



# Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council

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## Town and Village of Pike Dissolution Study

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The Village of Pike, located within the Town of Pike in Wyoming County, New York, undertook a dissolution study in 2007. Funded by a grant obtained through New York State's Shared Municipal Services Incentive (SMSI) program, this Dissolution Study assessed the impact of the Village's dissolution on the community of Pike.

The potential dissolution of the Village had been a topic of discussion among the community since 2000. Incorporated in 1848, the Village of Pike was for many years a local manufacturing and commercial center. In recent decades the Village has suffered from the loss of industry and residents. The general consensus among the Village's residents is that the Village is an outdated form of government that should be dissolved.

A preliminary assessment of the Village's governance system indicated that the dissolution of the Village will remove a burdensome layer of local government that lacks support from its constituents, cannot effectively provide public services, and was no longer necessary for the delivery of those services.

The Village Board formed a Study Committee composed of interested citizens, Village officials, Town officials, and Fire Department officials to oversee the project and apply their knowledge and expertise to the study. Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council provided guidance and technical support for the study process. The study process resulted in a detailed "Service Inventory Report" and a "Dissolution Plan" for the Village.

Please click here for maps of the proposed Special District boundaries:

- [Map 1: Water District](#)
- [Map 2: Streetlight District](#)
- [Map 3: Sidewalk District](#)

Please click here for the [Services Inventory Report](#)

Please click here for the [Village of Pike Dissolution Plan](#)

Please click here for a summary of Fire Districts and Fire Protection Districts [Organizing for Fire Protection](#)

The Village Board of Trustees adopted the proposed Dissolution Plan at its regular meeting on Monday, February 4, 2008. The dissolution vote was held on Tuesday, March 18, 2008. At that time the village residents voted in favor of dissolution. According to the Mayor of Pike, a total of 36 votes were cast; 31 in favor of dissolution, 5 opposed to dissolution. 86% of the votes cast were in favor of dissolution, 14% of the votes were opposed to it.

No further Study Committee meetings are scheduled at this time. The Village Board would like to thank all members of the Study Committee for their time and commitment to this project.

**Comments and Questions** about this project may be sent to Joe Bovenzi at G/FLRPC by Mail Electronic Mail, or Facsimile. Please see below for contact information.

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Last Modified: April 29, 2008

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# Village of Pike Services Inventory Report

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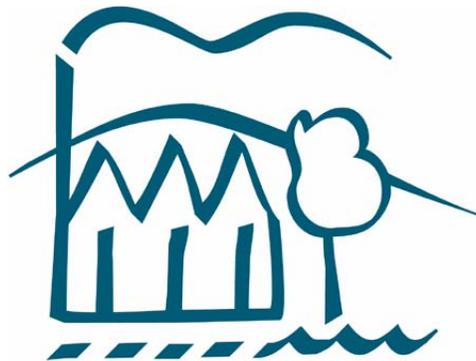
January 15, 2008

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*This document was prepared for the Board of Trustees of the Village of Pike, Wyoming County, New York by the Pike Dissolution Study Committee, with the assistance of Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council.*

**January 2008**



**GENESEE/FINGER LAKES**  
Regional Planning Council

**50 West Main Street, Suite 8107  
Rochester, New York 14614**

**Mission Statement:**

Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC) will identify, define and inform its member counties of issues and opportunities critical to the physical, economic and social health of the region. G/FLRPC provides forums for discussion, debate and consensus building and develops and implements a focused action plan with clearly defined outcomes, which include programs, personnel and funding.

Village of Pike Services Inventory Report

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## Introduction

The Village of Pike, located within the Town of Pike in Wyoming County, New York, obtained a grant of \$83,700.00 from New York State through the State's Shared Municipal Services Initiative (SMSI) program to conduct a village dissolution study. This grant was secured in the 2006-2007 round of SMSI grant awards. The Town and Village were the joint applicants for this project, the total cost of which is \$93,000.00. The Town and Village agreed to split the cost of the grant's required ten percent local share (10% of 93,000.00 or \$9,300.00) equally between them. The intent of this project was to research the potential dissolution of the Village of Pike to determine the feasibility of dissolving the Village and what benefits would accrue to the community by doing so.

The potential dissolution of the Village has been a topic of discussion among the community since 2000. Incorporated in 1848, the Village of Pike was for many years a local manufacturing and commercial center. In recent decades the Village has suffered from the loss of industry and residents. Today, the general consensus among the Village's residents is that the Village is an outdated form of government that should be dissolved.

After receiving notification that it had received the grant, the Village Board and Attorney engaged the services of Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC), which had previous experience in preparing dissolution studies, to assist it with the preparation of its own dissolution report and plan. As required by law, the Village Board formed a Study Committee composed of Village officials, Town officials, Pike Volunteer Fire Department officials, and interested citizens to investigate the dissolution process and assist G/FLRPC staff with compiling and interpreting all information required for a thorough and accurate dissolution study.

The results of that investigation are encapsulated within this "Service Inventory Report." **Part A** of this report lists and describes all services and functions currently provided by the Village of Pike. It provides an assessment of the potential post-dissolution arrangements for the continued delivery of some of these services. Lastly, it provides recommendations on what changes should be made to improve Village operations if the village's residents decide to retain the Village.

**Part B** of this report contains an assessment of the Village's and Town's current and potential post-dissolution financial conditions. This assessment was prepared by reviewing current Town and Village revenues and expenditures, developing a potential post-dissolution budget, and then calculating what the tax rates per \$1000.00 of real property would have to be in order to raise sufficient funds to maintain current service levels. This assessment indicates that dissolving the Village will result in a reduction of the local tax levy.

Lastly, **Part C** contains maps of the three proposed Special Districts that the Town of Pike is planning to form following the dissolution of the Village. These maps were prepared by the Village's Study Committee and represent what the Village sees as the optimum post-dissolution arrangement. These districts will provide water supply services, sidewalk maintenance services, and street lighting services to the former Village and will be funded through fees/taxes levied on the properties within their boundaries.

A review of the Services Inventory Report indicates that the closely-knit community of Pike functions essentially as one municipality. Informal agreements between the Town and Village cover a wide range of public services, ranging from the operation of the justice courts to snow plowing on Village streets, while many other positions, such as the Town and Village historian and the Town and Village attorney, are currently filled by the same person. The Village is only able to operate with the support and

## Village of Pike Services Inventory Report

goodwill of the Town. The extensive overlap between the two units of government raises critical questions: since the Village does not operate as an independent municipality, why should it remain? What benefits do the residents, and taxpayers, of the Village obtain from having the Village in place? Can local government operations in Pike be streamlined and improved as a result of dissolving the Village? These and many other related questions were discussed by the Study Committee during its work.

The information presented in this report indicates that the dissolution of the Village will remove a burdensome layer of local government that lacks support from its constituents, cannot effectively provide public services, and is no longer necessary for the delivery of those services.

This Services Inventory Report, prepared in accordance with the requirements of Village Law Article 19, Section 19-1901, lists all functions and services performed and provided by the Village of Pike. It is organized so that each topic in the Table of Contents features an assessment of its current conditions, the recommended post-dissolution conditions, and lastly a review of what will happen should the Village remain intact. The information in this report was used as the basis of the recommendations in the Village's Dissolution Plan.

**PART A: SERVICES INVENTORY**

**Section A.1: Village Mayor and Board.**

<b>Current Conditions:</b>	The Village is governed by a Mayor and a Village Board consisting of two trustees. The Mayor and trustees are elected to two year terms. They Mayor and Trustees are responsible for overseeing all Village operations, including finances, staff, and the use of Village property and equipment.
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	The office of Mayor would be abolished. The Village Board would also be abolished. All functions and responsibilities of the Mayor and Board will be abolished. All property, buildings, equipment, etc. owned by the Village will be handed over to the Town. The exception to this will be buildings and equipment used by the Fire Department for firefighting, which will be transferred to either the Pike Fire District or the Town of Pike should the Town choose to create a Fire Protection District (see Section A.8 for more information). The Village has no debt other than an outstanding amount owed for the recently reconstructed public water system. The water system’s outstanding debt will be paid off by the users of that system, so no debt obligations will be transferred to the Town.
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	The office of Mayor would remain, as would the Trustee positions. The Mayor and trustees would continue to perform their responsibilities.

**Section A.2: Village Public Works Department.**

<b>Current Conditions:</b>	<p>The Village Mayor currently serves as the Village Public Works Superintendent. There is no officially constituted “Public Works Department.” The Village employs a part-time maintenance person who performs basic maintenance services on Village infrastructure, such as mowing in the summer and clearing snow from sidewalks in the winter. The Village also employs a meter reader who checks water usage for each property linked to the public water supply. The Village owns a small snowplow that it uses for clearing snow from sidewalks in the winter.</p> <p>There is general dissatisfaction among many Village residents as to the current level of service; the Village does not possess the resources to make significant improvements to service delivery.</p>
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	<p>The Public Works Department would be dissolved; the positions of Public Works Superintendent and any/all employees would also be abolished.</p> <p>The Town Highway Department would take on all functions of the Public Works Department. The Village’s part-time employee will transfer over to the Town and become a Highway Department employee in order to continue providing mowing/sidewalk plowing services. In addition, the Village’s meter reader will also become an employee of the Town, working under the Highway Department. All equipment owned by the Village and used for sidewalk maintenance will be turned over to the Town, specifically the Town Highway Department, at no cost.</p>

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<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	General dissatisfaction with the current state of service delivery means that it would be difficult for the Village to continue on as before. The Village should, at the least, officially merge its Public Works Department with the Town Highway Department. If not, a larger investment of time and money would be required by Village taxpayers to improve the quality of Public Works services.
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**Section A.3: Village Clerk/Treasurer & Deputy Clerk.**

<b>Current Conditions:</b>	<p>The Village employs a part-time Clerk/Treasurer and a Deputy Clerk. The Clerk/Treasurer is not currently a resident of the Village and is serving in this position with the understanding that the Village is actively pursuing the dissolution option.</p> <p>The Deputy Clerk retired from the Village before returning specifically to handle water billing tasks.</p>
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	<p>The positions of Clerk/Treasurer and Deputy Clerk will be abolished. The Town employs a Clerk and Deputy Clerk who will take on all functions currently handled by the Village clerks.</p> <p>The Village's Deputy Clerk, who handles all water billing activities, will become an employee of the Town and continue to handle the water billing.</p> <p>In accordance with Village Law Section 19-1906, all paper and electronic files belonging to the Village will be deposited with the Town Clerk and become part of the Town's records.</p>
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	The Village would have to find a new Village Clerk, a task which in the past has proved extremely difficult due to lack of interest in the position.

