

Village of Dansville Dissolution/Coterminous Feasibility Study

A Report to the Village/Town
Dissolution/Coterminous Study Committee

November 2010

This document was created with funds provided by the New York Department of State
Local Government Efficiency grant program. Contract # T-088802

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Dissolution/Coterminous Study
Committee

November 2010

Prepared for:
Village/Town Dissolution/Co-Terminous Study Committee

Project Directors:
Charles Zettek, Jr. & Scott F. Sittig

1 South Washington Street
Suite 400
Rochester, NY 14614
585.325.6360

90 State Street
Suite 1126



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the fall of 2009, The Village of Dansville and Town of North Dansville jointly embraced the need to explore options for cutting taxes and possibly restructuring local government. The two governments applied for and received a Local Government Efficiency grant from New York State to study the fiscal, service and tax impact of shared service opportunities, up to and including full consolidation of the two municipalities. The Village and Town then formed a study committee comprised of 10 people with an additional five advisors to serve as the primary group to oversee the project and make recommendations to the two boards regarding the outcome of the study. The Village, as lead agency, with the approval of the Town and full study committee, hired the Center for Governmental Research, Inc. (CGR) to facilitate the process and analyze data for the study committee to review. The ultimate goal was to inform the municipal boards and the public regarding the options available to the community.

The project was initiated in January of 2010. The committee met monthly between January and October with some additional meetings in certain months. The additional meetings included two public hearings and one joint town and village board meeting. The meetings progressed from the development of an initial *Baseline Report* to a formal survey of the community ultimately culminating in the development of a full *Consolidation Options and Impacts Report*. The baseline analysis provided a detailed understanding of the services that currently exist in the community and how each service is provided in each municipality. The survey was designed as another means to engage the public and help shape the committee's understanding of how the public would like to proceed. Both of those tools informed the development of options. Options were considered for sharing individual services on a service by service basis as well as fully consolidating both municipalities into one. All reports and material learned by the study committee were placed on a public website open to all interested citizens during the entire process (www.cgr.org/dansville).

The committee learned through the analysis that there are several options available for the community that would either lower taxes or restructure the governments. It became apparent, however, that very few options would yield a large enough tax decrease to justify the potential change and/or loss in service. Currently, there are only a few services that remain unconsolidated within the community and none of the options that were reviewed seemed like win-win situations for both Town and Village residents. The committee felt it was critical that both Village and Town Outside Village residents be included in any change process. In addition, the committee agreed that it was critical that both sets of taxpayers (Village and Town Outside of Village) should benefit by any changes, not just Village taxpayers, if at all possible. Finally, the committee was also

aware of the potential for a citizen lead campaign to dissolve the Village that could work counter to both of these critical factors. With these factors in mind and understanding that the elected leaders were being asked to “do something” by their constituents, the committee ultimately determined that pursuing a viable model for full consolidation of the two municipalities would provide the best option for change that would most benefit the entire community.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

As a result of extensive research and 10 months of analysis, the Dissolution/Co-Terminus Study Committee voted to recommend that the Village of Dansville and Town of North Dansville should jointly pursue the development of a city charter resulting in a full consolidation of the two municipalities. Several considerations influenced the final vote of the committee in favor of pursuing city status. The primary factors were:

- Dansville’s location in the southern part of Livingston County makes it difficult to participate in regional investments in infrastructure (such as water/sewer) and/or share in the economic advantages of being in closer proximity to the major metropolitan areas closer to Rochester;
- The rebranding of Dansville and North Dansville into the City of Dansville may encourage economic development within the community;
- City status allows for a reduction of two layers of governments into one;
- City status is a form of consolidation that will qualify for the New York State Aid and Incentive to Municipalities (AIM) incentive. In addition, cities are eligible for higher amounts of AIM per capita due to state statute;
- The decision to pursue city status can be made by both Town and Village voters which will allow for all citizens to participate and vote in the process;
- Not only will Village residents experience property tax savings, but city status is the only option that allows Town Outside of Village residents to either hold property taxes at current rates or also experience a tax decrease;
- City status allows for creation of service and/or tax zones that could replicate current village and town service differences, which will minimize cost/tax shifts;

- City status will allow for the Village and Town courts to become the responsibility of New York State thus alleviating some cost currently charged to local property tax payers;
- City status could allow for more voices (actual representatives from the community) on the County Board of Supervisors even though their combined vote would carry the same weight as the vote of the current Town of North Dansville; and
- City status would allow for the pre-emption of sales tax generated within the border of the new city should it be advantageous to do so.

It has been the intent of the committee throughout the study process to research options that not only streamline government operations but also allows a consolidated Dansville to maintain both the identity and character of its urban core and the much more rural identity and character of the Town. We believe our recommendation achieves this goal. The outline of issues contained in this summary are a reflection of our work and should form the foundation for a future charter commission should they begin the process to develop a new city charter.

STEPS TO CONSIDER IN PLANNING FOR A JOINT CHARTER COMMISSION PROCESS

In addition to providing our final recommendation, the committee also compiled an overview of the process involved in forming a charter commission to include in this final summary. The following 11 steps constitute major/key decisions and action items that should be included in a process to form a charter commission. If the two boards agree to pursue city status, dates should be added to these steps to allow for a clear understanding of what must be accomplished leading up to a public referendum (see step 8).

- 1) (Month 1) Village Board and Town Council separately vote to pass a local law to create a Joint Charter Commission and enter into an intermunicipal agreement. Each governing body would have to propose the law, hold a public hearing, and pass the local law in order for the Commission process to begin. The Commission's mission would be to research issues related to forming a city and then draft a new charter for the consolidated city.

The Village and Town also jointly apply for a state grant from the Local Government Efficiency (LGE) grant program. Grant funds could be used to help pay for legal services for the development of the new charter by the Joint Charter Commission and the development of draft legislation for approval by the NYS Legislature. Grant applications are awarded on a non-competitive basis and are accepted by the state on a rolling basis.

Note: The Joint Charter Commission would not be held to the statutory authority of a city charter commission under the NYS Municipal Home Rule Law because it would not have the authority under this law to put a charter forward on the ballot. We recommend, however, that the Joint Charter Commission follow the same procedures as outlined in the Municipal Home Rule Law, which is a key reason we call for an intermunicipal agreement that would spell out this requirement.

- 2) (Month 2) The Council and Board establish the interview committee that will determine who serves on the Commission. The interview committee would consist of the Town Supervisor and Village Mayor, plus two Town Council representatives selected by the Town and two Village Board representatives selected by the Village.

At the same time as the interview committee is established, the Council and Board advertise in their official newspapers and by media releases that residents who are age 18 or older and are not elected or appointed officials or spouses of elected or appointed officials, may apply during the next 30 days to be considered for the Commission. The information advertised would include a description of the Commission and duties of its members.

- 3) (Month 3) After the application period ends, the interview committee selects, from among the applicants, four Town residents and four Village residents to comprise the Joint Charter Commission.
- 4) (Month 4) The Village and Town enter into an intermunicipal agreement appointing the Commission members. The work of the Commission commences immediately thereafter.

- 5) (Months 5-12) Allow up to 8 months for the eight-member Joint Charter Commission to complete work on the new charter for the consolidated city.
- 6) Allowing for several months of review by the two boards, the boards will need to accept the charter. At that point, the existing Village Board and Town Council request from the NYS Legislature the authority to vote on consolidating the Village and Town by placing the new charter on the ballot at the next regularly scheduled general election.
- 7) The Village Board and the Town Council hold the required public hearings on the proposed new charter.
- 8) (Next Regular General Election) The Village and Town hold separate votes. In order to pass, approval of the charter requires a majority in the Village and a majority in the Town (whole Town).
- 9) (Next Calendar Year) If the charter is passed by voters in the Village and the Town, the next calendar year becomes the transition year for planning the actual implementation of the merger. That means the two governments would take the necessary steps to merge operations per the new charter and identify whatever other agreements would be necessary to incorporate other entities into the new single government (e.g., laws and codes would be reviewed so they could be integrated to meet the needs of each service zone.)
- 10) (General Election in Implementation Year) At the next regularly scheduled general election, the electorate will vote for the new consolidated City of Dansville council, per the adopted charter.
- 11) January 1, of the calendar year following the election of a city council, the new Dansville begins.

APPENDICES TO THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This summary also includes several appendices. Appendix A provides a summary overview of the major categories that were examined through the process and that a charter commission would have to address were the Village and Town to dissolve in order to form a new city. These are presented at a high level of analysis with the understanding that the charter commission will necessarily fill in details pertinent at the time the documents are formalized. While it is not as comprehensive as a dissolution plan, it does provide a framework that outlines both the committee's thinking and a foundation for further research and planning. Appendix B presents draft language for a resolution and local law to establish a Joint Charter Commission. Appendix B also includes a proposed intermunicipal agreement to officially appoint Commission members and describe their mission.

The appendices are based on models that have been developed for other communities, but have not been reviewed or finalized by legal counsel. The committee recommends that the Village and Town obtain review and necessary modification by legal counsel prior to implementing these recommendations.

Appendix A

Overview of the plan elements necessary for the continuation of services in a new city

What follows is an outline of what the committee thinks is likely to happen to Village and Town operations, costs and obligations if the two governments are merged into a city. However, the actual final determination of what would happen if a city was created will be made by the proposed city charter, if approved by the voters.

General Government Services – All executive and legislative functions of the Village and Town governments would be eliminated. General fund administrative services provided by the Village and Town Hall would be absorbed by the new city and charged on a citywide basis. These types of services might include animal control, engineering, auditor, payroll, attorneys, insurance, etc. This could result in some cost shifts between current Village and TOV residents. A charter commission will offer solutions for a form of government, size and type of representation, and the general structure of the new government. Elections will be held at some point for the office of mayor and city council.

Court – New York State would assume responsibility for all Village and Town court activity. Salaries for both the justices and court clerk will become the burden of New York State. Court revenue currently flowing to the Village and Town would decrease but violations of city ordinance would still be revenue to the new city.

Code Enforcement – The current code enforcement function (personnel and associated costs) would transfer to the city. Essentially no change in the function.

Assessment – Assessment would be a city function with essentially little change in the current townwide operation.

Police – If the Village dissolved, the police department would dissolve with it. Provision could be made under a number of different scenarios to continue dedicated police service in the area of the former Village. The range of options includes forming a tax/service zone covering the former Village to allow either the current police or the County Sheriff under special contract to assume direct responsibility for the area. There could also be a citywide police department should the community decide that was in their best interest. Whether the police department remains or coverage is provided by the County Sheriff will have to be determined during the course of the charter commission process. The Study Committee did recognize through survey results that the current Village residents do like dedicated police coverage.

Fire and EMS Services – The Village fire department will likely become a city fire department. The portion of the current Town fire protection district within the boundary of the Town of North Dansville will likely be incorporated into the new city. The current Dansville fire companies could continue to provide coverage as independent contracted fire companies. Any companies not independently incorporated could seek incorporation status. All fire related equipment would transfer to the city. The ambulance service would be largely unaffected and would contract with the city for the provision of EMS service in the city limits.

Public Works Services – All current services such as mowing, snow plowing/sanding, summer street maintenance services, brush pickup, parks maintenance, sidewalk snow plowing, meter reading etc. could be provided by merged DPW and Highway department. Current Village and Town personnel would likely be hired as needed to accommodate the work load for the entire Town. Costs may increase for this operation due to current pay differentials unless there were less personnel overall. Costs might also increase as State highways (excluding I-390) may become the responsibility of the city DPW subject to discussions with the State at the time the city is formed.

Buildings and Other Assets – The ownership of all buildings and assets such as vehicles, equipment and property, will transfer to the City of Dansville to be utilized as required to provide services. Village and Town Hall are one and the same but rent being paid by the Village to the Town would cease. Operations within the Village and Town Hall would continue as operations in a city hall. It is likely that both DPW and Highway garages would be retained in the short term until it was determined if a merged/larger facility would be beneficial to the joint operation.

Impact on Employees - The elected positions of Village Mayor, Town Supervisor, Village Trustee and Town Councilperson will be eliminated. The positions of Village and Town justice and court clerk will also be eliminated. The Village Administrator position would be eliminated. It is not clear whether the FTE position associated with the current administrator would continue in the city under different title. Other administrative personnel would likely be retained but likely under different title/class. Personnel with the water and sewer funds (including the billing clerk) would likely be retained and become city employees. DPW streets personnel would likely be merged with the Town Highway Department with no loss in FTE. The assessor will be retained as a city employee and the code enforcement officer will transfer to the city. A new slate of city council members would be elected (in number to be determined) as would a new mayor.

Impact on Retirees – Obligations to retirees of the Village or Town would likely remain an outstanding obligation to former taxpayers within each respective municipality in future city budgets. (Similar to debt)

Local Laws and Ordinances – All local laws, ordinances and codes associated with the Village and Town will remain enforceable by the city unless the charter delineates a different plan. Since the two codes are largely similar, the code books could be merged with little conflict and all laws could continue to be enforced under the management of the city council.

