Process

- Develop a detailed proposed plan that lays out impartial information about the possible effects of a potential dissolution for voters to consider before they vote on dissolution.
- Board votes whether to accept an initial proposed dissolution plan for review and input from the public and calls for a public hearing.
- Hold a public hearing to seek public input on the proposed plan and the subject of dissolution.
- After the public hearing, the Board has the option to stop the process **or** to amend and adopt a final plan of dissolution and call for a referendum so that Village voters can vote on dissolution. This is **not** the board voting on dissolution. It is a vote to call for a referendum and to adopt a final plan for how dissolution might be implemented **only if** the Village residents were to vote that they want to dissolve the Village.
- The public referendum is held on a single question. Village residents vote: "Should the Village of Tannersville dissolve? Yes ___ or No ___."

If the issue goes to a referendum and is voted down, dissolution cannot be brought back up for 4 years.

If the Village Board chooses to end the process prior to the referendum it may do so, but the 4 year prohibition against a Citizen-Initiated process would not apply.