**Section A.4: Village Attorney.**

<b>Current Conditions:</b>	The Village retains an attorney to handle all its legal affairs. The current Village Attorney also serves as the Town Attorney and is the municipal attorney for a number of other towns and villages in Wyoming County.
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	The position of Village Attorney will be abolished. The Town will continue to retain the same attorney.
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	The Village Attorney's position will remain; no changes are expected.

<b>Section A.5: Village Historian.</b>	
<b>Current Conditions:</b>	The current Village Historian also serves as the Town Historian. Every municipality in New York State is required to designate an official historian, pursuant to New York State Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, Section 57.07.
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	The position of Village Historian would be abolished. However, because the current Village Historian will continue in her role as the Town Historian, the effect will be to simply combine two official but essentially identical positions into one official position. The dissolution of the Village will have no effect on the Historian’s routine activities.
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	The Village Historian’s position will remain, but the Village should probably enter into a formal agreement with the Town that states that the Town Historian will also serve as the Village Historian.

<b>Section A.6: Village Land Use Regulations.</b>	
<b>Current Conditions:</b>	The Village has no Comprehensive Plan. The Village’s Zoning Ordinance was last updated in 1966.
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	The Town of Pike’s recently developed Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Law can be easily updated to include the former Village territory. When the Town prepared a new Comprehensive Plan, it intentionally designed it so that if the Village were to dissolve, the Town Planning Board can easily and quickly update the Comprehensive Plan to include the area within the former Village.  If the Village votes to dissolve, the Town Planning Board will work on updating the Comprehensive Plan to include land within the Village. Following this, the Zoning Law will be revised where necessary. The Town Board will consider forming a special “hamlet” zoning district to address land uses within the former Village. This new district will allow the Town to effectively oversee land use issues within the former Village without impacting low density and agricultural development and land use outside the former Village.
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	The Village will have to revise and update its Zoning Law, which could include the preparation of an “Official Map,” and develop a Comprehensive Plan as a basis of that Zoning Law. These activities would necessitate a considerable expense and time commitment for the Village taxpayers.

<b>Section A.7: Village Planning &amp; Zoning Boards.</b>	
<b>Current Conditions:</b>	The Village’s Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals have never met, at least not in the memory of anyone currently involved in Village governance. The Mayor currently serves as the Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO).
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	The Village Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals would be officially abolished.

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	The Town of Pike’s Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals would oversee the application and enforcement of land use regulations within the former Village. The Town’s ZEO would oversee zoning enforcement in the territory of the former village.
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	The Village would have to either hire a ZEO or enter into a formal agreement with the Town to use the services of the Town’s ZEO. The Village would also have to constitute a Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals of five members each, all at a considerable cost to Village taxpayers.

**Section A.8: Fire Protection Services.**

<b>Current Conditions:</b>	<p>The Pike Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., currently provides fire protection services to the Village and Town of Pike. The Town contracts with the Village to obtain these services for the area of the Town outside the Village.</p> <p>In addition, the Fire Company provides rescue squad services, but not fire protection services, to the Town of Genesee Falls.</p> <p>The Fire Company incorporated in 1989 so that it could own property and equipment. Prior to this date, any property or equipment the FD purchased automatically became Village property.</p> <p>Currently, the Fire Company owns one vehicle (an equipment van) and one building (a community meeting hall). The Village of Pike owns two fire trucks and a rescue squad vehicle, as well as the garage facility where these vehicles are housed.</p> <p>The Fire Company has no paid staff. The Department has about 45 active members on roll call; these are the volunteer firefighters who respond to calls. In addition, the FD has a large number of members on its Inactive List; these members participate in meetings and attend social functions, but do not respond to fire calls.</p> <p>The Fire Company’s only debt is an outstanding amount on a fire truck that was purchased with the assistance of the Village several years ago. The Fire Company will have this debt paid off by summer 2009, before the dissolution goes into effect, so this debt will not affect the dissolution process and will not be rolled over.</p>
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	<p>No changes in the quality of service are anticipated other than any potential improvements that might result from the dissolution of the Village government. As explained above, no debt will be rolled over by the FD to either the Town or the Fire District after the dissolution takes place. Following the dissolution, all FD-related property and equipment owned by the Village will become the property of either the Pike Fire District or the Town if the Town decides to form a Fire Protection District.</p> <p>The Town Board could form either a Fire District or a Fire Protection District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Fire District is an autonomous public corporation run by a Board of Commissioners that has the authority to levy taxes and incur debt.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Fire Protection District is an administrative unit of a town government.</li> </ul> <p>A Fire District is probably the better of the two options. It will be created by the Town Board, but then will operate independently of the Town. It will be able to set its own budget and raise funds separately from the Town, thus streamlining the Town budget process and clarifying to the public the source and use of FD funds.</p> <p>If a Fire District is formed, it will receive ownership of the garage and the two fire trucks and rescue squad vehicle that are currently owned by the Village.</p> <p>If a Fire Protection District is formed, all Village-owned buildings and equipment used by the Fire Company will become either property of the Town or will be turned over to the Fire Company.</p> <p>By dissolving the Village, a pool of individuals will be freed from having to work on Village affairs and can dedicate themselves to running the Fire Department, which (unlike the Village) has strong support from the community and is in solid financial and administrative condition.</p>
<p><b>Continued Village Conditions:</b></p>	<p>The current arrangement would continue, unless Town, Village, and Fire Department officials decided otherwise.</p>

Section A.9: Justice Court.	
<p><b>Current Conditions:</b></p>	<p>The Town currently employs two Judges and a Court Clerk. These officials run the court for both the Town and Village. The court meets in the Town Hall, and Town officials are currently considering expanding the Town Hall (a former bank on Main Street in the Village) to provide additional space for the courts to meet. There is no formal agreement in place between the Town and Village for this service; the Town provides it as a courtesy to the Village.</p>
<p><b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b></p>	<p>The court will continue to function as before. The dissolution of the Village will have no effect on court operations.</p>
<p><b>Continued Village Conditions:</b></p>	<p>No changes are foreseen; however, the Village and Town should enter into a formal agreement regarding the provision of court services.</p>

Section A.10: Policing Services.	
<p><b>Current Conditions:</b></p>	<p>Policing services in the Village are currently provided by the Wyoming County Sheriff's Office and the New York State Police.</p>
<p><b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b></p>	<p>No changes are foreseen. According to the Wyoming County Sheriff's office, the dissolution of the Village will have no effect on the provision of road patrols or court functions.</p>

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<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.
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**Section A.11: Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Services.**

<b>Current Conditions:</b>	EMT services are provided by the Pike Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad. In addition, paramedics from the Wyoming County Community Hospital in Warsaw are dispatched to assist Pike EMTs on local calls.
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.

**Section A.12: Wyoming County Fair Association.**

<b>Current Conditions:</b>	<p>Pike is the home of the Wyoming County Fair, which it has hosted since 1946. The Wyoming County Fair Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting “agriculture, horticulture, domestic arts and allied sciences through educational instruction, display, and competition.” The Association oversees the operations of the County Fair, held every August. The Fair is a collaborative effort among the Fair Association, Town, Village, Fire Department, and people and organizations across the County.</p> <p>The county fairgrounds include several different parcels of land in the Village, some of which are owned by the Village and others that are owned by the Fair Association. All buildings on the grounds are owned by the Fair Association. The Fair Association and the Fire Department handle maintenance activities. The Fire Department, as well as other community groups such as the Pike Community Church, the Ladies Auxiliary, and the American Legion, operate concession stands as a fundraiser for their organizations. The Fair Association receives a percentage of income from the concession stands because the Association provides utilities, garbage pick up, and other maintenance services.</p>
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	The Town and the County Fair Association will re-negotiate all agreements regarding the Fair’s relationship with the Town once the Village dissolves and turns over its properties to the Town. No significant changes are expected in the terms of the re-negotiated agreements; essentially the Town will simply replace the Village in all contracts, agreements, etc., regarding the Fair Association. The Fair Association will continue to own all buildings on the fairgrounds, while maintaining the fairgrounds and running the fair. As before, running the fair will continue to be a collaborative effort among several community groups; no significant changes in how the fair is operated are expected as a result of the Village’s dissolution.

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<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.
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**Section A.13: Public Water Provision.**

<b>Current Conditions:</b>	The Village is served by a public water system. The Village employs two people to run this system: a “water operator” who oversees the mechanical aspect of the system, and a “water clerk” who is the Village’s Deputy Clerk and who solely handles billing tasks. Currently, only one person is trained to operate the system, and this individual is typically not readily available during the day should an emergency occur. The Village also employs a meter reader to walk around the Village and record water use for each property hooked up to the water system.
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<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	<p>Following the dissolution vote, the Town of Pike will form a Special District to operate the public water system. This district will be funded by fees levied on property owners who own land within the district’s boundaries <i>and</i> who are serviced by the water system. Property owners within the district who are not connected to the water system will not be charged for water.</p> <p>The District’s boundaries will follow the current Village boundary, with the exception of the stretch of Telegraph Road between the Village boundary and the water treatment plant. This area will be included within the Water District because there are currently properties in this area that are connected to the water lines.</p> <p>The Village’s water clerk will become an employee of the Town under the Town Clerk’s direction. This person is already trained and highly experienced with overseeing the Village’s water billing procedures. This person will continue to perform the same function, but as an employee of the Town. The Village’s meter reader will also become an employee of the Town and continue to perform the same tasks as he/she did for the Village.</p>
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<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	The Village would continue to operate the water system, but should train at least one additional water operator who can run/repair the system in the case of an emergency.
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**Section A.14: Sewer Service.**

<b>Current Conditions:</b>	There is no public sewer system in either the Village or Town. There has never been any need for such a system; all properties are serviced by private septic systems.
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<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.
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<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.
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<b>Section A.15: Street Lighting.</b>	
<b>Current Conditions:</b>	The Village operates all streetlights (about 26) located within its boundaries.  The Town operates two streetlights outside the Village.
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	Following the dissolution vote, the Town of Pike will form a Special District to operate, maintain, and possibly enhance street lighting capabilities. This district would be administered by the Town and funded through taxes paid by property owners whose properties are within the district's boundaries. The Street Lighting District's boundaries will correspond to the former Village's boundaries.
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.