Revenue –New York State will likely offer a revenue incentive to consolidate. The incentive could be as large as \$370,000 annually in addition to the base AIM that both communities currently receive. Cities also typically receive a slightly higher State Aid payment due to their status and thus a new city may see a further increase in State Aid due to the change. CHIPs revenue and state mortgage tax revenue will continue as Town revenues. Utilities gross receipts tax will also continue as a city tax.

Debt – Debt associated with the general fund in the Village at the time of dissolution will remain chargeable to only former Village residents until it

is retired. Water or sewer users will maintain responsibility for any current or future debt associated with the water or sewer system. Debt associated with the Town will remain the responsibility of the Town residents until it is retired.

Financial Impacts of Consolidation - Maximum potential savings in fully consolidating the Village and Town is slightly more than \$200,000 (if police services are retained at their current levels). However, this represents aggressive restructuring in addition to the obvious staff reductions (I.e. Mayor, Trustee, Justices, etc.) Maximum savings represents a per capita savings of \$45 per Village resident or \$235 per Town resident. In total, this value is approximately 4% of the combined Town and Village budgets (all funds). Depending on what the city charter proposes, savings might be less than the maximum shown with the possibility that there would be no “net savings”.

Property tax savings for Village property owners will be realized upon implementation using the assumptions for the “town and village into city” status option identified in the *Consolidation Options and Impacts* report. The combined property tax rate for current Village taxpayers (blended – all funds) would decrease from \$15.68 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$10.67 per \$1,000 of assessed value, for a reduction of 32%, while Town outside of Village residents would experience an increase of \$1.29 per \$1,000 or 28%. However, with the possible inclusion of sales tax, the rates would change considerably. Village residents could experience a savings of close to \$9.54/\$1,000 while TOV residents may experience a savings of \$3.24/\$1,000.

Dual Taxing Zones – Cities in New York State are allowed to craft boundaries that allow properties to be taxed on a differential basis depending on the service provided. It would be a good solution for our community to have dual zones whereby certain services could be offered to those in the more urban and densely populated areas (such as are currently provided to Village residents) while those outside this area could served and taxed at lower levels.

Water and Sewer – Both functions would transfer to the city and become city operations managed by the city council. Current personnel associated with each department would be likely retained. All expenses (including debt) would continue to be borne by current water/sewer users.

Schools – Due to the geographic size and student population of the Dansville Central School District, it is likely that no substantial changes would occur to the current school system. Items for further consideration will include busing requirements, debt and taxing limits and district designation as either a central school or city school.

Appendix B – Proposed Resolution for Joint Charter Commission and Proposed IMA

#(Bill Number) - 20xx (Year)

DRAFT

PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A JOINT CHARTER COMMISSION

Motion of Councilperson

WHEREAS, the Village of Dansville and the Town of North Dansville have received grant funding from the Local Government Efficiency grant program, have been engaged in a Shared Services and Consolidation Study and have received a recommendation from the Study Committee recommending the creation of a Joint Charter Commission to develop a new City of Dansville Charter for the consolidation of the Village of Dansville and the Town of North Dansville; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Dansville Village Board to have a Joint Charter Commission with the Town of North Dansville to draft a proposed new City of Dansville Charter that contemplates a consolidation of the existing Village of Dansville and Town of North Dansville; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Charter Commission, is to have equal representation from both municipalities, and shall consist of eight members and that four members shall be residents from the Village of Dansville and four members shall be residents of the Town of North Dansville; and

WHEREAS, the general process Charter Commission review is outlined in Chapter 36 and 37 in the Municipal Home Rule Law; and

WHEREAS, Local Law No. X of the Year 20XX entitled “A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A JOINT CHARTER COMMISSION TO STUDY AND DRAFT A NEW CITY OF DANSVILLE CHARTER” was introduced before the Village Board of the Village of Dansville, New York on XXXX; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board held a Public Hearing on said proposed Local Law on XXXX;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Village Board of the Village of Dansville that Local Law No. X of Year 20XX is hereby adopted creating a Joint Charter Commission to study and draft a new City of Dansville Charter.

Seconded by

LOCAL LAW NO. X OF THE YEAR 20XX

DRAFT

CITY OF DANSVILLE

**PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A JOINT CHARTER
COMMISSION TO STUDY AND DRAFT A NEW CITY OF
DANSVILLE CHARTER**

BE IT ENACTED by the Village Board of the Village of Dansville, New York, as follows:

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION

A Commission to study and to draft a new City of Dansville Charter is hereby established. It is recognized that the Joint Commission will generally follow the process and guidelines as outlined in Charter 36 and 37 in the Municipal Home Rule Law but not necessarily be limited to said procedures.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Commission is to promote and develop a new City of Dansville Charter reflective of the efforts and recommendations set forth by the Dissolution/Co-Terminous Study Committee. It is in the best interest of the Village of Dansville and the Town of North Dansville to make local government more efficient while maintaining high quality services for residents.

SECTION 3. FUNDING

In accordance with the purposes set forth herein the parties will subsequently apply to the New York State Department of State 20XX-20XX (fiscal year) Local Government Efficiency Grant Program for a High Priority Planning Grant to assist with the legal fees and other costs associated with the City Charter development. Any additional or funded costs will be borne by the Village and Town on the basis of taxable assessed valuation, or further grant applications will be pursued jointly by the Village and Town.

SECTION 4. INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

In accordance with purposes set forth herein the parties will subsequently enter into an intermunicipal agreement in accordance with section 5-G of the General Municipal Law.

SECTION 5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Village Board and Town Council shall appoint an Interview Committee consisting of six elected officials including the Village Mayor, Town Supervisor, two Village Board members and two Town Council members. The Interview Committee shall advertise in the official newspaper for residents interested in serving as members of the Joint Charter Commission and then conduct interviews of all interested residents to select a total of eight Commission members, four residents must reside in the Town of North Dansville and four residents must reside in the Village of Dansville. The appointment of such members shall be done jointly by the Village Board and Town Council by entering into an intermunicipal agreement outlining the mission, purpose and guidelines as set forth for the Joint Charter Commission.

SECTION 6. COMPLETION DATE

The members of the Commission shall complete and forward a recommended draft City of Dansville Charter to both the Village of Dansville Board and the Town of North Dansville Council as set forth in the intermunicipal agreement.

SECTION 7. NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Upon receipt of the draft City of Dansville Charter, both the Village of Dansville Board and the Town of North Dansville Council shall consider adopting resolutions requesting authority from the New York State Legislature to permit the Village of Dansville and the Town of North Dansville in Livingston County to hold a referendum to determine whether the Village and the Town should merge and to expand the boundaries of such Village to encompass the Town upon passage of such referendum.

SECTION 8. REFERENDUM FOR MERGER

Should the New York State Legislature authorize a referendum to determine whether the Village and the Town should merge, both the Village of Dansville Board and the Town of North Dansville Council shall consider putting forth to qualified voters under the provisions of the Election and Municipal Home Rule Law, a proposition to merge the Village of Dansville and Town of North Dansville.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

The Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with law.

PROPOSED (DRAFT)
INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE VILLAGE OF DANSVILLE, NEW YORK
AND
THE TOWN OF NORTH DANSVILLE, NEW YORK

WHEREAS, the Village of Dansville (hereinafter the “Village”) and the Town of North Dansville (hereinafter the “Town”) have jointly committed to study the potential of shared services and the consolidation of the two municipalities into a single entity; and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2010 the Study Committee issued the report “Consolidation Options and Impacts for the Village of Dansville and Town of North Dansville” outlining key topics related to tiered tax zones, financial projections, governance, police and fire services, DPW – highway, water and sewer services, schools, personnel and facilities and equipment; and

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2010 the Study Committee held a public forum as part of a civic engagement process to seek community input before developing a final recommendation of what option to pursue; and

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2010 the Study Committee voted to recommend pursuing City Status; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation to the Village Board and Town Council outlines a process that each separately pass a local law establishing a Joint Charter Commission and enter into an intermunicipal agreement explaining the Joint Charter Commission’s mission for drafting a new City Charter for the consolidated City; and

WHEREAS, on XXXX XX, 20XX the Village Board of the Village of Dansville held a public hearing and on XXXX XX, 20XX adopted LOCAL LAW #-20XX entitled “A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A JOINT CHARTER COMMISSION TO STUDY AND DRAFT A NEW CITY OF DANSVILLE CHARTER”; and

WHEREAS, on XXXX XX, 20XX the Town Council of the Town of North Dansville held a public hearing and on XXXX XX, 20XX adopted LOCAL LAW #-20XX entitled “A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A JOINT CHARTER COMMISSION TO STUDY AND DRAFT A NEW CITY OF DANSVILLE CHARTER”; and

WHEREAS, on XXXX XX, 20XX the Village Board and Town Council jointly submitted an application to the Local Government Efficiency Grant Program for a High Priority Planning Grant to develop a new City Charter for the implementation of a functional consolidation of the Village of Dansville and the Town of North Dansville; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board and Town Council appointed an Interview Committee consisting of six elected officials including the Village Mayor, Town Supervisor, two Village Board members and two

Town Council members; the Interview Committee advertised in the official newspaper for residents interested in serving as members of the Joint Charter Commission and then conducted interviews of all interested residents; and

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. The Village Board and Town Council jointly appoint the following residents to serve as members of the Joint Charter Commission:
 - 1) Town Resident
 - 2) Town Resident
 - 3) Town Resident
 - 4) Town Resident
 - 5) City Resident
 - 6) City Resident
 - 7) City Resident
 - 8) City Resident
2. The mission of the Joint Charter Commission is to develop a new City of Dansville City Charter reflective of the efforts and research set forth in the *Consolidation Options and Impacts Report* developed by the Dissolution/Co-Terminous Study Committee. It is in the best interest of the Village of Dansville and the Town of North Dansville to make local government more efficient while maintaining high quality services for residents. The Charter should serve as a framework for the new form of government.
3. It is recognized that the Joint Charter Commission will generally follow the process and guidelines as outlined in the Municipal Home Rule law but will not necessarily be limited to said procedures; and
4. The Joint Charter Commission shall issue a draft Charter to both the Village Board and Town Council no later than XXXXXX XX, 20XX.
5. Both the City and Town understand the importance of this effort and agree to commit any and all necessary municipal employees to cooperate with the Joint Charter Commission.
6. Any additional funded costs will be borne by the Village and Town on the basis of taxable assessed valuation, or further grant applications will be pursued jointly by the Village and Town.

DATED: _____
NORTH DANSVILLE

THE TOWN OF

By:

Supervisor

DATED: _____
DANSVILLE

THE VILLAGE OF

By:

Mayor

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Consolidation Options and Impacts for the Village of Dansville and the Town of North Dansville, NY

A Report to the Village/Town
Dissolution/Coterminous Study Committee

November 2010

OVERVIEW OF CONSOLIDATION OPTIONS

The following report provides the Dissolution/Co-Terminous Study Committee with CGR's perspective on available consolidation options and their fiscal and/or operational impacts on the Village of Dansville and Town of North Dansville. The options presented will assist the Committee as it prepares recommendations for the community to consider. This report builds on a comprehensive baseline report issued in May 2010, entitled *Baseline Report – Village of Dansville and Town of North Dansville*. That report, prepared by CGR on behalf of the Committee, establishes a foundational understanding of how the Town and Village deliver and fund services, as well as their basic governing structures; identifies their assets and debts; compares their respective local laws; and presents other issues that may bear on the consolidation question. In order to fully understand the options and impacts presented in this report in their proper context, readers are encouraged to review the baseline document.

There are several options available to the community. They can best be explained by looking at them in two different categories. The first category involves shared services between the Town and Village. These scenarios allow each municipality to continue operation and encourage the two communities to partner in ways that they currently do not. The second category includes options for full municipal merger. In certain scenarios the Village and Town would become one entity legally, while in other scenarios the two municipalities simply become one entity functionally.

Shared Service Options

In the category of shared services, the Village and Town have limited options. The Village and Town have gone to great lengths to streamline their functional service operations already. The remaining options are in the area of courts, Highway/DPW, administration and executive leadership (I.e. mayor/boards). Based upon the review of costs and service impacts, it appears that the most viable option for the community to consider is the merging of court services. This option could yield aggregate cost savings and tax rate savings for both Village and Town Outside of Village residents. While the savings are small, it would also not require a lot of work as the court already functions as one consolidated entity.

Merging the Highway and DPW functions represents a significant opportunity. The biggest challenge is overcoming the cost differential for personnel between the Town and Village. Only under the most aggressive scenario would the option be close to cost neutral. If all manpower is kept and transferred to the Town operation, there is likely an overall cost increase for this option. Separate from costs, there would likely be efficiency improvements that could be significant for long-term planning. However, these savings benefits are difficult to model and must simply be factored in to decisions as this scenario is considered.

Merging the functional services for administration and executive leadership would likely only materialize if the two governments functionally merged. There are some potential savings that emerge when personnel are eliminated, but this must be weighed against the need to keep up quality service and meet the demands of running the operations of one or more governments.

