

VILLAGE OF SCHUYLERVILLE

Village Dissolution Study Committee

February 22, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The sixth meeting of the committee appointed to study dissolution was held on Monday, February 22, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the Village Municipal Center.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Michael Fay followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Present were Joan Alheim, Margaret Chiperno, Leona Colvin, Jean Driscoll, Michael Fay, Wendy Lukas, James Miers and Charles Sherman. Absent were Margaret Ditch, Michael Hughes and Robert Stokes. There was a village resident and a reporter representing The Post Star in attendance. Committee member Jean Driscoll scribed the minutes.

The first order of business was to introduce new member Leona Colvin who was recently appointed by the Village Board to replace Roger Sherman who resigned.

Minutes of the January 25, 2010 meeting were submitted for approval. A few minor changes were requested: the spelling of James Miers' name and references to the meeting on March 3, 2010 should note it as a "public meeting" and not a "public hearing". Margaret Chiperno made the motion that the minutes be approved subject to these changes, Wendy Lukas seconded.

It was reported that Tim Weidemann, representing Fairweather Consulting and Mayor John Sherman met with the Town Board on Thursday, February 11th prior to their agenda meeting. The one-hour presentation served as an introduction of the consulting firm to the Town of Saratoga Board. The presentation was similar to the one they will present to the public at the public kick off meeting on Wednesday, March 3rd at The American Legion. The Town of Saratoga Board asked several questions just as the public will have an opportunity to do at the 'kick-off' meeting.

Each Committee member received copies of the press releases and the meeting notices that Fairweather worked up with regard to the March 3rd public meeting. The Village Board objected to the wording in the original draft press release. Charles Sherman, one of the representatives of the Village Board on the committee, said that he never received a draft copy prior to the Village Meeting on Wednesday, February 9th. Subsequent to the Village Board's objections, Fairweather Consulting redrafted the notice to be what they considered to be a simple and neutral meeting notice. "This simplified notice was not sent to the Village Board for review prior to publication due to the need of a 10-day lead time. If the notice didn't go out, the public meeting would have had to have been rescheduled. Leona Colvin felt that 'dissolution committee' was misleading and that all reference should be to 'dissolution study committee'. This and other concerns were discussed so that they could be documented and presented to Fairweather Consulting for future consideration. Meeting notices were sent to The Saratogian, The Post-Star, Manchester Free Press, Saratoga Today and the Albany Times Union and a special flyer was inserted in the Manchester Free Press for the Schuylerville, Victory and Town of Saratoga area.

James Miers, also representing the Village Board on the Committee, stated that the Village Board's concern with regard to approving all press releases was so that any wording would be a generalization and not take a particular slant such as being 'for or 'against'. Co-Chair Wendy Lukas stated that it was the dissolution study committee's responsibility to announce/publicize all meetings/hearings. In addition, the contract with the consulting firm does not state that the Village Board must approve meeting notices – only Public Hearing notices. Never the less, the Committee will try to be more aware of the Board's concerns in the working of future documents. Each member was given a copy of the contract between the Village Board and Fairweather for future reference.

The study committee's responsibilities were reviewed. Charles Sherman stated it was his understanding that the Committee was only responsible for producing a feasibility study and that the Village Board would then put together the plan that would be put to the public for a vote. Michael Fay clarified that the Dissolution Study Committee, with the help of the consulting firm, are charged with evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of dissolving the village and developing a dissolution plan. The Dissolution Study Committee is required to provide this plan to the

Village Board at the conclusion of the study. The Village Board will then have the opportunity to either approve it or make minor adjustments to it before being put before the public for a vote in March, 2011.

A question was asked pertaining to Village zoning and planning: 'Would the Village's Zoning Laws stay in place or be assimilated into the Town's?' Wendy Lukas stated that this was discussed at the Town's Agenda meeting and Tim Weidemann stated if the Village dissolved, the Town would have to honor the Village's laws, including zoning, for two years but after that time period had elapsed, the Town could revise the zoning laws. Michael Fay stated that that his understanding was that if the Town Board takes no action, the zoning laws would remain in effect for up to a maximum of two years although the Town Board could change the laws at any time, including immediately after dissolution.

The Village of Schuylerville Dissolution Study website, developed by Fairweather, is in operation. Wendy Lukas stated that the audio taping of the dissolution study meetings would also be featured on the website as will all materials which will be available to the general public. Anyone who wants to comment on the website will be required to register before they post any comments. Leona Colvin expressed her concerns regarding the audio taping of meetings being recorded but also that the recordings were being made available to the public on the Fairweather website. She was not opposed to posting written minutes as they were a matter of public record but she wondered whether Committee members might be reluctant to speak their mind when an audio recording was being made and then made available to the public. No other members indicated that they shared the same concern. There were no additional comments.

Committee members agreed that at the March 3rd public 'kick-off' meeting, Fairweather Consulting will take the lead. They will be using a Powerpoint presentation similar to that which was used to at the initial meeting with the Dissolution Study Committee. It was agreed to ask if

Mayor Sherman wished to introduce the Committee members and consultants. There will be opportunity for public comment and questions during the meeting.

Stenographer services were discussed relative to the public 'kick-off' meeting as well as for regular meetings. Anna Welfrey, the Village Clerk, has found someone to record the public meeting at a cost of \$150.00 plus \$10.00 per page. A \$5,000 appropriation has been set aside by the Village Board to cover secretarial services, copying, attorney fees and printing for the dissolution study. The Village will also be posting a job opening for a secretarial position and it will be advertised in the Saratogian on February 26th – 28th. The cost for this advertisement is \$150. Their primary duty is to take minutes of the regular Dissolution Study Committee meetings and file them in the appropriate time limit.

With no other items to be considered, Charles Sherman made the motion to adjourn, Wendy Lukas seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

March Meetings (2):

Wednesday, March 3rd - Public 'Kick-off' Meeting at 7:00 PM, The American Legion, 6 Clancy Street, Schuylerville, NY.

Monday, March 22nd - Regular meeting, Village Municipal Center at 7:00 PM