<b>Section A.16: Sidewalks.</b>	
<b>Current Conditions:</b>	The Village has a part time maintenance person who maintains sidewalks, to the best of the Village's limited resources. The Village's sidewalks are, overall, in good condition and do not require major repair work.
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	Following the dissolution vote, the Town of Pike will form a Special District, known as the "Sidewalk District," that will take effect immediately after the village dissolves. The Town will oversee ongoing sidewalk maintenance and periodic upgrades through this district. The Sidewalk District's boundaries will correspond to the former Village's boundaries.  This district will be funded by a tax levied on property owners who own land within the district's boundaries. This tax levy will pay for ongoing maintenance activities and provide a reserve fund to pay for major future repairs/upgrades.
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	If the Village reforms its Public Works Department, this agency would have responsibility for ongoing sidewalk maintenance.

<b>Section A.17: Garbage Collection &amp; Recycling.</b>	
<b>Current Conditions:</b>	Garbage collection in the Village is currently provided by a private company, Nu-Way. Wyoming County contracts with this company to provide garbage collection and recycling services to municipalities within the County. The County then contracts with individual municipalities to provide these services to the inhabitants of each town or village.
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	During summer 2007, the Town of Pike will consider contracting with the County for garbage collection and recycling services.

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	<p>If the Town decides to contract with the County, the contract would take effect January 1, 2008. As a result, when the Village officially dissolves, the County will already be handling garbage collection and recycling services in the Town, which would then include the former Village territory. This means that following dissolution, the former Village will receive garbage and recycling services automatically without the need for a special district to handle these activities.</p> <p>If the Town decides not to contract with the County, the Town will form a special district to handle the removal of garbage from the former Village. This district will be funded by taxes/fees levied on property owners who own land within the district's boundaries.</p>
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.

<b>Section A.18: Snow Removal.</b>	
<b>Current Conditions:</b>	<p>The Town Highway Department plows state and county roads that pass through the Village (State Rt. 19 &amp; 39; County Roads 21, 24, 46, 50).</p> <p>The Town Highway Department also provides plowing services to Village streets “as a courtesy” to the Village. There is no formal contract/agreement between the Town and Village. The Town does not have specialized equipment for clearing snow from sidewalks.</p> <p>The Village employs a part-time maintenance person who clears snow from sidewalks with a small plow, which is owned by the Village.</p>
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	The Town Highway Department will continue to provide snow removal services for former Village streets. The Highway Dept. will also provide snow removal for village sidewalks. In order to do this, the Town will take on the Village's part-time maintenance person, who will become an employee of the Town Highway Department, and obtain the Village's sidewalk plow.
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	The Village should formally enter into an agreement with the Town that standardizes the Town's snow removal services.

<b>Section A.19: Leaf Pickup.</b>	
<b>Current Conditions:</b>	The Village is currently under a contract with the Village of Castile to provide leaf pick-up services to Village residents who want this service. Not all residents receive this service.
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	The Town will research ways to continue to provide this service. The Town would like to continue this service to interested residents as several Village residents have asked that this service be retained. However, the Town will need to find a way to pay

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	for this service that does not involve using funds raised from all town taxpayers. The Town does not own the equipment necessary to provide this service, and it would prefer to continue contracting with an outside agency to provide this service rather than have to do it in-house.
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.

<b>Section A.20: Electricity.</b>	
<b>Current Conditions:</b>	Electricity is provided by Rochester Gas & Electric (RG&E), a subsidiary of Energy East.
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.

<b>Section A.21: Natural Gas Service.</b>	
<b>Current Conditions:</b>	No natural gas service is provided to the Village.
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.

<b>Section A.22: Telephone Service.</b>	
<b>Current Conditions:</b>	Telephone service in the Village is currently provided by Frontier Communications and Verizon Wireless.
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.

Village of Pike Services Inventory Report

<b>Section A.23: Cable T.V./Internet Service.</b>	
<b>Current Conditions:</b>	Cable/Internet services are provided by Time Warner Inc.
<b>Post-Dissolution Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.
<b>Continued Village Conditions:</b>	No changes are foreseen.

## **PART B: FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT**

In order to assess the financial implications of the dissolution of the Village of Pike, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC) staff examined Village and Town budgets for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 and, in consultation with Village and Town officials, prepared an estimated post-dissolution budget. The post-dissolution budget includes all Village expenditures that the Town expects to absorb into its budget in order to cover the cost of public services that it will provide following the Village's dissolution. Anticipated expenditures included in the post-dissolution budget were based on 1.) previous annual budgets, revenue sources, and expenditures and 2.) discussions with Village and Town officials. Anticipated revenue was derived through a similar process of examining past budgets and revenue sources and conferring with local officials on them. The anticipated fund balance was estimated by using an average of fund balances from previous years. In addition to a general post-dissolution budget, an estimated post-dissolution highway budget was created using an identical process.

The fiscal year (FY) 2007 Village and Town general budgets are included in Table B.1. The estimated post-dissolution general budget is included in Table B.2. The FY 2007 Town highway budget and estimated post-dissolution highway budget are included in Table B.3.

The post-dissolution general and highway budgets were used to derive estimated post-dissolution tax rates. The post-dissolution tax rates include taxes that will be levied on real properties within the sidewalk and streetlight special districts that are proposed to be created by the Town when the Village dissolution takes effect. As such, two different post-dissolution tax rates were arrived at: a rate for those properties located within the special districts and a rate for those properties located outside of these districts. In addition, if the Town creates a Fire District to provide fire protection services, this district will levy taxes of its own on all properties within its boundaries while the Town will no longer pay for these services (although it will collect the Fire District's taxes on behalf of the Fire District). The post-dissolution budget includes an estimated tax rate for the Fire District.

This assessment indicates that post-dissolution tax rates will be lower than current levels. In 2008, the total local tax rate applied to properties located within the Village was \$10.41 per \$1000.00 of assessed value. The projected post-dissolution tax rate for properties located within the former Village is \$9.92 per \$1000.00 of assessed value. This equates to a savings of \$0.49 per \$1000.00 of assessed value. The total local tax rate for 2008 for properties within the Town but outside the Village was \$9.21 per \$1000.00 of assessed value. The projected post-dissolution tax rate for properties located outside the former Village is \$8.72 per \$1000.00 of assessed value. This also equates to a savings of \$0.49 per \$1000.00 of assessed value. Please refer to Tables B.4 through B.7 for additional information.

While these estimates indicate that dissolving the Village will reduce tax levies for local property owners, the key motivation behind the Village's desire to pursue dissolution is to remove the burden of running the Village from local residents; any financial savings realized as a result of dissolution are largely ancillary to this motivating factor and an additional benefit of dissolution. Furthermore, all post-dissolution budgets and tax rates presented in this report are *estimates*. These budgets and tax rates can easily change due to adjustments in revenue sources and expenditures, as well as constantly changing variables such as the assessed value of real property in the Town and Village. Town and Village officials will work to prepare the first post-dissolution budget during the summer of 2009, at which time a definitive post-dissolution budget will be arrived at.

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**Table B.1: Village and Town FY 2007 General Budgets**

Village of Pike			Town of Pike			Town outside Village		
	Total	Net		Total	Net		Total	Net
<b>General Budget</b>	Approps	Approps	<b>General Budget</b>	Approps	Approps	<b>General Fund</b>	Approps	Approps
<i>Trustees</i>	1,150.00	859.47	Trustees	2,760.00	2,130.05	Vital Statistics	50.00	43.41
<i>Mayor</i>	2,325.00	1,289.20	Supervisor	4,600.00	3,550.09	Library	0	0
<i>Clerk/Treasurer</i>	4,145.00	2,298.38	Clerk	7,215.00	5,568.24	Zoning	5,075.00	4,406.06
<i>Attorney</i>	6,000.00	3,326.97	Attorney	10,000.00	7,717.59	Retirement	330.00	286.50
<i>Elections</i>	130.00	72.08	Elections	1,600.00	1,234.81	Social Security	235.00	204.02
<i>Village Hall</i>	3,750.00	2,079.35	Justices	9,277.00	7,159.61	Total Approps	5,690	4,940
<i>Fire Department</i>	16,500.00	9,149.16	Comptroller	7,100.00	5,479.49	Less Revenue	750	
<i>Dues</i>	0	0	Assessors	9,042.00	6,978.24	Less Balance	0	
<i>Govt Contractual</i>	1,800.00	998.09	Tax Collection	1,900.00	1,466.34	Tax Levy	4,940	
<i>Safety</i>	180.00	99.81	Buildings	7,220.00	5,572.10	Assessed Value	34,141,930	
<i>Vital Statistics</i>	30.00	16.63	Communications	800.00	617.41	Tax Rate/\$1000	0.145	
<i>Street Mnt</i>	22,475.26	12,462.41	Dues	500.00	385.88			
<i>Snow Removal</i>	400.00	221.80	Public Safety	1,700.00	1,311.99			
<i>Street Lighting</i>	7,600.00	4,214.16	Laboratory	400.00	308.70			
<i>Economic Dvp</i>	1,500.00	831.74	Med. Health Cntr	600.00	463.06			
<i>Youth Program</i>	200.00	110.90	Hwy Spt	40,965.00	31,615.10			
<i>Library</i>	240.00	133.08	Garage	14,000.00	10,804.62			
<i>Historian</i>	125.00	69.31	Street Lighting	300.00	231.53			
<i>Zoning</i>	200.00	110.90	Veterans Svcs	350.00	270.12			
<i>Refuse</i>	0	0	Prgms for Aging	0	0			
<i>Shade Trees</i>	2,000.00	1,108.99	Youth Prgms	4,000.00	3,087.04			
<i>Social Security</i>	819.00	454.13	Historian	700.00	540.23			
<i>Workers Comp</i>	400.00	221.80	Celebrations	0	0			
<i>Debt Services</i>	8,839.61	4,901.51	Refuse & Garbage	350.00	270.12			
<b>Total Approps</b>	<b>81,209</b>	<b>45,030</b>	Cemeteries	700.00	540.23			
<b>Less Revenue</b>	<b>35,999</b>		Retirement	7,762.00	5,990.39			
<b>Less Balance</b>	<b>0</b>		Social Security	5,656.00	4,365.07			
<b>Tax Levy</b>	<b>45,210</b>		Disability	50.00	38.59			
<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>7,842,291</b>		Hospital & Medical	11,160.00	8,612.83			
<b>Tax Rate/\$1000</b>	<b>5.74</b>		Insurance	18,500.00	14,277.54			
<b>NOTE</b> Budget line items in <i>italics</i> are eliminated in the estimated post-dissolution budget (see Table B.2)			Total Approps	169,207	130,587			
			Less Revenue	28,620				
			Less Balance	10,000				
			Tax Levy	130,587				
			Assessed Value	41,984,221				
			Tax Rate/\$1000	3.11				