Another option for the Village and Town to consider is to transition the role of the Village police department. There are four possibilities that could be considered:

1. eliminate the Village police;
2. transition to a townwide police department;
3. develop an inter-municipal agreement with the Town; or
4. pursue an enhanced services contract with the Livingston County Sheriff.

Eliminating the Village police represents the greatest cost savings, but also the most significant change for the community. With no Village police, the community would be protected by the Livingston County Sheriff, but with no guarantee on the level of protection or visibility in the community. Transitioning to a townwide police department could occur and may involve some cost increase, depending on the type of protection that was

called for in areas currently not served by the Village police. In addition, this would transfer some of the cost for police services to tax payers outside the Village who would likely prefer not to bear that burden.

An IMA with the Town and/or Sheriff that would allow the Village police to be the first responders in certain areas of the Town may enhance the level of protection experienced in those areas. To a certain extent, this already occurs and is not likely to gain traction, particularly because the Village would likely expect remuneration for the added service being provided. While not unreasonable, it raises the overall cost for service which is counter to most resident's desire.

The Livingston County Sheriff has expressed openness to provide enhanced coverage to the Village. This would involve Village residents paying the County for a specified level of protection. A proposal submitted by the Sheriff indicates that dedicated coverage similar to what is currently provided by the Village police could be provided through the Sheriff's office for approximately 30% less than the cost of the current department.

Full Merger Options

There are potentially four options for merging the two governments.

- The two communities could pursue becoming co-terminous with each other. Co-terminous status involves the Village annexing the Town Outside of the Village and sharing a boundary with the Town of North Dansville.
- The two communities could fully consolidate resulting in the dissolution of the Village. The full consolidation process can be initiated through two different methods: 1. Community petition, or 2. Board resolution and/or joint agreements. A village dissolution process would involve only voters in the Village voting on the resolution to dissolve. A full consolidation process would involve voters in the whole Town and would require separate referendums of both Village and Town voters.
- The two communities could pursue city status together. A city charter commission would be established that would outline the governing structure and general policies for the new city. The charter would have to be approved by the State legislature. The advantage of a city is the eligibility to pre-empt sales tax generated within the borders of the community.
- The Village could pursue city status on its own. Similar to the previous option, but Town Outside of Village residents would be

subject to much higher taxes because city residents would not pay the Town tax.

Each option yields some cost savings and some tax benefit for Village residents. However, the impact on Town Outside of Village residents varies depending on the option. According to CGR's models, the savings to Village residents is greatest under the scenario of the Village and Town merging into a city. Village residents also accrue a similar benefit by transitioning to city status exclusive of the Town. However, both models assume pre-emption of sales tax which may not be a policy adopted by a future city government. Village dissolution represents the next best tax savings potential for Village residents. Co-terminous status represents the least possible tax savings potential in the scenarios for government merger.

Town Outside of Village residents will likely pay more in taxes for every option except if the Village and Town pursue city status together and ultimately pre-empt sales tax. The worst scenario for TOV residents is if the Village pursues city status exclusive of the Town. The least possible tax increase for TOV residents occurs under the dissolution/full consolidation scenarios.

The tables and cost estimates provided throughout this report are meant to provide a range of impacts. The tax impact estimates are based upon the best assumptions available at the time of this report. Circumstances will change as this process moves forward and will impact the final numbers. While numbers may change, it is highly likely that the result would produce tax impacts in the range of those that have been presented in this report.

Conclusion

There are numerous other considerations that factor into decisions concerning municipal consolidation. This report details many of those considerations and provides a road map for the committee to decide how to move forward. Communities all across New York State are wrestling with how to allocate scarce resources, preserve quality services, and maintain the character of neighborhoods that emerged over many years. The leadership in Dansville has shown courage to study these issues, but the community should be prepared to take some difficult steps if any of these options are to be implemented.

INTRODUCTION

In 2009, officials in the Village of Dansville and Town of North Dansville initiated an effort to explore options for consolidating into a single municipality. The primary goal at that time was to fully inform the community about the most effective and efficient way to allocate resources for the provision of services.

The original RFP outlined the following as background for the study:

“Both the Village of Dansville and the Town of North Dansville are fiscally distressed municipalities with decreasing populations that are in need of solutions to increase government efficiency while decreasing the financial burden placed upon taxpayers. Though the population has been shrinking, many services, such as highway and sanitary sewer, have had to remain the same. Further complicating the situation is the large number of economically challenged families and individuals residing in the village and town.”

With the overarching vision of redefining local government structure, the two municipalities identified five objectives to empower informed decision making within the community.

- 1. Provide residents with information on all of the viable service delivery options for improving efficiency and effectiveness so that residents can make an informed decision about the possible dissolution of the Village or the creation of a coterminous government with the Town of North Dansville.*
- 2. If the Village residents decide that neither dissolution nor the creation of a coterminous government are desirable options, village officials want the larger community to have information about options the town and village can jointly pursue for a more effective and efficient delivery of services.*
- 3. The village wants the information developed to be based upon the independent research and evaluation of an outside consultant thus preventing public misconceptions of an unfair conclusion.*
- 4. To clearly illustrate the potential net fiscal impact of consolidating services and/or dissolving the village.*
- 5. To outline equitable cost-sharing agreements.*

The following report addresses each of these objectives and seeks to inform citizens about the consolidation options that are available to the two municipalities. This report builds on a comprehensive baseline report issued in May 2010, entitled *Baseline Report – Village of Dansville and Town of North Dansville*. That report, prepared by CGR on behalf of the Committee, establishes a foundational understanding of how the Town and Village deliver and fund services, as well as their basic governing

structures; identifies their assets and debts; compares their respective local laws; and presents other issues that may bear on the consolidation question. In order to fully understand the options and impacts presented in this report in their proper context, readers are encouraged to review the baseline document.

Study Process

After a public request-for-proposal process, in January 2010 the Committee engaged the Center for Governmental Research Inc. (CGR) to complete the dissolution/co-terminous study. During the course of CGR's analysis, the Committee has held monthly meetings, all of which have been open to the public, and established a comprehensive website (www.cgr.org/dansville) to keep the community informed on the study's progress. The process was scheduled to include two formal public hearings to present information and solicit community feedback on the consolidation issue, as well as to discuss the baseline study and this options report. At the end of the process, the completed report and committee recommendations will be delivered to the boards in each municipality where decisions will be made on what recommendations to pursue, if any.

Purpose of This Report

The primary purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with CGR's perspective on available consolidation options and their fiscal and/or operational impacts on the Village of Dansville and the Town of North Dansville. The Dissolution/Co-Terminous Study Committee will use this information as it prepares recommendations for leaders in the community to consider.

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Process to Date

The study kicked off with a meeting in late January, 2010. The meeting was attended by all members of the dissolution/co-terminous study committee¹ as well as representatives of the Center for Governmental

¹ Committee members include: William Dixon, Village Mayor; Dennis Mahus, Town Supervisor; Andy Kershner, Village trustee; Donald Saylor, Village trustee; Richard Schwenzer, Town councilman; Nancy Conklin, Town councilwoman; Barry Haywood, Village resident; James Wissler, Village resident; Bob Smith, Town resident; Sandy Briggs, Town resident; Advisors to the Committee are Keith Petti, Village Administrator;

Research. Monthly meetings were scheduled and have been held on the last Wednesday of every month to date (save June, 2010 where the meeting was held on the second to last Wednesday).

Meetings through May, 2010 were largely focused on collecting and reviewing baseline data in order to generate a baseline report. The baseline report was made public in May, 2010. In addition, CGR conducted a survey during the spring that was developed to gauge public opinion on the topic of merging governments and/or merging individual services. Results of the survey were made public in July and are also included as an appendix to this report.

Process to Come

After the baseline report was complete, the process shifted to include discussion and analysis of options for merging services and/or both governments. The committee reviewed survey results and CGR's proposed options through August at which time there was a joint meeting with elected officials from both municipal boards focused on discussing the alternatives. The next step will be to hold the second scheduled public hearing for the community to provide feedback on the options that have been identified. Public feedback will be discussed and a final options report with recommendations for the municipal boards will be delivered to each governing body. The Town and Village boards will then work together to determine whether to implement recommendations made by the committee.

The entire study is intended to be complete by the end of September. No timetable for implementation has been set.

FUNCTIONAL OPTIONS

This section reviews municipal services shared service and/or consolidation options available to the Dansville community. Where applicable, the cost/savings impacts are presented.

Partial vs. Full Consolidation

This options report is focused on *full* consolidation of the Town of North Dansville and the Village of Dansville. As such, this section analyzes the

Donna Clark, Village Clerk; Timothy Wolfanger, Town Clerk; Rachel Scura, Village attorney; John Putney, Town attorney.

impact of consolidating current municipal services under the auspices of a single municipality. However, it is important to note that certain functions could be consolidated even short of full-scale municipal merger, through the use of a consolidated department or inter-municipal agreement. Based on CGR's analysis, the following services appear to have potential for incremental shared services and/or consolidation, even in the absence of a full municipal merger:

- Court
- DPW & Highway
 - Parks Maintenance
- Gasoline Purchasing
- Police

Keeping two separate governments will require two sets of services. Thus, for some other functions, the best opportunity for merging services appears to be in the context of a full consolidation of the two municipalities. In some cases this is due to state law (*e.g.* elected officials); in other cases, it is due to logistics inherent in running two independent municipalities (*e.g.* clerk/administrator). Thus, consolidating the following services will likely *only* occur in the context of a full municipal consolidation:

- Clerk/Administrator/Registrar
- Mayor/Supervisor
- Board/Council

Analysis of Functional Consolidations

Ongoing savings from consolidation will ultimately come from changes in staffing structures of functional departments. The actual savings potential ranges depending on the resulting structure of departments in the merged municipality. Simply “aggregating” costs between two departments does not capture the full picture of what could happen in each functional area if the municipalities consolidate. To facilitate analysis of each functional area in a standard form, three categories of assumptions were applied, ranging from most conservative to most aggressive.

- **Category 1: Merged and equalized with no loss of FTE**²

This is the most conservative approach to restructuring functions under a consolidated Dansville. It assumes that the current FTE complement of the Town and Village is amalgamated, resulting in no loss of FTE. Where there are position overlaps, compensation packages are equalized up to the higher of the two³. While titles may need to be realigned, it is assumed that general responsibilities will not change.

- **Category 2: Merged and restructured, assuming a possible reduction in FTE**

This is a slightly more aggressive approach to restructuring functions under a consolidated Dansville. Existing positions are restructured such that overlapping titles are revised to account for a more integrated, streamlined department. This results in title downgrades at certain positions, with a commensurate compensation reduction.

- **Category 3: Merged with aggressive restructuring**

This is an even more aggressive approach to restructuring functions under a consolidated Dansville. Under this category, more comprehensive restructuring options are considered for specific departments. Potential savings are realized through the elimination of positions; the elimination of certain duplicate titles; and the reduction of other FTEs.

Using these categories of assumptions, this section reviews impacts on functional services and shows the range of options available to the Town and Village in consolidation. Financial impacts are also presented to reflect the change in staffing structure and position deployment, where applicable. Information regarding current staffing and compensation

² Throughout this report, the abbreviation FTE refers to “full time equivalent” positions. It is important to note that FTE can be presented as a fraction of a full-time position, and does not necessarily represent a single full-time title. For example, 0.5 FTE refers to a half-time position. Similarly, 1.0 FTE may represent the aggregation of multiple part-time employees within a single department. For a full breakdown of current staffing levels in the Town and Village of Dansville, refer to the *Baseline Report – Village of Dansville and Town of North Dansville*.

³ This is consistent with actual practice in consolidations across the state that reflects the legal interpretations and court cases regarding consolidation of employees. However, the final determination of employee compensation will partly depend on whether or not the village dissolves versus consolidates with the town.

levels is drawn from the *Baseline Report - Village of Dansville and Town of North Dansville*.

It should be noted that these categories are not mutually exclusive, and do not necessarily represent the full range of restructuring options available to the Town and Village. The intent is to provide an analytical framework for the Committee's consideration and development of final recommendations.

Options for Functional Services without Full Municipal Merger

As mentioned above, some of the current functional services have the potential for consolidation without full municipal merger while others are likely not going to change unless there is a full merger. The services that follow could be consolidated under one municipality even if both municipalities continue to exist.

Court

Court services represent an opportunity for full consolidation regardless of full municipal merger. As presented in the baseline report, the two courts functionally operate as one consolidated court already. The work of both courts is currently handled by two part-time justices and one part-time court clerk. CGR learned through interviews that the current justices are adequately handling the work load, but the work load for the court clerk is excessive compared to the hours the position is expected to work. While the basic work is getting done, there are historical cases and certain legal filings that the clerk has difficulty managing for the hours she is expected to work.

Under the current scenario, the village court generates revenue for the Village that exceeds the current cost. In fiscal year 2010, the Village generated over \$44,000 in revenue contrasted with nearly \$29,000 in expenses. Thus, the net revenue for the Village was over \$15,000. As a point of reference, the Town generated \$5,000 in net revenue on gross revenue of \$19,000 and expenses of \$14,000.

CGR examined the NYS Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) Handbook for Town and Village Justices and Court Clerks; and a brochure produced by OSC on the topic of justice court consolidation in villages and towns. Those documents state that if a village abolishes its court, the village will continue to receive the fines resulting from 1) violations of village local laws other than speeding, but only if they are designated by town court personnel on state reporting forms as violations of village ordinances; 2) fines resulting from dog control violations, and 3) the local share of the mandatory surcharge collected on handicapped parking violations.

Over the last four years, an average of nearly 80% of the case volume handled by the municipal courts in Dansville is related to vehicle and traffic law. If the village court were to be dissolved, all revenue generated from fines related to vehicle and traffic law infractions would become town revenue. Parking fines and other fines associated with violations of village ordinances would still be village revenue thus insuring some revenue from a consolidated court would flow to the village. It is not possible at this time to estimate the amount of continued revenue, but since there would be no cost for a village court, all revenue would be net revenue.

The village court can be abolished by resolution of the Village board subject to permissive public referendum, unless it is dissolved as part of a full dissolution of the village. Unless through dissolution of the Village, the court would only cease to exist as the terms of the elected justices expire. Using the three different scenarios mentioned in the introduction to this section, CGR has calculated the impact of merging the two courts. *It is important to note that since state law requires town courts and not village a court, the only option is to consolidate into one town court.*

Category 1: As defined, this category involves merging the justice and clerk positions and aggregating salaries into the Town court. Combining salaries for the two highest paid justice positions (the Village pays the highest wage and pays both justices the same amount) equals \$14,343. When dental benefits, pension and social security are factored in, the total cost of one merged position is \$17,997. Similarly, the highest paid court clerk position (understanding this is one person with two positions) is the Village at \$11,639. Merging the clerk positions at this salary would yield one court clerk with a combined salary of \$23,278. With pension and social security factored in, the total cost would be \$27,549.

In this category, the merged town court would continue to be run by two part-time justices (each paid \$17,997) and one part-time court clerk (paid \$27,549). In aggregate, the total cost for the ongoing operation would increase to approximately \$63,500. The current combined cost is only \$42,300 meaning category one would yield a cost increase of over \$21,000.

Category 2: In category two, positions are merged simply by combining the salaries offered in each municipality currently. Thus, combining salaries and benefits for the two justice positions (at the higher of the two) yields a total cost for each justice of \$15,190. Similarly, adding the cost of the clerk function from both municipalities yields a cost of \$17,325. Two part-time justices and one part-time clerk in a merged court would thus yield a cost of \$47,705. Compared with the current cost, category two would yield a cost increase of over \$5,000.

Category 3: Under category three, the Town justice positions simply absorb the work of the village without any corresponding increase in pay. Thus, the salaries for the justice positions could be set at the higher of the two current salaries (in this case the \$7,172 offered by the Village). With benefits this would total \$9,509 for each justice. The clerk would be paid at the current Village rate, and with benefits would total \$13,775. A combined cost for category three would total \$32,793. Contrasted with current costs, category three would yield a cost savings just under \$10,000.

Conclusion: Not-with-standing the cost savings associated with category 3, merging court services is unlikely to generate significant cost savings and limited efficiencies. The primary advantage of merging the court is formally recognizing the operational activity that is already occurring in each court. The secondary advantage for the justices involved is to clarify and simplify the role of the court in the community. Villages across the state are consolidating village courts into town courts to eliminate confusion and simplify operations. An additional advantage for justices and the clerk would be that cases can be streamlined and court times posted for one municipality hopefully avoiding confusion and separate paperwork necessary when two courts are being managed. Overall revenue to the community should not change regardless of whether there is a formal court function in each or if they consolidate.

DPW & Highway

The Village Department of Public Works and the Town Highway Department share an historical legacy of being a formerly merged operation. CGR was told that several decades ago personality driven politics caused there to be a split in the two departments and the schism has never been repaired. Today the two departments functionally operate independent of one another despite their close proximity. As the baseline report pointed out, there is some service sharing on a per diem basis, but the two departments largely don't interact. The Town services are largely for streets and highways while the Village includes streets, water and sewer. The primary area serviced by the Town is the area outside of the Village and the primary area serviced by the DPW is within the Village boundaries.

There are no obvious impediments to the two departments forming a merged operation. It is clear that the two departments have developed expertise driven by the needs in their respective areas. This includes different equipment to meet different needs (E.g. 10-wheel plows with steel blades in the Town versus smaller trucks with rubberized blades in the Village), and in the case of the Village, manpower with specific licenses to manage the infrastructure of the water and sanitary sewer systems.

The differences in expertise notwithstanding, a merged operation under the leadership of one superintendent would produce some efficiencies and economies of scale that are lacking in the current structure. Allocating manpower during storms and/or during aftermath cleanup, using equipment between the two municipalities rather than sub-contracting and coordinating future capital purchasing plans could make the departments stronger and would streamline the delivery of the services provided.

The primary drawback to a merged operation is the possible increase in cost associated with merging the function. While additional personnel are not likely needed, neither can either department afford to lose any significant manpower. Budgets have been trimmed over several years and personnel have been reduced such that existing staffing levels are necessary to provide the services at current levels. There is currently a pay scale differential that may need to be leveled up in a merged scenario making the operation more costly overall.

Category 1: The current combined cost for the Department of Public Works (streets portion) and the Highway Department is almost \$790,000. Of this total, nearly \$471,000 is devoted to personnel costs (*excluding the cost of the Village Administrator that also technically serves as Superintendent of the DPW*)⁴.

As noted in the baseline report, the pay scales in the Village are higher than those in the Town. For option one, a merged department would level up the salaries of the Town employees to be equivalent with the Village employees. The current Town Deputy Superintendent would be leveled up to the Village Deputy Salary, and the current Town MEO would be leveled up to the Village MEO level. This would yield two Deputy Superintendents and five MEO's. We assumed that a merged department would end up with only one Superintendent (the Town Superintendent), thus not requiring any change in salary or benefits for the current Town Superintendent. We have not factored the Village Administrator into this analysis assuming that a merged department would only require one Superintendent. The other primary assumption added in this model was equalizing the benefits for each position. The combined cost for salary and benefits under these assumptions would be \$510,411.

Comparatively, category one would yield a cost increase of over \$39,000 from the status quo.

⁴ The cost for the Village Administrator position is factored into discussions later in the report regarding administration.

Category 2: The only difference between category two and category one is a re-structuring of the two deputy positions. For category two we assumed that a merged department would not require two deputies for the streets department and thus one deputy would be reclassified as an MEO at the Village MEO salary. All other assumptions in category one were held constant for category two. Total cost for personnel in category two would be almost \$507,000 or nearly \$36,000 more than the status quo.

Category 3: This category changes the assumptions significantly. Rather than leveling up to the Village level of salary, this category models costs if salaries were reduced to a middle ground between the Village and Town. In addition, the category two scenario of converting one deputy into an MEO position also carries through to this category. All benefits as modeled in category one are similarly carried through for category three. Thus, under category three, there would be one Superintendent paid at the current Town level, one Deputy Superintendent paid at the current Village Deputy Superintendent level, and five MEO's all paid at the level of the current Town Deputy Superintendent. This category yields a total personnel cost of almost \$472,000, only slightly more than the status quo cost of the two departments.

Conclusion: Only Category 3 comes close to break-even with the status-quo costs. All other categories would likely increase overall costs in addition to shifting the burden of those costs across tax payers in the whole Town. This increase and cost shift make merging the two departments very difficult. In addition, based upon analysis of the operation, it would be difficult to eliminate personnel thus enhancing the cost increase potential. As noted above, however, there are long-term efficiencies possible in managing the operation in a consolidated manner.

Parks Maintenance

The two municipalities currently maintain 10 parks between them. A merged highway department operation could allow for better coordination of the maintenance of these parks and a more strategic allocation of manpower and equipment. Actual cost savings may not be obvious in reduced manpower or equipment. However, the primary benefit to better coordination and use of manpower is the ability to accomplish other projects and/or deliver other services that are currently not possible due to the current allocation of resources. The primary cost impact will be related to the hiring and managing of seasonal staff and the deployment of those staff in relation to the full-time staff within a consolidated department.

Gasoline Purchasing

The Village currently purchases gasoline from the school district on contract at a reduced cost. The Town purchases gasoline independently.

The Town and Village could consider jointly purchasing gasoline on contract from the school district at the same reduced rate, and/or negotiating a lower rate due to a higher volume. A proper system of management for tracking usage and purchases is essential for this option to yield significant cost benefit. However, centralizing purchasing for this type of expenditure can lead to greater efficiencies and further contribute to the future working relationship of the Town and Village.

Police

Police services for the community are presently provided by the Dansville Police Department, the Livingston County Sheriff and the State Police. As noted in the baseline report, the Village force is responsible for the Village while the Sheriff and State Police respond to calls for service in areas of the Town outside of the Village. The Sheriff and State Police also serve as backup in the Village and vice-versa for the Village force within the Town outside of the Village.

Presently, the commercial corridor along Route 36 just outside of the Village including the truck stop along Route 390 is an area that generates many calls for service. Interviews with the Village Police Chief suggest that area could be patrolled by the Village police department with no additional manpower. Current operating procedure is for the Village force to wait inside the Village until a call for backup is made by the first responder (usually the Sheriff). The Village police are closer and usually available making this arrangement sub-optimal and inefficient. Since the commercial corridor along Route 36 developed much later than when the Village boundaries were drawn, it is apparent that a more efficient allocation of public safety resources could be obtained if village police were deployed in an area beyond the current Village boundaries.

In addition, the Village police have to patrol the annexed portion of Village territory currently in the Town of Sparta. In order to get to this area, the most efficient route occasionally means that Village police are traveling Town outside of Village streets. Similar to the previous point, Village police on Town outside of Village Streets suggests that Village police could patrol more than just the area within the Village.

Based upon these observations and more extensive interviews with the Dansville Police Chief, the current Village force could patrol more of the Town of North Dansville than current regulations allow. Extending the jurisdiction of the Village force beyond the Village would allow for a quicker response time to areas immediately adjacent to Village territory, particularly commercial corridors connected to the Village. The benefit would be a more strategic alignment of public safety resources within the County and a more efficient use of resources within the Town.

Options for Expanded Role for Village Police

There are two approaches that could be used to accomplish expanding the jurisdiction of the Village Police Department: 1. an inter-municipal agreement between the Town, Village and County Sheriff, and 2. a townwide police department. Each option is explained in the following sections.

Option for an Inter-Municipal Agreement: The first option would be the development of an inter-municipal agreement (IMA) between the County Sheriff, Town and Village that would authorize the Village police to be first responders to the Town. An IMA of this nature may free up the County Sheriff to re-deploy resources along different routes. To that end, there may be some benefit to the Village for such an arrangement in the form of payment from the County to the Village. However, regardless of remuneration, the real benefit may be a better response time and possible increase in overall safety for the community.

Alternatively, the Village may expect the Town to pay for the coverage from the Village. This approach is more complicated in that it would introduce a payment not currently on the books flowing from the Town to the Village. The Town would also have to authorize Village police to act as law enforcement officers in the Town. Town outside of Village residents likely do not want to pay for added protection from the Village even though Village residents would benefit from the added revenue.

Townwide Police: Another option for the community to consider is the transition of Village patrol to the entire Town. This could happen regardless of full-scale municipal merger, but may not be the preferred alternative unless both municipalities proceed toward that end. Initial conversations with the Village Police Chief suggest that a transition to a Townwide Department is possible with current manpower. This assumes that the County Sheriff continue to provide first response to areas more remote from the Village while the Village continue to provide primary coverage for the Village and areas immediately adjacent to it.

Were the Sheriff unwilling to provide coverage in a jurisdiction that is now primarily under the control of the Village Police Department, it is highly likely that additional officers would have to be hired to increase patrol to areas that are more remote from the Village. Population and types of residences in the remote areas of the Town would suggest that patrols would not be required as often as what is occurring in the Village. Thus, at most CGR would anticipate no more than 2 FTE officers being added to help with patrols in the entire Town. The total cost for these entry level officers is estimated to be approximately \$100,000 for salary and benefits. The added benefit would be that current shifts within the Village would gain some redundancy and improve the working conditions for officers currently on the force.

Options for Reduced Role for Village Police

If the community determined Village police were no longer necessary, there are two approaches that the community could follow to transition this service. The first option would be to eliminate the Village police with no plan to provide police protection. The second option would be to engage the County Sheriff in an enhanced services contract for the community of Dansville.