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**Table B.2: Estimated Post-Dissolution General Budget (based on FY 2007)**

Dissolution General Budget (Estimated)		
	Total Approps	Net Approps
Trustees	2,760.00	2,240.97
Supervisor	4,600.00	3,734.96
<b>Clerk</b>	11,360.00	9,223.72
Attorney	10,000.00	8,119.47
Elections	1,600.00	1,299.12
Justice	9,277.00	7,532.43
Comptroller	7,100.00	5,764.82
Assessors	9,042.00	7,341.63
Tax Collection	1,900.00	1,542.70
<b>Buildings</b>	10,970.00	8,907.06
Communications	800.00	649.56
Dues	500.00	405.97
Public Safety	1,880.00	1,526.46
Laboratory	400.00	324.78
Med. Health Center	600.00	487.17
Hwy Spt	40,965.00	33,261.41
Garage	14,000.00	11,367.26
Street Lighting	300.00	243.58
<b>Shade Trees</b>	2,000.00	1,623.89
Veterans Svcs	350.00	284.18
Prgms for Aging	0	0
Youth Prgms	4,000.00	3,247.79
<b>Historian</b>	825.00	669.86
<b>Library</b>	240.00	194.87
Vital Statistics	50.00	40.60
<b>Zoning</b>	5,275.00	4,283.02
Celebrations	0	0
Refuse & Garbage	350.00	284.18
Cemeteries	700.00	568.36
Retirement	8,092.00	6,570.28
<b>Social Security</b>	6,710.00	5,448.17
Disability	50.00	40.60
Hospital & Medical	11,160.00	9,061.33
<b>Workers Comp</b>	400.00	324.78
Insurance	18,500.00	15,021.02
Total Approps	186,756	151,636
Less Revenue	30,120	
Less Balance	5,000	
Tax Levy	151,636	
Assessed Value	41,984,221	
Tax Rate/\$1000	3.61	

NOTE

Budget line items in **bold** have increased from the 2007 Town General Budget due to absorbing Village services

Village of Pike Services Inventory Report

**Table B.3: 2007 Town and Estimated Post-Dissolution Highway Budgets**

<b>Town of Pike</b>			<b>Dissolution</b>		
			<b>Highway Fund</b>		
<b>Highway Fund</b>	<b>Total Approps</b>	<b>Net Approps</b>	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>Total Approps</b>	<b>Net Approps</b>
Machinery	64,700.00	17,802.28	Machinery	64,700.00	32,198.63
Brush & Weeds	3,800.00	1,045.57	Brush & Weeds	3,800.00	1,891.11
Snow Removal	29,150.00	8,020.66	Snow Removal	29,150.00	14,506.80
Svc for other Govts	100,000.00	27,515.12	Svc for other Govts	100,000.00	49,766.04
Retirement	8,894.00	2,447.19	Retirement	12,318.00	6,130.18
Social Security	6,480.00	1,782.98	Social Security	8,975.00	4,466.50
Disability	200.00	55.03	Disability	200.00	99.53
Hospital & Medical	18,384.00	5,058.38	Hospital & Medical	27,384.00	13,627.93
Debt Service	14,100.00	3,879.63	Debt Service	34,680.00	17,258.86
Interest	2,450.00	674.12	Interest	5,710.00	2,841.64
Capital Fund Project	20,000.00	5,503.02	Capital Fund Project	20,000.00	9,953.21
<b>Total Approps</b>	<b>268,158</b>	<b>73,784</b>	<b>General Repairs</b>	<b>137,605.00</b>	<b>68,480.56</b>
<b>Less Revenue</b>	<b>153,374</b>		<b>Total Approps</b>	<b>444,522</b>	<b>221,221</b>
<b>Less Balance</b>	<b>41,000</b>		<b>Less Revenue</b>	<b>201,551</b>	
<b>Tax Levy</b>	<b>73,784</b>		<b>Less Balance</b>	<b>21,750</b>	
<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>41,984,221</b>		<b>Tax Levy</b>	<b>221,221</b>	
<b>Tax Rate/\$1000</b>	<b>1.76</b>		<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>41,984,221</b>	
			<b>Tax Rate/\$1000</b>	<b>5.27</b>	
<b>Town outside Village</b>					
<b>Highway Fund</b>	<b>Total Approps</b>	<b>Net Approps</b>			
General Repairs	132,605.00	97,132.29			
Retirement	3,424.00	2,508.06			
Social Security	2,495.00	1,827.57			
Hospital & Medical	9,000.00	6,592.44			
Debt Service	20,580.00	15,074.71			
Interest	3,260.00	2,387.93			
<b>Total Approps</b>	<b>171,364</b>	<b>125,523</b>			
<b>Less Revenue</b>	<b>43,341</b>				
<b>Less Balance</b>	<b>2,500</b>				
<b>Tax Levy</b>	<b>125,523</b>				
<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>34,141,930</b>				
<b>Tax Rate/\$1000</b>	<b>3.68</b>				

**Table B.4: 2008 Town and Village of Pike Tax Rate Schedule**

<b>2008 Town of Pike and Village of Pike Tax Rate Schedules</b>							
<b>Funds</b>	<b>Approps.</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Tax Levy</b>	<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>Tax Rate/\$1000</b>	<b>Paid By</b>
Town General Fund	\$180,402.00	\$29,620.00	\$25,000.00	\$125,782.00	\$42,830,028.00	\$2.94	Town & Village
Town outside Village Fund	\$4,756.00	\$700.00	-	\$4,056.00	\$34,911,901.00	\$0.12	Town outside Village
Town Hwy Fund	\$327,868.00	\$157,300.00	\$89,818.00	\$80,750.00	\$42,830,028.00	\$1.89	Town & Village
Town Hwy outside Village Fund	\$235,079.00	\$44,857.00	\$61,000.00	\$129,222.00	\$34,911,901.00	\$3.70	Town outside Village
Town Fire Contractual	\$20,000.00	-	-	\$20,000.00	\$34,911,901.00	\$0.57	Town outside Village
Village General Fund	\$81,208.87	\$36,968.00	-	\$44,240.87	\$7,918,127.00	\$5.59	Within Village
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$849,313.87</b>	<b>\$269,445.00</b>	<b>\$175,818.00</b>	<b>\$404,050.87</b>			

**Table B.5: 2008 Overall Tax Rate Schedules**

<b>2008 Overall Tax Rate Schedules</b>	
	<b>Tax Rate/\$1000</b>
Total tax rate applied to property located within village	\$ 10.41
Total tax rate applied to property located outside village	\$ 9.21

**Table B.6: 2010 Estimated Post - Dissolution Tax Rate Schedule**

<b>Funds</b>	<b>Approps.</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Tax Levy</b>	<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>Tax Rate/\$1000</b>	<b>Paid By</b>
General Fund	\$194,297.00	\$36,203.00	\$25,000.00	\$133,094.00	\$42,830,028.00	\$3.11	All
Highway Fund	\$567,947.00	\$206,993.00	\$150,818.00	\$210,136.00	\$42,830,028.00	\$4.91	All
Sidewalk District	\$2,000.00	-	-	\$2,000.00	\$7,918,127.00	\$0.25	Properties in District
Streetlight District	\$7,500.00	-	-	\$7,500.00	\$7,918,127.00	\$0.95	Properties in District
Fire District	\$30,000.00	-	-	\$30,000.00	\$42,830,028.00	\$0.70	All
Water District*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$801,744.00</b>	<b>\$243,196.00</b>	<b>\$175,818.00</b>	<b>\$443,730.00</b>			

\*Charges for water provision are billed independently to users.

**Table B.7: Estimated Post - Dissolution Tax Rate Schedule**

	<b>Tax Rate/\$1000</b>
Total tax rate applied to property located within special districts	\$ 9.92
Total tax rate applied to property located outside special districts	\$ 8.72

**PART C: PROPOSED SPECIAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES**

In order to provide Town boards and officials with guidance on the Village's intentions for the continuation of certain services/functions following its dissolution, the Study Committee discussed the potential boundaries of the three special districts it proposes the Town form. These districts are the Water District, Streetlight District, and Sidewalk District.