Elimination of Village Police: Surveys conducted by the Village and Town as part of the comprehensive plan, and more recent anecdotal observation as part of this study suggest that residents in the Village and outside of the Village are content with police protection as it currently exists. Eliminating police protection would reduce cost by approximately \$630,000⁵, but likely at the expense of the public's perception of safety within the community. With no Village police, the Sheriff would become responsible for first response within the Village. The State police would also serve as backup to the Sheriff similar to the arrangement that currently exists. There would be no additional cost directly to the Village unless specific levels of coverage were requested (see next section) and the Village and Town would both be subject to the patrols as designated by the Sheriff. The committee will have to consider the value of direct police protection in the community against the cost as it considers this option moving forward.

Sheriff Enhanced Protection: The Village could consider a switch to sheriff only protection but with enhanced coverage. This would occur through an inter-municipal agreement (IMA) with the Sheriff that would provide for enhanced manpower and patrols dedicated to the Village of Dansville. In exchange, the community would pay for the enhanced coverage in a contract with the County. The Livingston County Sheriff provided the study committee with an estimated cost of close to \$450,000 for the Sheriff to provide a similar level of service as the current Village Police Department to the entire Village of Dansville. The table below provides the cost comparison:

⁵ This is the current (2010-11 Budget) cost for the Chief of Police, all budgeted officers, typists, and non-personnel expenses, including benefits.

2010-11 Village Police Budget Compared to
Livingston County Sheriff Proposal Dated 8-16-10

Department	Title	Current*	Proposed*	Savings	% Savings
Police	Chief	\$103,250	\$0	(\$103,250)	-100%
	Officers	\$436,791	\$405,700	(\$31,091)	-7%
	Typists	\$46,700	\$0	(\$46,700)	-100%
	Other	\$42,450	\$40,550	(\$1,900)	-4%
		\$629,191	\$446,250	(\$182,941)	-29%
*Includes Benefits					

Chart is based upon CGR calculations using Village 2010-11 Budget and the proposal from the Livingston County Sheriff dated 8-16-10.

Per the table, the anticipated net savings from enhanced sheriff services could be over \$180,000 to the Village municipal budget. This amount of savings would yield approximately a \$1.20 per thousand tax savings for Village residents.

This option is not dependent on full municipal merger. Should the community desire this option, the coverage area and contract would likely only involve the current Village.

Final Note: It is important to note that each of the police options is available under the full merger scenarios outlined later in this report. The primary difference occurs with the Sheriff providing enhanced services to an area of the Town in the absence of the Village. The only method to achieve this arrangement (police services to only *part* of the Town) would be to establish a police district. This can only occur through special state legislation. Any attempt to provide enhanced coverage to a certain part of the town rather than the whole town will involve this restriction. Should the Village continue to exist, or should the Village pursue status as a city, the Sheriff could provide coverage within the area of the current Village and tax payers serviced by the enhanced protection would be responsible to pay for the cost of the service.

Consolidation Options with Full Municipal Merger

The services that follow likely would not consolidate unless both municipalities determined full municipal merger was the preferred outcome.

Clerk/Administrator/Registrar

The positions of Clerk, Administrator and Registrar create overlapping titles between the two municipalities, but not overlapping responsibilities. The Village and Town each have certain requirements legally, such as preparing budgets and tax bills, filing licenses, collecting taxes, sending out notices, etc. that necessitate having personnel to fill positions in each municipality. Thus, it is unlikely that merging these functions would yield any savings (much less benefit) unless the two municipalities proceeded with a full municipal merger.

The combined cost for the current compliment of staff for these positions (in both municipalities) totals \$293,450.

Category 1: Using the methodology for category one, we assumed that a merged administrative function would want to keep all the existing staff aggregating them into a consolidated office. The current Village and Town Clerks are paid different rates with different benefit calculations. This option assumes that the salaries and benefits for the two positions would be equalized and that all other staff salaries and benefits would remain as they are. Thus, category one would end up with one Administrator, two Clerks, two Deputy Clerks and one Registrar. Total cost for these assumptions is \$299,550, slightly more than \$6,000 over the status quo.

Category 2: Category two assumes that a merged administrative function does not need two clerk positions. Thus, one clerk position is eliminated while the current part time Deputy Clerk position in the Town is elevated to a full time position with a salary and benefit package equivalent to the current Village Deputy Clerk (loss of .05 FTE's). In this scenario, the full-time equivalent compliment of staff remains largely the same while the titles and likely job duties are more representative of the types of needs that would result in a merged office. The cost for this scenario is \$284,630, slightly less than \$9,000 below the status quo.

Category 3: Category three assumes a radical restructuring of the administrative duties for the community. Under this scenario, the administrator position is eliminated (likely through attrition) as is one Clerk and one Deputy Clerk (2.05 FTE's). The remaining Clerk and Deputy Clerk are paid at the highest of the levels for those current positions. The Registrar is also retained. The total cost for this scenario is \$123,000, more than \$170,000 less than the status quo.

Conclusion: As noted above, merging the administrative functions is not likely without full-scale municipal merger. Reasons to consider category 3 in a full-scale merger are the significant cost savings potential. Responsibilities will be lightened if there is only one municipality (E.g.

only one budget to prepare, reports for only one municipality, etc.). It is also important to note that this analysis has excluded the water/sewer billing clerk leaving that position intact within the water /sewer funds.

The alternative should also be considered. Current staff is able to manage their work load adequately. Reducing staff to save money may have the counter effect of putting too much burden on the remaining staff to accomplish required work. In addition, while the current administrator position did increase salary costs by a few thousand dollars, the ability to directly focus on budget has yielded cost savings that exceeded the increase in cost. While this position may not be needed in the future and could expire through attrition of current personnel, the community should weigh the benefit of this direct attention to cost management versus the additional cost for the position itself.

A merged highway department may impact the decision regarding the administrator position. As the current Administrator also technically oversees the Department of Public Works, a merged highway department may lead to redefining the role of the Administrator. The Administrator may not be required to oversee the merged highway function thus freeing up time to devote to other administrative duties. Redefinition of the role may allow for a reduction in salary or a consolidating of other administrative positions into the Administrator's role. Further analysis of current duties may be required to identify the possible alternatives for this position.

Mayor/Supervisor/Board/Council

The only way to achieve savings with the mayor/supervisor and elected council/trustee positions is through municipal merger. For legal reasons, each municipality is bound by law to retain certain positions for governance and accountability. The options as presented here all assume municipal merger.

Category 1: This category assumes that there is one municipal Town Council and that each council member is paid at the current Village Trustee level. The mayor position is eliminated and the remaining Supervisor is paid at the current level⁶. In addition, we also assumed that while all but two of the current council members decline pension, future council members may choose to participate thus increasing overall costs. Overall cost for one supervisor and four council members with pension and social security benefits is \$45,400.

⁶ We also included the cost for a dental plan that is currently on the books for the Village Mayor. This option may be declined in the future, but for analysis, this benefit was included as part of option 1.

Category 2: CGR did not model any significant alternatives for category two and thus total cost remains the same as category 1.

Category 3: The primary change in assumption with category 3 is the removal of pension and other benefits for the council members. The cost under category 3 for salary and social security is \$40,600.

Conclusion: The current personnel cost for both municipal governing bodies is \$71,800. As can be seen through analysis of each option, municipal merger could lead to savings of over \$30,000 if category 3 were realized. It should be noted that by virtue adopting the pay scale of Village Trustees, all Town Council members would get a raise commensurate with an increase in responsibilities associated with governing the Village.

Animal Control

There is likely little to be gained in merging the animal/dog control function unless other functional services are involved. For instance, the Village uses the police department for dog control services while other nuisance animal issues are outsourced to a private vendor. The Town uses Livingston County to provide these services. If the police department changes to become a townwide department, the dog control function may cease to be possible as land area and responsibility for the department may change. Similarly, if the police department is eliminated, alternative arrangements will be required. Livingston County may be able to provide dog control services to the Village thus streamlining the operation, and overall making the operation more efficient within the community.

Summary Cost Impact

The functional consolidation scenarios presented above yield a range of impacts. At the most conservative level, assuming no loss of full-time equivalent personnel or titles, the equalizing of compensation levels and increases in payroll taxes and benefits, the merger would potentially lead to a cost increase of nearly \$41,000 (increase of almost 1.2%). However, assuming more aggressive departmental restructuring and position consolidations where possible, including elimination of the police force with no special Sheriff coverage in return, functional consolidations could generate close to \$840,000 (decrease of almost 24.7%)⁷ in savings.

In reality, the final cost/savings impact from consolidation will likely be somewhere in the middle, subject to which structural and personnel decisions are made on a function-by-function basis.

⁷ Percentages are relative to combined Village and Town general fund costs.

Fire Services

Fire and emergency ambulance services (EMS) are provided on a townwide basis by separate departments wholly connected to the Village. As described in the baseline report, these services also extend well beyond the Dansville community into several surrounding towns. Short of full-scale municipal merger, the fire and EMS functions would likely remain unchanged. There are few opportunities for service improvements, cost savings and/or efficiencies other than what is currently being provided.

A move towards co-terminous status and/or city status will not have an impact on the services provided by the fire and EMS companies. In the case of co-terminous status, the Village will still exist and thus the status of the two departments would remain largely unaffected. In the case of city status, the departments could transition to become departments of the newly incorporated city and experience a substantially similar relationship to the city that they currently enjoy with the Village.

The only transition that may affect the fire and EMS services would be Village dissolution. Should the Village dissolve, the current fire and EMS departments would cease to exist. However, the volunteer companies that support both departments could continue to exist as independent entities. Equipment owned by the Village could either be sold to the fire companies, to the Town, or to other firematic service providers. The likely disposition of the assets would be to the fire companies and/or the Town until the companies could afford to purchase the equipment.

Fire District: The Town could move to establish a fire district which would be comprised of 5 elected fire commissioners. The fire district would then be able to own fire equipment and manage fire companies to provide fire protection to a defined area. Areas outside of the fire district would contract with the board of commissioners for the provision of service. The board of commissioners would have authority to define their budget and levy taxes within certain legal constraints. The Town council would be mandated to levy the fire district tax as part of the mailing and collection of town taxes.

Fire Protection District: The Town could also establish a fire protection district and contract with various fire companies to assure adequate fire protection within the community. The current fire department is already its own fire company, and could continue as an independent fire company post dissolution. The company would negotiate with any municipality to provide fire protection for a fee and that fee would then be used to offset costs for service. Large capital purchases (and/or debt service payments) would be factored into contracts for service. In this scenario, the Town Council serves as the board of fire commissioners. The Town may choose to keep the assets and lease them to various fire companies, or it may

choose to sell the equipment and allow fire companies to manage and maintain their own equipment.

Services Unaffected by Consolidation

The delivery and cost of services not referenced in the preceding section would not be impacted by a consolidation of the Town and Village. They include:

- Street Lighting
- Waste Water Treatment
- Water
- Assessment
- Historian
- Airport
- Code Enforcement
- Planning/Zoning
- Recreation
- Refuse

The primary reason these services would be unaffected by consolidation is that they are already merged operations and/or private ventures (in the case of refuse) in the community.

A Note on Water & Sewer

Under consolidation, the sewer and water funds would remain user-funded. Both are currently budgeted in dedicated funds within the Village's budget, but do not have a bearing on the Village's general expenses. They would be treated the same way in a consolidated Dansville, with users and rate-payers funding their full cost. Residents that do not have access to sewer and water infrastructure would not bear any financial responsibility for those systems. Much as certain water and sewer administrative and billing functions are handled by the Village (and reimbursed by those dedicated funds) a consolidated Dansville would likely handle these responsibilities in the same way.

Livingston County Water Authority

CGR explored the option of connecting water and sewer infrastructure with the Livingston County Water Authority (LCWA). As background, CGR reviewed the Livingston County Comprehensive Water Supply Study dated December 1991 and also interviewed a current LCWA staff person. The 1991 study laid the groundwork for the formation of the LCWA in 1995 by recommending that several communities in the northern half of the County receive centralized, inter-connected water service. The study suggested that the linkage would support economic development that was already occurring in that region. The report also

made several other recommendations for the existing water supplies within the County. Of particular note, the report recommended that the water and sewer supply servicing the Village of Dansville and parts of the Town of North Dansville should remain as stand-alone operations.

The interview with the LCWA confirmed that the 1991 study still significantly influences current operations. In more recent years, the infrastructure for water has extended as far south as Groveland, but that was mainly due to unexpected (and non-renewable) federal money the County applied to the expansion of the system. There are no current or future plans to extend water or sewer any closer to Dansville. Dansville's location is far enough south in the County that any effort currently to extend water and/or sewer infrastructure and merge the systems would be cost prohibitive.

Over the long term merging the Dansville water and sewer systems with LCWA would be a good idea. It will take significant resources, but would represent the type of opportunity that would appeal to business developers and potentially encourage economic development in the southern half of the County.

Other Potential Impacts

Although the most tangible and immediate impacts of consolidation would likely be confined to functional mergers and departmental restructuring of personnel, there remain other potential impacts that may accrue to the community over time. Those impacts may include, though not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- new revenue from the state (see section on AIM later in this report);
- a stronger presence at the County Board of Supervisors with a change in how the community is perceived throughout the county;
- the ability to have a single capital planning process and procurement approach, enabling the municipality to anticipate and meet capital equipment and upgrade needs in more coordinated fashion; and
- the capacity for an integrated economic development strategy unimpeded by artificial boundary lines.

NAME OPTIONS

Final recommendations on consolidation will dictate the need to address whether the name of the two communities would change. Functional service consolidations without formal consolidation of the two municipalities would not yield any name changes. Similarly, a co-terminous transition would not yield a name change because the Town and Village would still both exist as legal entities. If the Village were to dissolve, consolidate with the town or become a city, the option of continuing to use the name of “Dansville” exists either through recognition of the former village as a hamlet⁸, or through changing the name of the consolidated entity to “Dansville”. The latter may cause confusion with the Town of Dansville in Steuben County but would not be unprecedented in New York State. There are 22 out of 932 towns (11 town names) presently in New York State that share exactly the same name with another town⁹.

OPTIONS TO TRANSITION LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There are four primary methods of transitioning local government to something more streamlined. The Village could petition to annex the portion of the Town outside the Village and through that process seek to be co-terminous with the Town. The Village could dissolve forcing the Town of North Dansville to assume control over the affairs and services of the former Village. The Village and Town could formally consolidate leading to the ultimate dissolution of the Village by another process. Or, the Village and Town could pursue becoming a city. A fifth option, a variation of the fourth, would be that the Village could pursue becoming a city without the Town.

Co-Terminous Status

Currently in New York State there are only 5 recorded coterminous relationships among the 932 existing towns and 554 villages. The locations are Mount Kisco, Harrison and Scarsdale in Westchester County, Green Island in Albany County, and East Rochester in Monroe County. Green Island formed its relationship in the 19th century and Scarsdale was

⁸ Designation as a hamlet in NYS offers no statutory power and does not constitute a legally recognized municipality in NYS law. The use of the term simply draws reference to an area and continues to allow the area name recognition.

⁹ All towns with the same name are in different counties.

formed in the early 20th century. East Rochester was the most recent to transition to this status in the early 1980's.

The simplest definition is that a coterminous town-village is a partially consolidated municipality with shared borders with each entity retaining its identity and governmental authority. Based upon how this status is achieved, the possibility exists for the town-village to have a single governing board and share key personnel (I.e. operate as one unit of government) thus reducing the necessity for duplicate positions within the same geographic area. Provisions are made within the existing law that allow for the consolidated entity to receive similar revenues through their authority to tax under their respective statutes (I.e. Village and Town Law), but some limitations exist.

There are currently 4 methods by which a town and village can achieve co-terminous status, and each has its merits and drawbacks.

1. One method is for a new village to be incorporated using the exact same boundaries for the existing town. In order for this to be feasible, the existing town must have no other villages within its territory and would have to comply with the other provisions found in Village Law Article 2-200. As a point of reference, the co-terminous municipalities of Harrison and Scarsdale were both created with this method. In fact, Scarsdale was formed in this manner to help protect its town boundaries from being annexed by the neighboring community of White Plains. The townspeople of Scarsdale realized that while their town could be annexed by an act of the State Legislature, a village could not be annexed without a formal vote of the people. Even after incorporation as a town, it took another 15 years to fully consolidate their government structures.
2. Another method and similar to the previous is to create a new town sharing the borders of an existing village. In order for this to happen, a town would have to submit a petition under Article 5 of the Town Law, calling for the division of the existing town into two towns, one of which would share the boundaries of an existing village. The process for achieving status as a new town within a town can be very rigorous. Filing an Article 5 petition starts with obtaining signatures inclusive of 5% of the total number of votes cast in the town for the office of Governor at the last gubernatorial election – but not less than 100 in a first class town or not less than 25 in a second class town. The petition then goes to the County legislative body which must hold a public hearing and then make a determination whether to grant the petition. The petition must receive 2/3 of the vote from the county legislative body. Once approved, there must then be a referendum on the division of the

town at which all registered town voters (including residents of the village) would be eligible to vote. The Town-Villages of East Rochester and Mount Kisco were formed in this manner. Specifically and uniquely to both, *two* existing towns were split to form the new town concurrent with the village.

3. A third method for forming a coterminous relationship is to have the State Legislature adopt a special act creating the town-village entity. This process starts with each existing local government that is requesting the change to submit a “home rule request” to the Legislature to enact the bill. Using this approach, the new act would delineate new boundaries for the new municipality, and other provisions would be set forth regarding governmental administration, disposition of real property, and other assets and obligations of the existing municipalities. As a result of this process, the new boundaries could follow those of an existing town or village or be carved out to cover a new boundary line. A formal referendum is not required using this approach, but typically the State Legislature would condition the formation upon approval from the voters. The town and Village of Green Island were both formed under separate acts of the legislature according to this method.
4. A final method for generating a coterminous town-village is for a local village to annex the territory adjacent to it within a town provided that no other villages exist within the town. Villages are afforded this opportunity according to Article 17 of the General Municipal Law. Essentially, the village would expand its boundaries to be coterminous with the town. In order for this procedure to be formally adopted, it requires formal votes of the town and village governing boards, plus approval by the voters at a referendum held in the outlying territory which is to be annexed. It should be noted that within New York State, this method has never been utilized to form a coterminous relationship.

The most obvious reason for not employing method #4 is that under this procedure, the newly formed coterminous entity would not be subject to Article 17 of the Village Law. This article contains detailed provisions for alteration of boundaries, election of officers, their powers and duties, bonds and other indebtedness, assessments, and the administration of improvement districts. *Article 17 of the Village Law pertains only to the formation of a **new** village.* Thus, the potential benefits from annexation in regards to shared government are effectively nullified as there would continue to be separate governing bodies over both the town and village. In all other cases above, the mere act of becoming

coterminous affords the rights to consolidate governing structures according to Article 17 of the Village Law.

For instance, if a new town is created with the same boundaries as an existing village, Article 17 of the Village Law requires that a referendum be held to determine whether the voters wish the local government to operate principally as a village or town (this would apply in the case of method #2 above). After the election, there will be one governing structure with the members holding office as both the town council and village trustees and functioning primarily according to the choice of the voters. Similarly, when a new village is incorporated (option #1 above), the town board may submit a proposition to the voters as to whether they wish the village board of trustees to function also as the town board. If the proposition is turned down, then there will continue to be separate town and village boards even while they maintain coterminous status.

Of course there are several other considerations to make before moving towards a coterminous relationship. The first and primary consideration is the extent to which an existing relationship already exists between the two entities. To the extent that a good relationship exists between a town and village, the process of consolidation and sharing of services will be smoother and readily received by the general voting public within the area. In addition, since co-terminous status inherently involves eliminating duplicate positions within the governing structures, good relationships will allow for a smooth transition of existing personnel should there be a need to let people go.

Certainly worthy of consideration is the impact upon local school districts under a coterminous relationship. Article 17 of the Village Law clearly states that the creation of a coterminous town-village does not affect the existence or boundaries of any school district or change the levy or collection of taxes for any school district. Similarly, the jurisdiction of existing town and village courts must be extended to cover any judicial actions pending at the time of creation of the new municipality.¹⁰

Another primary consideration in transitioning to coterminous status is in regards to revenue and the impact on the bottom line.

¹⁰ [Http://www.dos.state.ny.cnsi/coterm.html](http://www.dos.state.ny.cnsi/coterm.html) “Legal Memorandum LG07 – What is a Coterminous Town-Village?”

- In regards to Federal Aid, the newly formed co-terminous entity would receive aid only as one government, in this case the principal government as voted by the people at referendum or proposition. Due to the presence of the airport and the many federal grants that have helped to make improvements there, this particular issue may be important to consider.
- In regards to State Aid, the town-village will continue to receive aid according to their status as both a town and a village. *However, the NYS Division of Budget does not recognize the transition to co-terminous status as a merger, consolidation or dissolution meaning no additional AIM incentive would be available for the community.*
- In regards to the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program, the coterminous town and village will receive aid as a town or village depending on which form of government had been chosen the predominant form. However, there would be no loss in overall revenue.
- Other forms of state aid (I.e. Exempt Railroad Property, Programs for the aging and/or youth) would be subject to the same legal provisions regardless of co-terminous status, but may impact the bottom line depending on how many people are represented in each unit of government.
- All forms of taxation available to both the town and village remain at their disposal under the co-terminous relationship.

As expressed by local leaders of the current coterminous town-villages, another consideration for transitioning is the overall level of services being provided and the tax base available to underwrite that level of service. One of the primary advantages of becoming co-terminous is the efficiency it creates for the new entity in relation to working with multiple governing structures. However, this advantage is tempered by the fact that within some separate towns and villages are arrangements for shared services that are more cost effective. For instance, East Rochester now pays for all of its own services which in practice is more expensive than being able to purchase some of those services (I.e. Snow Removal) from another local government (I.e. a town). In addition, East Rochester also deals with a small tax base that compounds the impact of not buying cheaper services from other local governments. While East Rochester may be unique in relation to this tax base issue, it is none-the-less something to consider over the long-term even if in the short term it might make sense to gain independence and remove a layer of government.

Not lost in any transition to becoming co-terminous are the impacts on existing water and sewer districts or arrangements, fire and fire

protection districts and any other improvement districts affecting the towns and villages considering a transition. The most recent transition to co-terminous status, that of East Rochester, did not have any impact on water and sewer arrangements as the Village did not have any districts and was already maintaining its own sewer and pumping and selling its own water. There would likely be no impact in any case for a co-terminous transition in regards to utilities that are based upon user charges and pre-defined service areas.

The primary advantage to a coterminous town and village is being able to have one governing structure. Officially, the functions of the town government are to 1.) Supervise elections, 2.) Assess land and buildings, 3.) Collect taxes, and 4.) Issue licenses. In reality, these functions can all be handled by the village personnel hired to function under the village banner, depending on the vote of the residents of the newly formed entity. The provision available to towns and villages to be coterminous should be considered as a primary means of eliminating duplicate governing structures while affording the rights and privileges that go with being an incorporated village.

Dissolving the Village

Under current legislation¹¹, villages can proceed through a dissolution process in one of two ways: 1) through community petition signed by ten percent of registered voters in the village, or 2) through a process initiated by the Village Board. Both methods would lead to a formal public referendum at which time only eligible voters within the Village would vote on the issue. Under either method, a full dissolution plan must be developed that outlines the full impact of dissolution on all personnel, assets, debt and local laws of the Village. The plan is developed at different points in the process depending on which method is used.

Potential Benefits

The primary benefit that Village residents seek is lower taxes. According to CGR's models, dissolution of the Village could lead to more than a \$5.00 per thousand decrease in taxes for Village tax payers. This confirms CGR's past experience with other dissolutions where it is not uncommon that Village residents experience some tax savings.

¹¹ [Article 17-A](#), General Municipal Law

In addition to potential tax relief, dissolution of the Village eliminates one full layer of government. Thus, there would be one board overseeing all decisions for the entire town. The Town Supervisor would be the chief elected official responsible for the proper oversight and governance of all town residents. This consolidation of power into one governing structure can produce efficiencies in management and decision making that may enhance the Town's ability to utilize resources more effectively.

Lower taxes and more efficient use of resources may help to spur the economic growth that the community desires. Business investment and tourism would stimulate the local economy and could help to further dilute the tax burden on local property owners.

Another possible benefit for the community is the unifying act of eliminating an invisible boundary that divides the community. Residents in the Village often do not relate to being members of the Town, and Town residents often view the Village as entirely separate from the rest of the Town. In point of fact, all Village residents are Town residents and all the services that are provided by the Village can be maintained by the Town under the guidelines of New York State Law. Eliminating the boundary may serve to engage more Village residents in the affairs of the Town and may promote unity for the other objectives of economic and community development.

Losing corporate status as a Village does not mean that the Village would have to lose its identity. Dansville would continue to have a geographic and historical identity. If desired, the community could keep up signs that say "Welcome to Dansville". The primary thing that would be lost upon dissolution of the Village is the government structure and the related costs as described in this report.

A final benefit to consider is the act of reducing the number of volunteers or paid personnel necessary to fill required boards/positions in each layer of government. Increasingly, it is more difficult to fill vacant positions on boards as people are busier and volunteerism is not as high a priority. It will also deepen the pool of people available in the future so that new blood is brought into each board thus supplying new energy and thought into the oversight and service provided by each.

Potential Detriments

If the Village dissolves, it would no longer be a separate corporate entity. For some, this loss of identity as a Village is significant. The Village has been in existence for over 215 years (165 as an official incorporation) and losing this status represents a significant change to the culture of the community. While the history will never be lost due to a desire within the

community to preserve the heritage, many will view this transition as detrimental to the future of the community.

A corollary to losing identity is the fear of a loss of control. To many, dissolution means that the interests of Village residents would not be properly accounted for in town wide representation. As stated earlier, Villages historically formed because they wanted special services and people continue to perceive that the best way to insure the proper provision of those services is through self-governance. Dissolution would certainly challenge the greater community to find efficient and effective ways to provide for services that are currently managed and accounted for through Village government.