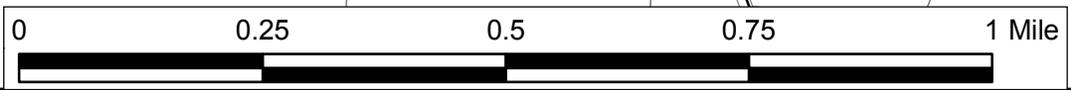
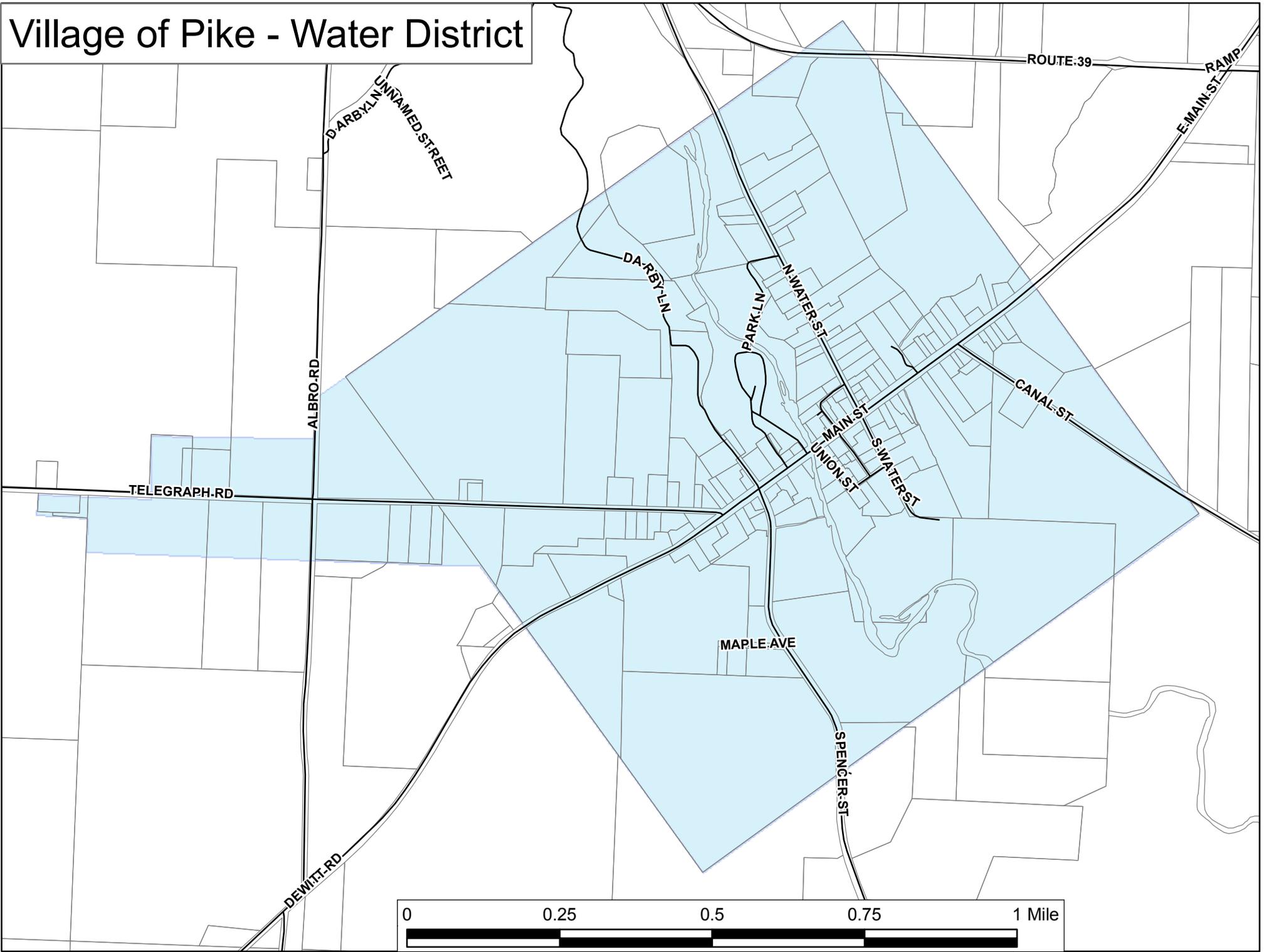
The three following maps depict the proposed boundaries of the three special districts that the Town of Pike will form following the dissolution of the Village. **Map 1** depicts the boundaries of the proposed Water District, **Map 2** depicts the boundaries of the proposed Streetlight District, and **Map 3** depicts the boundaries of the proposed Sidewalk District.

A special district is a geographically defined area of a town within which a specific service, such as public water, lighting, or sidewalks, is provided by the town. This service is paid for by property owners within the district through either user fees or a portion of their property tax. Special districts allow towns to provide a specific service to a specific area of the town without charging all the town's property owners for that service. The procedures of forming special districts are laid out in Town Law, Articles 12 and 12-A.

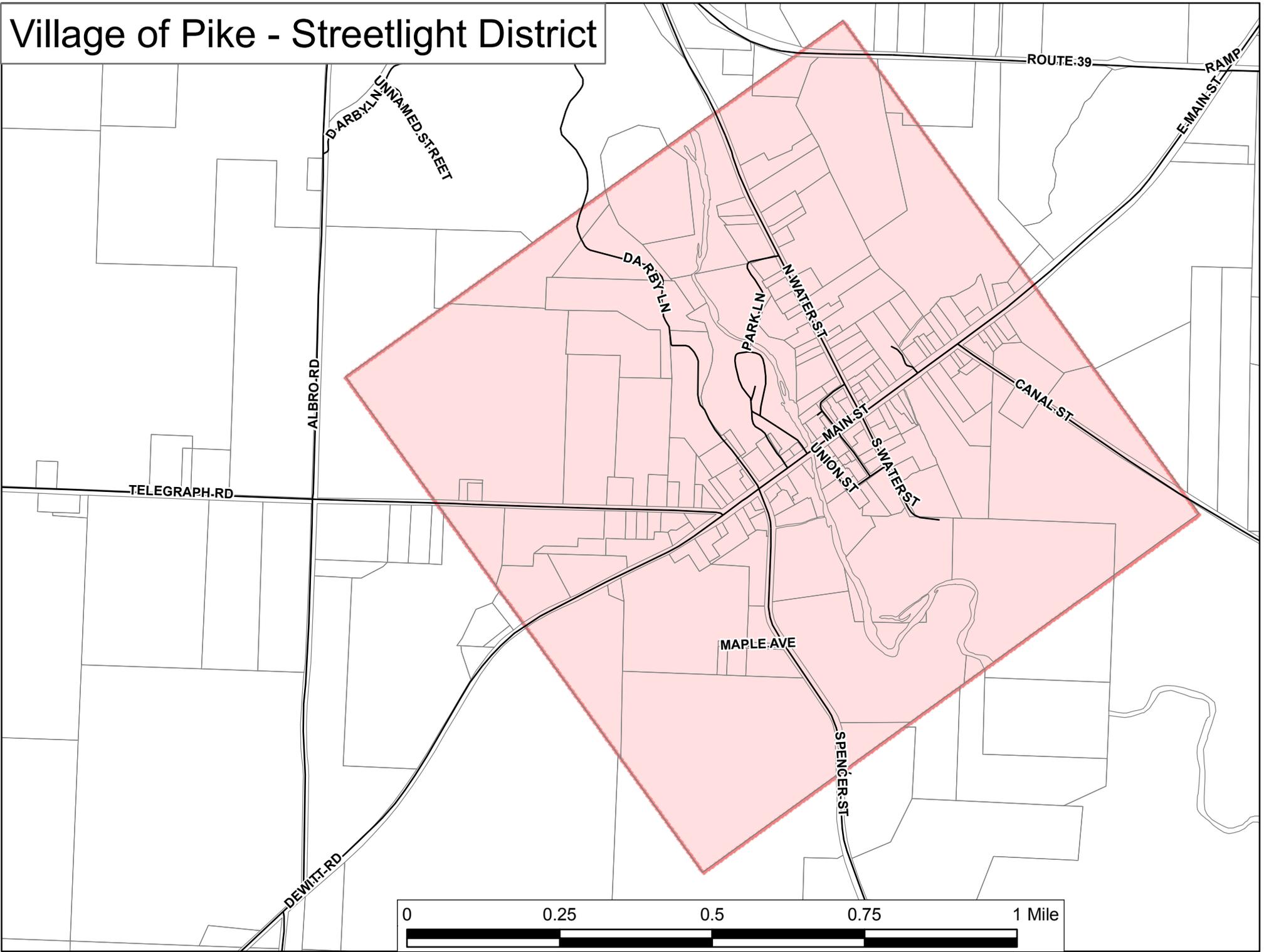
The Village boundary was used by the Study Committee as the basis for determining the special district boundaries. The Streetlight and Sidewalk districts are coterminous with the Village boundary, while the Water District includes an area outside the Village, running west along Telegraph Road from the Village boundary to the water treatment plant. Properties between the water treatment plant and the Village are included within this district because they can be easily hooked up to the water supply system if their owners are interested in this service. A property within the Water District will only be charged for water if it is connected to the public water system.

The following maps were prepared by Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council based on the input of the Village of Pike Dissolution Study Committee. They are included here for reference.