In dissolution, there are several costs that simply shift to the entire town. A dissolution plan can work to minimize these cost shifts through the creation of special districts. However, not all costs would be captured in this manner. Thus, dissolution of the Village changes the cost structure and causes Town Outside of Village taxpayers to be responsible for costs that they may not feel are their responsibility. This leads to a likely increase in taxes for those outside the Village.

There may be some job losses through a dissolution transition. While no plan has been developed, it is not uncommon for merged departments to need less combined employees due to efficiencies in the work process. Not only do job losses impact the local economy, but there may be a loss of expertise with potential downsizing that is difficult to recapture.

Other Considerations

It should be noted that if dissolution were to occur, all current debt of the Village in any department would remain the responsibility of the assessed valuation currently associated with that debt. In other words, no debt would transfer to the Town-outside-Village residents upon dissolution.

Consolidation of the Town and Village

The alternative to a village dissolution process is the municipal consolidation process. Whereas a village dissolution process involves only village voters, a full consolidation process involves both town and village voters¹² and assures that everyone in the community has a chance to participate.

¹² It is important to note that under this scenario, Town voters *would* include Village voters (who are Town voters as well) meaning that Village residents would actually get to vote twice under this scenario.

Under current legislation¹³, villages can proceed through a consolidation process in one of two ways: 1) through separate community petitions signed by ten percent of registered voters in both the village and the town,¹⁴ or 2) through a joint consolidation agreement developed and approved by both the village and town boards. Both methods would lead to a formal public referendum at which time eligible voters within the town and village would vote on the issue. Under either method, a joint consolidation agreement must be developed that outlines the full impact of consolidation on all personnel, assets, debt and local laws in both communities.

As previously described under the section on village dissolution, the potential benefits and detriments are largely the same under either merger scenario. In addition, full consolidation would make the community eligible for AIM. It is important to note, however, that a consolidation process cannot result in the elimination of the Town. Towns are legally required under New York State law and thus must survive the consolidation process (unless the consolidation is with another town or city).

City Status

Transitioning the municipal governing structures into a city represents the most significant possible change available to the community. This option has built-in procedures to minimize cost and tax shifts while still achieving the benefit of planning regionally and for the future. If the Village and Town pursue this together it would represent full consolidation and be eligible for increased state aid (AIM). However, the process of moving through the NYS Legislature could prove costly and offers no guarantee of success. We examined in very broad terms two options for the community to consider when thinking about city status: 1) Village and Town consolidation into one city and 2) Village transition to a city without consolidation with the Town.

Village and Town Consolidation into a City

The process for transitioning the Village and Town into a city would involve the creation of a city charter commission. The commission would be made up of residents of both the Village and the Town and would work through how to merge the two governments. The commission would be responsible to articulate how the new city would be organized and what

¹³ [Article 17-A](#), General Municipal Law

¹⁴ Unique to communities where the village is the overwhelming majority population in the town, there are likely enough voters in the village alone to separately generate two petitions for both the village and town that would meet the 10% threshold for each.

form of government it would use. The charter would then have to be approved by both the Village and the Town. Once approved, it would pass to the state level where both the Legislature and the Governor would need to sign it into law. The entire process could take several years.

One creative option available to cities is dual-zone taxation. In New York State there are currently three cities that have very large and diverse land masses associated with them: Rome, Oneida and Saratoga Springs. When these cities originally incorporated, they built into their charters the option for “dual-zone” taxation. This allowed them to tax people in the more densely populated urban core differently than those who live in very rural settings but within the boundary of the city that was being created. Thus, residents outside the urban core who do not receive the same services (and probably could not from a logistical standpoint) are not subject to the same fees and taxation. However, planning, development, and service delivery are all centralized functions of one government and thus there is efficiency within the bureaucracy.

The City of Rome provides an interesting perspective on dual zone taxation, following decades of operating under this system. Equitable sharing of services and land use development are significant issues facing Rome at this point. City of Rome leaders lament that the urban core boundary is too restrictive for taxation purposes and want to have those in the second (outer) zone taxed for portions of the budget allocated to the inner zone. Simply put, Rome officials don’t like dual-zone taxation and would like to be able to tax everyone at the same rate. Of course, this would unfairly burden residents outside the service delivery area and probably would benefit those within the service delivery area with slightly lower taxes. Thus, dual zones represent some of the same inherent challenges for cities as villages and towns have in figuring out how to allocate costs across their boundaries.

Service Impacts

There are cost savings available if the community became a city that is not available under other scenarios. The savings accrue in part from the court function becoming the responsibility of New York State. Thus, all the costs associated with the court except for facility maintenance would be removed from the local budget. Secondly, the newly combined entity would operate as one government structure and there would be administrative efficiency gains because of this. The AIM available to combined entities is higher than individual municipalities (see AIM section later in this report) and AIM is generally higher in cities than villages and towns, all of which would help generate more revenue.

While courts represent the primary cost savings potential, there are some other potential service impacts with transition to a city. Presently roads in the Town of North Dansville and Village of Dansville are divided

according to responsible jurisdiction. Out of approximately 46 centerline miles of road in the entire Town, the Village is responsible for 16, the Town is responsible for 12, the County is responsible for 2, and the State is responsible for the rest. Of the approximately 16 miles that the State maintains, 6 of those are the portion of route 390 that runs through the Town. The other 10 miles of State roads are non-expressway, state routes.

If the entire portion of the Town of North Dansville transitioned to become a city, the 10 miles of state roads would likely become the responsibility of the newly formed city. There are procedures in state law to petition and change this responsibility back to the State, but they would require approval at the State level before responsibility would change. It is difficult to assess the cost impact for this transition, but there are likely cost increases.

Sales Tax Implications

Cities have the potential for more authority over the sales tax generated within their boundaries than do villages or towns. Cities can pre-empt the sales tax generated within their boundaries and take up to 50% of that sales tax for their own general budget purposes. In some cases, discussing the concept can put pressure on counties and make them more willing to negotiate a more lucrative revenue sharing agreement with the local municipalities in order to not lose significant amounts of revenue through pre-emption.

Livingston County charges 4% for sales tax on most retail goods. Three percent (3%) of the sales tax is distributed to towns and villages while 1% is retained exclusively by the County to apply to Medicaid costs. The County retains 93.33% of the sales tax collected on the first 3% and distributes 6.67% to towns and villages based upon population and assessed valuation. The current sales tax sharing agreement in Livingston County works out to 95/5.

2007 Economic census figures indicate that around 20% of all retail sales in the County are occurring in the Town of North Dansville (which includes the Village). New York State tracks sales & purchases by County and for the period of March 2007 – February 2008, the County recorded retail sales of \$269 million. If the community were to pre-empt sales tax¹⁵ on 20% of these sales (I.e. \$54 Million), it could have netted the Town and Village over \$800,000.

Either through a formal revenue sharing agreement with the County, or through pre-emption of sales tax, a newly formed City of Dansville could

¹⁵ Pre-emption would mean keeping 50% of the 3% sales tax rate (1.5%).

bring substantially more revenue into its boundaries and significantly lower property taxes for everyone.

Impact on the County

A transition of the Village and Town to a city could impact County taxes, and may also impact towns that enjoy sales tax revenue as it is currently distributed by the County. In the event of pre-emption of sales tax by Dansville, the County would have less revenue to distribute. With less revenue the County would have to increase its levy for County taxes, creating in essence a tax shift that would not result in as large a net savings to the local Dansville residents. CGR estimates that the sales tax retained by the County would decline between 7-9%. While significant for County planning, the impact on County taxes would likely be much less than the impact on the City of Dansville (without pre-empting sales tax) and other local municipalities.

School District Issues

The effect on the school district depends on the mechanism used in the municipal reorganization and the demographics involved. Under Education Law 2(16)(b) and (c), when a new city is created, the school district that is not co-terminous with that city, but contains all of, or a portion of the city within, and a majority of the population of children, becomes by definition a city school district. This could mean that nothing happens upon incorporation of a new city regarding reorganization of the existing Dansville School District. Issues that might need to be considered are transportation since city districts are not obligated to transport children residing within the city but must transport children in the enlarged areas. Clearly the transfer of indebtedness, if any transfer was necessary, would be an issue worth addressing. Additionally, any school district wholly or partly within a city becomes subject to the 5% constitutional debt limit, as opposed to the 10% statutory debt limit that applies to non-city school districts. These and other school district issues would need a substantial review prior to any transition to city status. Education Law contains mechanisms to allow for this sort of transition, and public referendums would be required.

Other Issues

Another unknown is future growth of retail in the potential new City of Dansville. For the newly formed City of Dansville to tie its future to sales tax revenue, there must be a coordinated economic development plan that realistically projected the potential for growth and development of the region and hence a realistic sales tax projection.

A well-defined comprehensive plan could allay the fears of many that the community will lose its rural character. The very nature of the topography of the region would certainly help to mitigate unrestrained growth.

However, there are long-term pitfalls that should be planned for up front. Developing the city charter should establish boundaries that allow for significant growth of the city without having to redefine boundaries over time. Current cities in this scenario have realized that growth has occurred and the dual zone taxation reality has become a burdensome system. Growth has encompassed a large majority of both zones, for example in Saratoga Springs, and services have been extended within the “outer zone” such that residents of both are taxed virtually at the same rates. For Dansville, this would involve a comprehensive plan that outlined areas for growth commercially and residentially but also account for areas where development may be unwarranted in order to keep the rural character intact and allow for some residents to maintain their rural lifestyle.

If residents wish to consider changing the status of the Village of Dansville to the City of Dansville, consolidation and comprehensive planning with the Town would make sense for the long term.

Village as a City without consolidation with the Town

The Village of Dansville could choose to pursue city status without consolidating with the Town but there would be fewer advantages to doing so. On the positive side, the new City could garner a higher AIM payment from the State, but based upon population trends, this would not result in significant revenue. In the short term, establishing a city would create the opportunity to levy a sales tax separate from the County. Also, if the Village opted not to merge its court with the Town, its court would become a State-run city court.

The downside is that future growth may occur within the Town and the new city would not have access to that growth. Although city residents would no longer pay the Town tax, there could be negative consequences for such a move. If the Town lost the revenue associated with the Village, it would cause revenue redistribution and the TOV tax burden would increase significantly. It is hard to imagine that this type of action by the Village of Dansville would result in goodwill with the Town for years to come, which would likely hamper efforts to achieve regional planning or additional service sharing. Of course, there would also likely be alienation at the County level and with surrounding towns.

Turning the Village into a City has short-term benefit (sales tax, reduced property tax burden, court cost savings) but does not promote long-term planning and growth. The entire region needs an economic development and comprehensive plan that involves a united community in responsible (smart) growth that can be sustained, with benefits shared by everyone in the region.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPACT

CGR studied the potential for economic development in the region in the event of a change in the municipal governing structures. In a meeting facilitated by the Study Committee, CGR learned from business leaders and County economic development officials that the governing structure of the two communities likely has little bearing on the economic development potential for the community. There has been effort already between the two governments to establish clear guidelines and parameters for outside developers to obtain permits and approvals. It is important to note, however, that the presence of two municipal structures may create a perception of complexity that could deter developers looking for places to invest in the County.

Regardless of structure, CGR learned the community of Dansville has received significant interest for a large “big-box” retail store. Exit four is a very attractive location for developers. There are considerable advantages to this location and once the economy begins to gain momentum again, there is considerable optimism that Dansville will receive interest from developers.

It is incumbent upon the two governing structures to make plans for future development now. Water and sewer service are essential to many developer’s plans. Extending infrastructure and making sites “shovel-ready” will help to attract developers to the region and could spur long-term growth. These improvements require cooperation and investment and the community must consider the cost of such improvements against the status quo.

Economic development is critical to the community and its ability to continue to thrive and provide services for its residents in the future. Each governing board needs to make it a priority to think strategically about how to spur development within the community. Continued partnership on preparing shovel ready sites and efforts to streamline the approval process will position Dansville as an attractive location in the County and broader region when the national economy recovers.

AID AND INCENTIVE TO MUNICIPALITIES (AIM)

New York State offers municipalities an incentive to consolidate layers of government. For the two municipalities to become eligible for this incentive, both would have to fully consolidate, the village would have to dissolve and/or both municipalities would have to restructure into a city.

Co-terminous status is not viewed by the State as eliminating a layer of government and thus is not eligible for the incentive.

The financial incentive is calculated by taking the most recent fiscal year tax levies for the village and town and multiplying the sum by 15%. In the case of Dansville and North Dansville, the additional money available to the community would be \$372,000¹⁶. It is important to note that this is additional money added to the existing state aid that both communities already receive. In addition, under current legislation, the money is an ongoing revenue source such that future allocations and/or increases would be based upon the new level of funding.