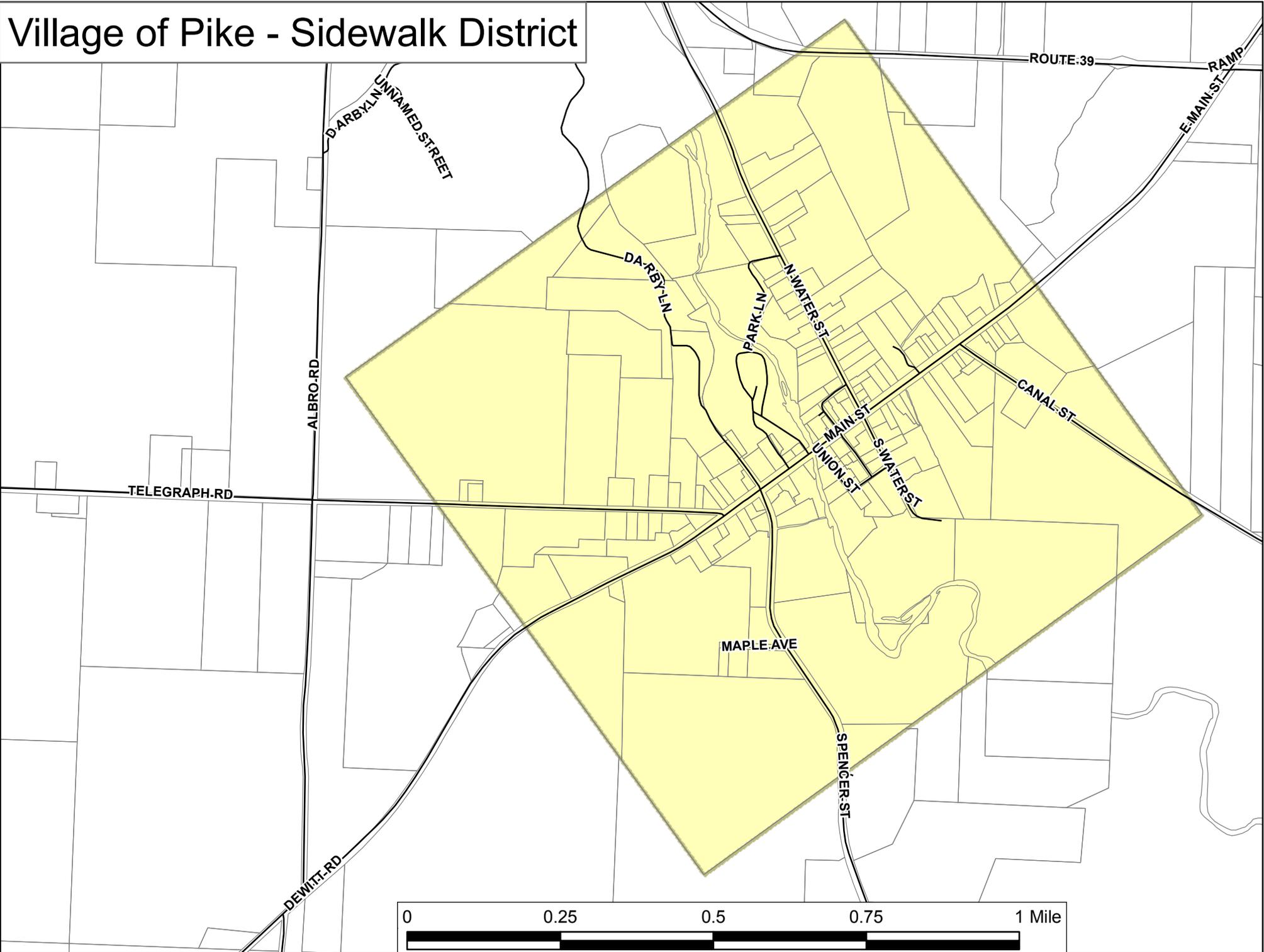
# Village of Pike - Water District



# Village of Pike - Streetlight District



# Village of Pike - Sidewalk District



DARBY LN  
UNNAMED STREET

ROUTE 39  
E MAIN ST RAMP

ALBRO RD

TELEGRAPH RD

DEWITT RD

DARBY LN

PARK LN

N WATER ST

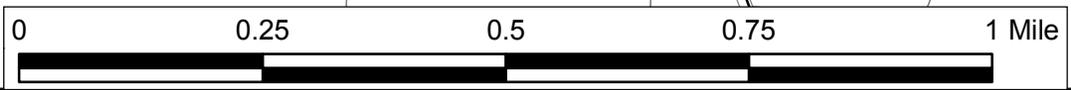
MAIN ST  
UNION ST

S WATER ST

CANAL ST

MAPLE AVE

SPENGER ST



## **Organizing for Fire Protection\***

Because buildings constructed close to each other are particularly vulnerable to fire, New York has long recognized that protection against fire could not be left to individual responsibility. Fire protection services therefore came to be viewed as an essential governmental function in populated areas. Early on, cities as well as many villages made provisions for fire departments and the organization of fire companies using both career and volunteer services. This did not happen in towns, however, where sparse development made fire, while no less catastrophic to the individuals involved, a more personal than a communal threat. Traditional fire protection in rural areas consisted of close neighbors forming bucket brigades. Following the era of the bucket brigade there developed a loosely-knit group which accumulated rudimentary firefighting equipment from which sprung the modern-day volunteer fire companies which have developed a high degree of organization and capability.

For many years volunteer fire companies supplied reasonably effective fire protection to rural areas without government assistance or support. Gradually, however, greater demands for fire protection service, the high cost of modern and specialized equipment, and the need for giving volunteers economic security in the event of duty-connected death or injury, forced the independent fire services to look to the government for help.

In towns, the answer came (as in the case of other services) not on a town-wide basis, but through the establishment of districts on an area-by-area basis. These districts took two basic forms: fire districts, which were true district corporations and enjoyed autonomy from town government; and other types of districts, including fire protection districts, fire alarm districts and certain water supply districts, which were little more than assessment areas within towns where fire protection was provided.

### **Fire Districts**

A fire district is a public corporation established for the purpose of providing fire protection and response to certain other emergencies. The New York State Constitution recognizes that fire districts have certain characteristics of general purpose municipal corporations. A fire district has the power both to incur indebtedness and to require the levy of taxes. A fire district is an almost completely autonomous political entity; it has its own elected governing body, its own administrative officers, and it must observe its own expenditure limitations, it is dependent upon the parent town or towns as a means to its initial creation,

extension and dissolution; and, generally, fire district taxes are levied by the county and collected by the town or towns where the district exists.

There were 858 fire districts in New York (as of December 31, 1997). They are of varying sizes, including smaller districts with annual budgets of several thousand dollars and large districts, sometimes featuring departments which have both career and volunteer firefighters and annual budgets of several million dollars.

**Establishment.** A fire district is created to provide fire protection to an area of a town outside villages (villages usually provide fire protection on their own). There is however, authority, to establish joint town-village fire districts.

A town board may establish a fire district on its own motion or upon receipt of a petition from owners of 50 percent of the resident-owned taxable assessed valuation in the proposed district. Whichever method is used, the town board must hold a public hearing and determine that all properties which will be included will benefit, that all properties which benefit have been included, and that the creation of the district is in the public interest.

If the town board decides to establish a district and proposes to finance an expenditure for the district by the issuance of obligations, it must apply to the State Comptroller, who, before approving such establishment, must determine that the public interest will be served by the creation of the district and that the cost of the district will not be an undue burden on property in the district. If approval from the State Comptroller is not required, a certified copy of the notice of hearing must then be filed with the Comptroller.

After a fire district has been established, the town board appoints the first temporary board of five fire commissioners and the first fire district treasurer. At the first election, five commissioners are elected for staggered terms of one to five years, and at each subsequent election one commissioner is elected for a full term of five years. The fire district treasurer is elected for three years, although the office may subsequently be made appointive for a one-year term. A fire district secretary is appointed by the board of fire commissioners for a one-year period.

**Operational Organization.** After establishment and initial appointments by the town board, the fire district becomes virtually autonomous from the town in its day-to-day operations.

A fire district has only those powers that are expressly granted by statute, or which are necessarily implied by the statute. Unlike towns, villages, cities and counties, a fire district does not possess home rule powers.

The powers granted to a fire district board are extremely specific and narrowly limited. A listing of some of the more important and general powers granted to the board of fire commissioners in section 176 of the Town Law serves as a quick synopsis of many of the important areas of operation for fire districts:

- They shall have the powers to make any and all contracts for the purposes authorized within the appropriations approved by the taxpayers or within the specified statutory limitations;
- They may organize, operate, maintain, and equip fire companies;
- They may adopt rules and regulations governing all companies and fire departments in the district, prescribe the duties of the members, and enforce discipline;
- They may purchase apparatus and equipment for the extinguishing and prevention of fires and for the purpose of the emergency rescue and first aid squads and the fire police;
- They may acquire real property and construct buildings for preservation of equipment and for social and recreational use by firefighters and residents of the district;
- They may construct and maintain fire alarm systems;
- They may purchase, develop, or contract for a supply of water for firefighting purposes; and,
- They may contract to provide firefighting services outside the fire district where such outside services can be supplied without undue hazard to the fire district.

**Financing.** Fire districts have neither the constitutional debt nor taxing limits that most municipal corporations have. They do, however, have statutory limitations on their spending and financing authority.

Under section 176(18) of the Town Law fire districts have a basic spending limitation of \$2,000, plus one mill for each dollar of full valuation of district taxable real property in excess of one million dollars. There are several important exemptions from this spending limitation, such as certain insurance costs, salaries of career firefighters, most debt service and contracts for fire protection or water supplies. The basic spending limitation may be exceeded only if a proposition

for the increase is approved by the voters of the district. Further, many capital expenditures proposed for a fire district which would exceed the spending limitation would also require voter approval. Certain expenditures which are not chargeable to the spending limitation may be subject to voter approval under other provisions of law (e.g., General Municipal Law §6-g, relative to capital reserve funds).

A fire district may incur debt by issuing obligations, subject to the provisions of the New York State Local Finance Law. Fire districts are subject to a statutory debt limit (generally three percent of the full valuation of taxable real property in the fire district) and mandatory referendum requirements.

Within the statutory constraints, however, the district enjoys general autonomy in developing its budget. When completed, the budget is filed with the town budget officer of each of the towns in which the district is located. The town board can make no changes in a fire district budget but must submit it with the town budget to the county for levy and spreading on the town tax roll. When the taxes are collected, the town supervisor must “immediately” turn over to the district treasurer all taxes levied and collected for the fire district.

In 1956, the Volunteer Firefighters’ Benefit Law was enacted to provide benefits similar to Workers’ Compensation for volunteer firefighters injured in the line of duty or for those who die from the effects of injury in line of duty. Cities, towns, villages and fire districts finance these benefits through their annual budgets.

**Fire Department Organization.** The board of fire commissioners exercises general policy control over its fire department, while the chief of the department exercises full on-line authority at emergency scenes. The fire department of a fire district encompasses all fire companies organized within the district, together with career employees whom the board of fire commissioners may appoint. Fire companies usually are, but need not be, volunteer fire companies incorporated under the provisions of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law. They can be formed within the fire district only with the consent of the board of fire commissioners and, thereafter, new members can only be admitted with board consent.

All officers of the fire department must be members of the department, residents of the state and, if required by the board of fire commissioners, residents of the fire district. Officers are nominated by ballot at fire department meetings, and appointments by the board can be made

only from the candidates so nominated.

**Joint Fire Districts in Towns and Villages.** Article 11-A, of the Town Law § 189-a through § 189-l, and Article 22-A, of the Village Law, § 22-2210 and § 22-2212, allow for the establishment of joint fire districts in one or more towns and one or more villages. Under the provisions of the Town Law, if it appears to be in the public interest, the town board(s) and village board(s) shall hold a joint meeting for the purpose of jointly proposing the establishment of a joint fire district. If, at the joint meeting, it is decided by majority vote of each board to propose a joint district, the boards must hold, upon public notice, a joint public hearing at a location within the proposed district. If, after the public hearing, the town board(s) and village board(s) determine that the establishment of the joint fire district is in the public interest, each board may adopt a separate resolution, subject to a permissive referendum, establishing the joint fire district.

The new joint fire district is governed by the provisions of Article 11 of the Town Law to the extent that article is not inconsistent with the provisions of Article 11-A. Management of the affairs of joint fire districts is under a board of fire commissioners of not less than three nor more than seven members, chosen by the participating town boards and/or village boards of trustees in joint session, or elected as provided in Article 11 of the Town Law.

Contemporaneously with the establishment of the joint district, the town board and the village board of trustees of each participating municipality shall by local law dissolve any existing fire, fire alarm or fire protection districts contained within the joint fire district. The Board of Trustees of a village or the Board of Commissioners of a fire district, all of the territory of which is embraced within the boundaries of a joint fire district, may by resolution authorize the sale or transfer of any firehouse, land or apparatus owned by the village or district to be transferred to the joint district, with or without consideration and subject to terms and conditions deemed fitting and proper by the board of trustees or Board of Commissioners.

### **Fire Protection and Fire Alarm Districts**

Fire protection districts and fire alarm districts are not public corporations. Both of these types of districts may be described as assessment areas within which a town can provide limited

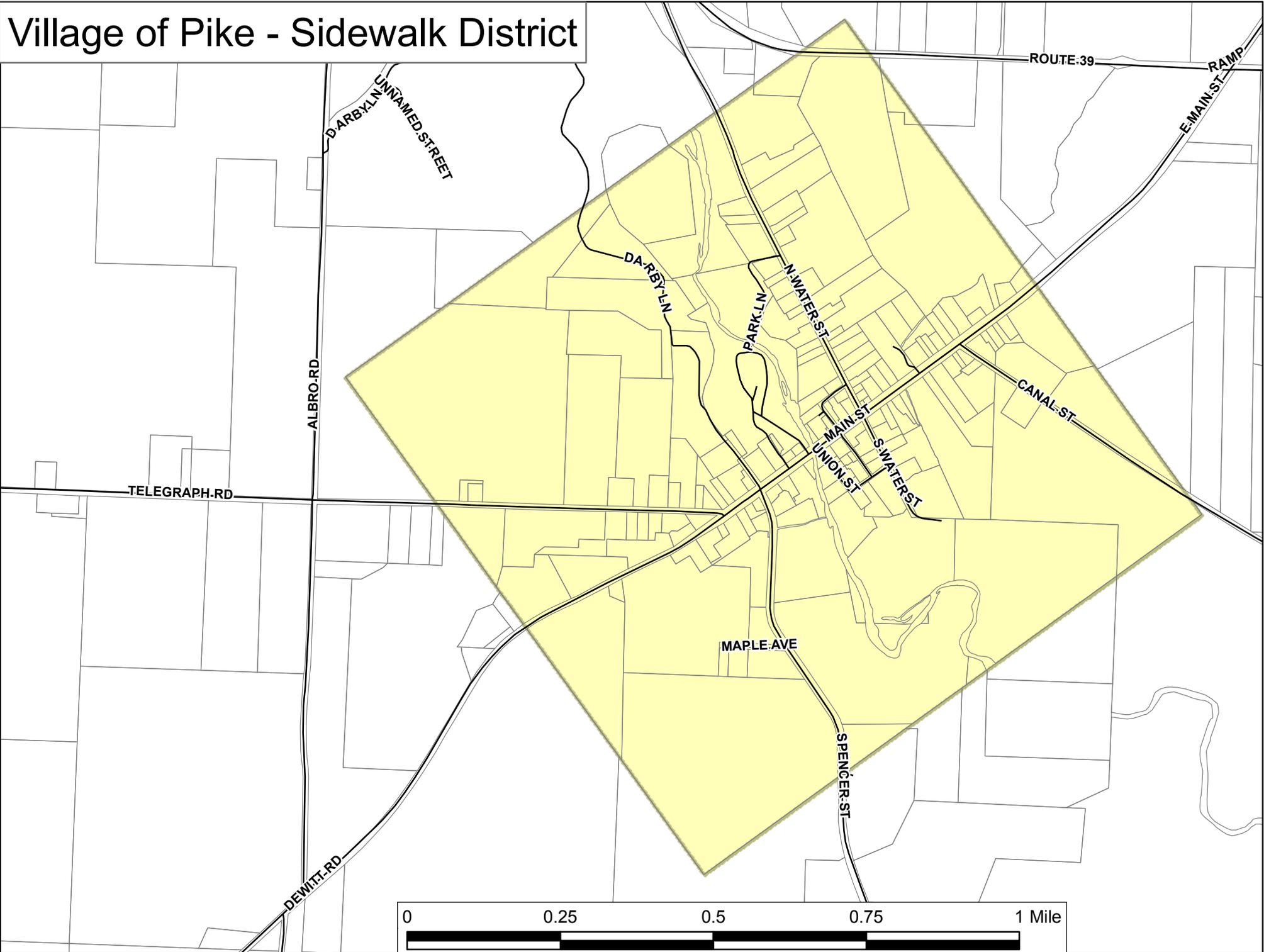
services and assess the cost back against the taxable properties within the district.

Fire protection districts are established for the sole purpose of providing fire protection by contract. After establishing a fire protection district, a town board may contract with any city, village, fire district or incorporated fire company maintaining suitable apparatus and appliances to provide fire protection to the district for a period not exceeding five years. A town may also acquire apparatus and equipment for use in the district and may contract with any city, village, fire district or incorporated fire company for operation, maintenance and repair of the apparatus and equipment and for the furnishing of fire protection in the district. The cost of the contracted services, together with certain other expenses incurred by reason of the establishment of the district, is then levied against the properties of the district on the annual tax roll.

Fire alarm districts are formed primarily to finance the installation and maintenance of a fire alarm system. However, a town board can contract for fire protection for these districts in a similar manner as for fire protection districts.

\* This section is excerpted from the NYS DOS Local Government Handbook, Chapter IX (Special Purpose Units), pages 8-12.

# Village of Pike - Sidewalk District



UNNAMED STREET  
DARBY LN

ROUTE 39  
E MAIN ST RAMP

ALBROW RD

TELEGRAPH RD

DEWITT RD

DARBY LN

PARK LN

N WATER ST

MAIN ST  
UNION ST

S WATER ST

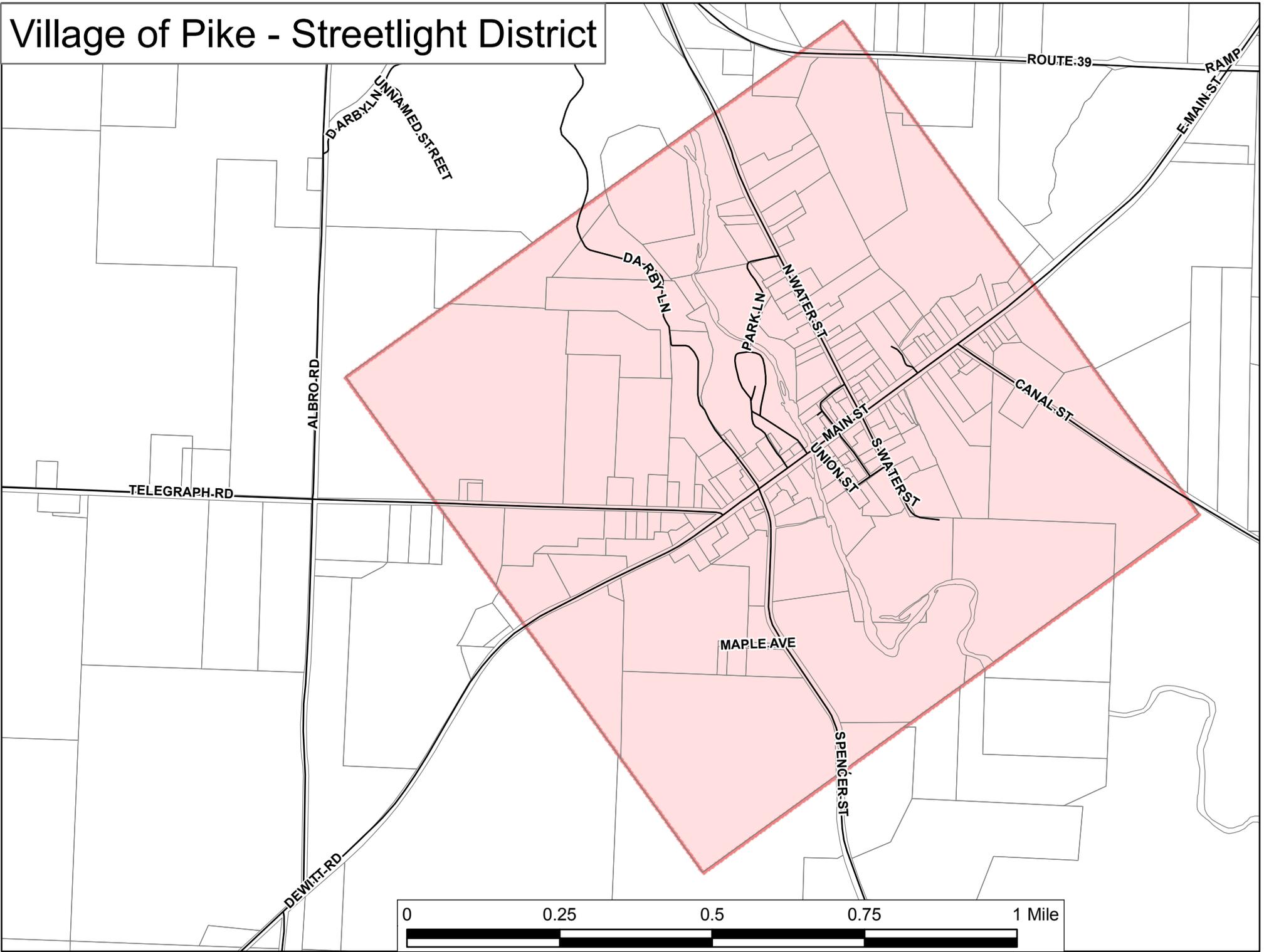
CANAL ST

MAPLE AVE

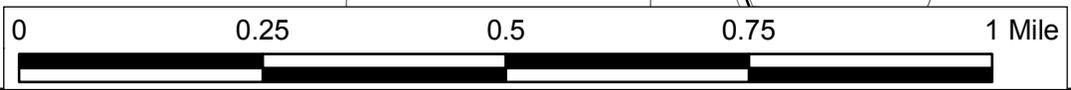
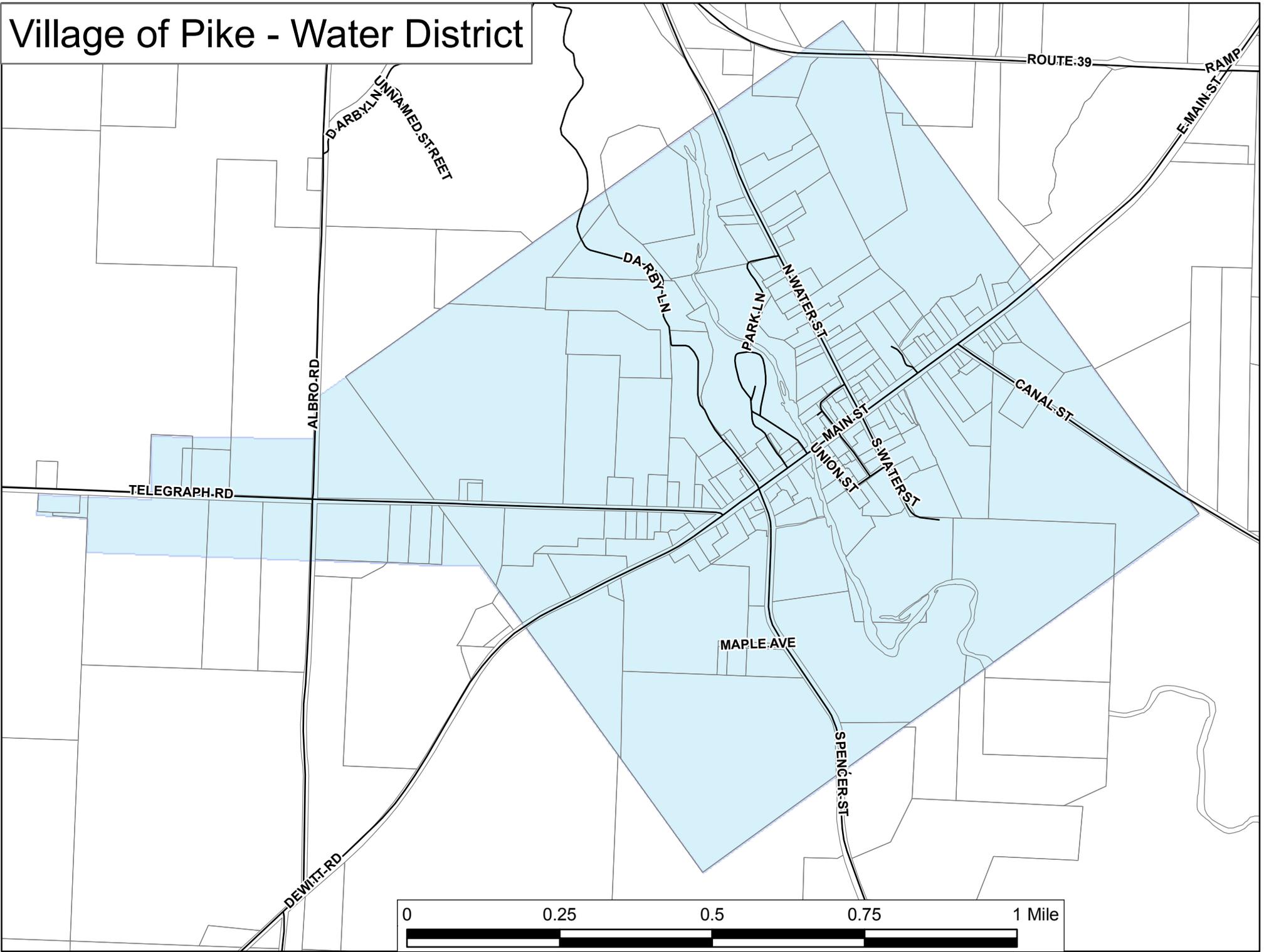
SPENGER ST



# Village of Pike - Streetlight District



# Village of Pike - Water District



**Village of Pike Dissolution Plan**

**DISSOLUTION PLAN OF THE VILLAGE OF PIKE**

*Adopted by Village Board: February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008*

*Date of Vote: March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008*

**STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF WYOMING  
VILLAGE OF PIKE**

**PROPOSITION NUMBER 1:**

**PROPOSITION FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PIKE, DISPOSITION OF VILLAGE PROPERTY, ESTABLISHMENT OF TOWN SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PIKE FIRE DISTRICT.**

Shall the Village of Pike be dissolved; shall Village property be disposed of as follows; shall Town of Pike Special Improvement Districts be created to operate certain existing Village Improvements; and shall the Town of Pike establish the Pike Fire District:

- 1.) The Village of Pike will officially dissolve on December 31, 2009.\*
- 2.) Following the dissolution of the Village of Pike, the Town of Pike will assume the duties and functions of the Village and continue to provide certain services once provided by the Village. The cost of certain specific services will be met by fees or taxes levied on real property located within the bounds of Special Improvement Districts established by the Town Board as explained in Paragraphs 7, 8, and 9 of this Dissolution Plan.
- 3.) In accordance with Village Law Section 19-1910, all Local Laws, Ordinances, Rules and Regulations of the Village of Pike that are in effect on the date of the dissolution of the Village will be enforced and administered by the Town of Pike for a period of two (2) years from the date of dissolution, unless the Town of Pike deems otherwise. At the end of the two (2) year time period all Local Laws, Ordinances, Rules and Regulations of the Village of Pike will become null and void *unless* the Town Board of the Town of Pike enacts certain Village laws or ordinances as the Town's own laws and ordinances.
- 4.) The Village of Pike's Zoning Law will expire on the date of dissolution as provided by Paragraph 16 of this Dissolution Plan. Following the dissolution vote, the Town of Pike will prepare new zoning regulations that will take effect immediately following the dissolution of the Village.
- 5.) The offices and positions of Mayor, Village Trustees, Public Works Superintendent, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Village Clerk, Water Clerk, Village Historian, Village Attorney, and all other miscellaneous Village positions, shall be abolished upon the dissolution of the Village of Pike.
- 6.) The Town of Pike will hire four current Village employees, which are: 1.) the Village's Water Clerk, 2.) the Village's Water Plant Operator, 3.) the Village's part-time sidewalk maintenance person, and 4.) the Village's water meter reader. These individuals will become paid employees of the Town. The Village's Water Clerk will handle the same tasks for the Town as he/she does for the Village and will work under the direction of the Town Clerk. The Village's Water Plant Operator will continue to

## Village of Pike Dissolution Plan

run the water system and will work under the direction of the Town Highway Superintendent. The part-time maintenance person will perform the same duties for the Town as he/she does for the Village and will work under the direction of the Town Highway Superintendent. The Village's meter reader will perform the same duties for the Town as he/she does for the Village and will work under the direction of the Town Highway Superintendent.

- 7.) The Town Board of the Town of Pike will create and establish by resolution a Special Improvement District to be known as the "Town of Pike Water District" as provided by Section 19-1914 of the Village Law and by Articles 12 and 12-A of the Town Law. The operation of this district will be subject to the decisions of the Town Board. Costs of operating the Water District will be met by user fees levied on real property owners who own land within the Water District's boundaries *and* whose property receives water from the public water system. All of the real property lying within the bounds of the Water District will be subject to the indebtedness of such district, including any outstanding obligations and bonds issued at the time of construction of the public water supply system. All property, facilities, infrastructure, and equipment used by the Village for operating and maintaining the water system will be turned over to the Town at no cost. The boundary of this District will be coterminous with the boundary of the Village with the exception of a length of Telegraph Road between the water treatment plant and the Village boundary (See Map 1: Town of Pike Water District).
- 8.) The Town Board of the Town of Pike will create and establish by resolution a Special Improvement District to be known as the "Town of Pike Lighting District" as provided by Section 19-1914 of the Village Law and by Articles 12 and 12-A of the Town Law. The Town will assume responsibility for maintenance and repair of all streetlights within this District. The operation of this district will be subject to the decisions of the Town Board. Costs of operating the Lighting District will be met by taxes levied on the benefited real property located within the bounds of the Lighting District. The boundary of this District will be coterminous with the boundary of the Village (See Map 2: Town of Pike Lighting District).
- 9.) The Town Board of the Town of Pike will create and establish by resolution a Special Improvement District to be known as the "Town of Pike Sidewalk District" as provided by Section 19-1914 of the Village Law and by Articles 12 and 12-A of the Town Law. The Town will assume responsibility for maintenance and repair of all sidewalks within this District. The operation of this district will be subject to the decisions of the Town Board. Following the dissolution of the Village, the Village will turn over to the Town of Pike, at no cost, all equipment and supplies used by the Village for maintaining, repairing, and clearing snow from sidewalks. Costs of operating the Sidewalk District will be met by taxes levied on the benefited real property located within the bounds of the Sidewalk District. The boundary of this District will be coterminous with the boundary of the Village (See Map 3: Town of Pike Sidewalk District).
- 10.) The Town of Pike will assume any and all outstanding debts and obligations of the Village of Pike. The only debt owed by the Village is for its public water system. In accordance with Village Law Section 19-1912, this debt will be levied on real property that lies within the boundaries of the Pike Water District until it is paid off.
- 11.) Any net savings resulting from the dissolution of the Village of Pike will be used by the Town of Pike to reduce the indebtedness of the former Village of Pike and/or to enhance the services provided by the Town to the former Village through the Town's Special Improvement Districts. Any such savings will not be applied towards services located outside the former Village of Pike.

## **Village of Pike Dissolution Plan**

- 12.) Prior to the dissolution of the Village, the Town Board of the Town of Pike will create and establish by resolution a Fire District to be known as the “Pike Fire District” encompassing the entire Town of Pike. Following dissolution of the Village, this Fire District will automatically expand to include the area of the former Village. The boundaries of the Fire District will be coterminous with the Town’s boundaries. The costs of operating this Fire District will be met by taxes levied on the benefited real property located within the bounds of the Pike Fire District.
- 13.) Prior to the dissolution of the Village but following the establishment of the Pike Fire District, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Pike will turn over to the Pike Fire District all of the Village’s rights, title, and interest in the Pike Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. All property, buildings, vehicles, and equipment owned by the Village and used by the Pike Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. for the purpose of firefighting will be turned over, at no cost, to the Pike Fire District.
- 14.) Following the dissolution of the Village, the Town of Pike will renegotiate all contracts and agreements currently held between the Village of Pike and the Wyoming County Fair Association. The terms of the contracts and agreements will remain the same unless Town of Pike and Wyoming County Fair Association officials mutually agree to change them. On the date of dissolution, all Village-owned real property, buildings, and equipment used by the Wyoming County Fair Association for the purpose of operating the County Fair will be turned over, at no cost, to the Town of Pike.
- 15.) Following the dissolution of the Village, the Town of Pike will provide garbage and recycling collection services to all real properties located within the former Village through its contract with Wyoming County.
- 16.) Prior to the dissolution of the Village, the Town of Pike will revise and update its Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Law to include coverage of all land located within the Village boundaries. The new Zoning Law will take effect when the Village officially dissolves. The Town will consider instituting a “Hamlet” zoning district that will encompass the former Village and include special regulations that do not apply to rural areas of the Town outside the former Village. This “Hamlet” district will potentially be subdivided into separate commercial and residential areas; the Town Planning Board will oversee the preparation of these new zoning regulations with the aim of having them in place prior to the dissolution of the Village.
- 17.) The Village of Pike will turn over, at no cost, to the Town of Pike all real property and miscellaneous property not specifically disposed of in the preceding paragraphs.

\* State Law mandates that a village dissolve on the last day of December in the year following the year in which the dissolution vote is held. Therefore, if the dissolution vote is held in March 2008, the Village will officially dissolve on the last day of the following year, which is December 31, 2009.

### **AS TO PROPOSITION NO. 1:**

Total number of votes recorded in favor of Proposition No. 1: 31  
Total number of votes recorded in opposition to Proposition No. 1: 5  
Total number of spoiled votes: 0

Total number of votes cast: 36