SUMMARY TAX IMPACT

Tax impact for the two communities is dependent upon the options that are chosen. Functional service consolidation will yield certain tax breaks and/or tax shifts depending on the agreements and/or decisions for which service is provided by which municipality. Full-scale municipal merger options will yield a much different tax impact for residents in each municipality. The tax table below captures the impact based upon the assumptions provided throughout this report.

Tax Rate Projections - Assumes Maximum Projected Savings							
		Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4	Scenario 5	Scenario 6
	Current	Shared Service - Court Shifts to Town	Eliminate Village Police - Enhanced Sheriff Coverage	Co - Terminous Status	Village Dissolution/Full Consolidation	Town & Village into a City	Village into a City
Village	\$15.68	\$15.63	\$14.46	\$13.25	\$10.67	\$6.14	\$6.23
TOV	\$4.57	\$4.52	\$4.57	\$8.44	\$5.86	\$1.32	\$13.66
Village Change from Current		(\$0.05)	(\$1.22)	(\$2.43)	(\$5.01)	(\$9.54)	(\$9.45)
TOV Change from Current		(\$0.05)	\$0.00	\$3.87	\$1.29	(\$3.24)	\$9.09

Tax rates presented as per thousand dollars of assessed valuation

The table is broken into six scenarios, each of which is compared against the current blended tax rates for Village and Town Outside Village tax payers. The scenarios come from the different sections of this report and are based upon CGR assumptions about possible service delivery changes. The scenarios that are modeled are not exhaustive and are meant to provide perspective on the range of tax impacts that could be experienced under the options that may be chosen.

¹⁶ This is based upon the Village 2010-11 general fund tax levy and the Town 2010 A, B, DA, DB tax levies.

Current: The current tax rate column represents what tax payers in each location paid on their most recent Village and Town tax bills (2009-10). The Village line includes both the Village and Town Tax while the TOV line includes the Town and Town Outside of Village tax.

Scenario 1: Category 3 court cost savings assumptions suggested that shifting the court function to the Town could result in \$9,000 in aggregate Town and Village savings. However, a merge of this sort represents a cost shift as well from the Village to Town. CGR assumes that cost savings is neutral to the Village because they would also lose some revenue. For simplicity we assume a loss of revenue equal to cost. If all the lost Village court revenue reverts to the Town, the increase in cost for the Town is less than the increase in revenue resulting in a net levy reduction of nearly \$9,000. Thus, the Town tax rate decreases by \$.05 per thousand benefitting everyone in the Town.

Scenario 2: This scenario models elimination of the Village police department while simultaneously engaging in an enhanced services contract with the Livingston County Sheriff. This option would yield no impact to Town Outside of Village tax payers. In aggregate, we assume a cost of \$629,000 for the Village Police and a cost of \$447,000 for the contract with the Sheriff Department (I.e. net savings of \$182,000). The net effect is a reduction in Village tax of \$1.22 per thousand.

Scenario 3: Co-Terminus status represents extending the boundaries of the Village to equal those of the Town. Thus, all tax payers are subject to the same costs with two exceptions. We have modeled the value of Village debt to stay with former Village residents and we have modeled former Village residents as retaining an enhanced Sheriff coverage contract as outlined in scenario 2. We have also carried through scenario 1 assumptions to this scenario. There is a small change in the cost of the fire protection district based upon assessed valuation being included in the annexed portion of the current Town Outside of Village. With these assumptions, the Village blended tax bill could be reduced by \$2.43 per thousand while Town Outside of Village residents could experience an increase of \$3.87 per thousand.

Scenario 4: Village dissolution includes the assumptions of scenarios 1-3 for the Village and Town (merged court, enhanced Sheriff protection in the former Village, Village debt with Village tax payers). For the resulting Town, the additional assumptions for this scenario include: 1. Loss of utilities gross receipts tax (\$80,000); 2. Increase in AIM (\$372,000); 3. Implementation of the full range of other shared service options resulting in the aggregate possible savings of \$200,000 (not including court – which is already factored in). The resulting impact would be a savings to Village tax payers of \$5.01 per thousand while

Town Outside of Village tax payers would experience an increase of \$1.29 per thousand.

Scenario 5: The Village and Town merging into a city use the same assumptions as in Scenario 4. One additional difference is that a city is eligible to receive utilities gross receipts tax and thus we added in revenue of \$80,000. The primary difference is that we have modeled an increase in sales tax assuming pre-emption adding additional revenue of \$800,000. In aggregate, Village tax payers would see their tax rate decline by \$9.54 per thousand while Town Outside of Village tax payers could see their rate decline as well by \$3.24 per thousand. The closest approximation of tax rates for scenario #5 without an increase of sales tax revenue would be tax rates for scenario #4.

Scenario 6: If the Village pursues city status exclusive of the Town, the assumptions are remarkably different. The only possible shared service savings is related to the transfer of the court function to the state (\$28,991). Additionally, we do model the city using an enhanced services contract from the Sheriff and eliminating the local police department (savings of \$182,000). The Village is largely responsible for the sales tax and thus we do model an increase in revenue of \$800,000. However, an increase in AIM would not be realized.

Another factor of this model is that city residents would not pay a Town tax. Thus, some of the savings for current Village residents accrues from paying no Town tax. Simultaneously, Town Outside of Village residents will have a smaller assessed valuation to spread town taxes and thus will see a significant increase in the Town tax. With these assumptions, we would expect the current Village tax bill to decrease by \$9.45 per thousand while the Town Outside of Village tax bill could increase by \$9.09 per thousand.

Summary: In every scenario, Village residents stand to benefit from the potential changes. In three scenarios Town Outside of Village residents stand to pay more taxes as costs shift and/or are spread across the whole Town taxable assessed valuation. The unique situation in scenario #2 is that eliminating the Village Police does not involve TOV residents unless the option for a townwide police department is pursued (not modeled). The option that clearly benefits the whole community is that of the Village and Town transitioning to a city and exercising the full rights of that designation.

CIVIL SERVICE PROCEDURES

Civil service employees are afforded certain rights in the transfer of function should services consolidate between municipalities. The general

rule of thumb is that if the same or similar service is performed to the benefit of the current municipality but the service is performed by a different municipality, the employees of the current entity shall be afforded the opportunity to work for the new entity. If the Village dissolves or both communities pursue city status, the rule of thumb still holds.

Civil Service Law section 70(2) outlines requirements for the transfer of employees upon a transfer of function between municipalities. The Law also identifies the rights of those employees subject to the transfer and/or who choose not to transfer.¹⁷ Civil Service Law section 70(5) outlines the process for transferring police department personnel in the event of a transfer of function. Section 83 allows for the creation of a police advisory board which in some cases may be necessary to oversee the transfer between larger municipalities.

If services are consolidated, local municipalities need to work closely with their municipal civil services division to assure that procedures are followed. Current employees that are “substantially engaged in the function to be transferred” will be identified and placed on a list. The municipality receiving the function will be responsible to determine how many people will be hired to perform the consolidated function and with what titles. Titles in competitive classes will be ranked by seniority with priority given to employees with greater seniority. Positions will be filled using the list until it is exhausted and then the position(s) will be posted for new applicants.

In some cases, employees will not choose to transfer. If they so choose, their position will be recorded with the municipal civil service division and should the position/title become open again within the municipality currently losing the function, their name would appear on a list for priority consideration.

Employees discontent with their placement on a list may protest their placement (or lack thereof) on the list. There is a formal grievance hearing procedure that must be followed should this occur.

If employees are selected for transfer into the new consolidated agency, they will keep their seniority, title and salary grade. The new agency may determine how to compensate employees for unused sick/vacation/personal time provided the arrangement is consistent with law.

¹⁷ <http://www.cs.state.ny.us/pio/publications/consolidation-guide.pdf> - This guide produced by the Municipal Services Divisions of NYS provides an overview of the requirements for transferring civil service employees.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OPTIONS

The Village has two collective bargaining units. One union represents police personnel and other represents civil servants. The collective bargaining agreements will impact a transfer of function and/or dissolution of the Village should that occur.

In the case of a transfer of function, the collective bargaining agreement necessitates that the transfer of function be subject to mandatory bargaining with the collective bargaining unit. If the same function is to be performed by a different municipality, the current bargaining unit must agree to the transfer. If the level of service is to be diminished or eliminated, the bargaining unit must be consulted, but does not necessarily have the power to “resist” such an action. However, they can demand a negotiation of impact on employees affected by the change. This negotiation of impact may result in modifications to the existing agreements.

In the case of dissolution, it is generally held that existing collective bargaining agreements terminate when the municipality ceases to exist. However, there is a paucity of case law to support this generally held view. Under the general perspective, should the Village dissolve but the functions be performed by the Town, the Town would have the authority to set the initial terms and conditions of employment for the newly formed department. The Town may or may not be required to recognize the existing collective bargaining unit, but either way the employees that are transferred may choose to re-establish a collective bargaining unit after they have been hired by the Town. If employees demand a contract after forming a new unit, the Town will be required to recognize the unit and bargain in good faith to establish a new collective bargaining agreement.

REAL PROPERTY AND ASSET OPTIONS

The final consolidation plan would recommend an approach for handling real property and other assets currently belonging to the Town and Village. In the event of merger, the most basic approach would involve transferring to the new government all real and personal property currently owned by the two municipalities. This would include land, facilities, capital equipment and related supplies, as documented in the *Baseline Report – Village of Dansville and Town of North Dansville*.

Future Municipal Space

The new government of a consolidated municipality would have the ability to make decisions regarding the future use and/or disposition of properties. The Town and Village currently occupy the same administrative space and thus would likely continue to utilize this space for the new government. The primary other service that would have to consider space arrangements would be a consolidated highway department.

Fund Balance

As presented in the *Baseline Report – Village of Dansville and Town of North Dansville*, as of May 31, 2009 the Village general fund had a fund balance of \$230,000. The Town general fund had a balance of nearly \$418,000 at the close of fiscal year 2009.

Much like physical assets such as property and capital equipment, fund balance reserves would transfer to the consolidated municipality unless otherwise designated in the consolidation plan. Along these lines, there are several options available to the Committee. They include:

- Simply combine the fund balances into a single reserve account, for use by the new consolidated government as needed;
- Use some portion of current fund balance in either or both entities to offset certain debt obligations prior to consolidation;
- Reserve some portion of current fund balance in either or both entities to be used specifically for “district-specific” investments in the consolidated municipality (*i.e.* current Village fund balance gets invested in former Village area, while current Town fund balance gets invested in former Town area); and/or
- Allocate equal or proportionate shares of unreserved fund balance to be used as a “seed account” in the consolidated municipality, to ensure it begins its operations on Day 1 with a cushion to help guard against unforeseen financial demands.

Assets vs. Liabilities

The Village and Town each have assets currently used to perform services within the community. Some of those assets are not fully owned by the municipality and have debt associated with them. The disposition of assets and liabilities is dependent upon the course of action chosen by the committee.

In the event of transfers of function (I.e. consolidating services), considerations of debt will factor into the decision. One principle to follow could be that where the newly combined function benefits the entire Town, all debt associated with that transfer of function becomes a townwide responsibility. This has direct cost implications for merging the Highway Department and the Department of Public Works as well as police services.¹⁸

The alternative is to keep Village debt intact with the current Village and allow Village users to pay it down over time by establishing a debt service tax applicable only to current Village residents. The latter method is the most likely scenario in the event of dissolution. Current dissolution law states that debt associated with a Village at the time of dissolution remains a burden only on Village residents as long as the debt remains outstanding.

In the event of dissolution, Village residents may choose to pay down callable bonds and BANS either through applying fund balance and/or through selling assets. It is difficult to determine the asset/debt ratio in the Village and Town since many assets do not have a recorded market value. However, it may be possible to pay down some debt in this manner.

Debt service for water and sewer customers will remain a burden only on users of those systems. Regardless of functional service consolidation, and/or full municipal merger, debt for those systems will remain with the users of the systems.

Impact on Schools

Municipal consolidation of the Town and Village of Dansville (I.e. Village dissolution or becoming Co-Terminus) would have no impact on, and result in no change to, the current school district/board or representation structure. Functional consolidation of key services will likewise have no impact on the school system. As discussed previously in the section on becoming a city, if the community were to transition into becoming a city, some consideration would have to be given to debt limitations for city school districts, as well as busing requirements.

¹⁸ The functional mechanism for this transfer would involve the sale of equipment from the Village to the Town.

MOVING FORWARD: KEY DECISION POINTS

The coterminous/dissolution study committee has set a deadline of October 31, 2010 to deliver a finalized report to each municipal board. Contained in the report will be recommendations from the committee regarding options the community could follow in the future. In order to finalize their recommendations, the committee has adhered to or will adhere to the following timetable:

- Monthly meetings held the last Wednesday of every month through the end of October, 2010;
- In early August, 2010 the committee facilitated a joint Committee/Village/Town board meeting where it discussed the options available to the two communities with elected officials;
- In mid-October the committee will facilitate a public hearing where options being considered will be put before the community for public consideration;
- Based upon feedback from elected officials and the public at large, the committee will finalize its recommendations for the report;
- The committee will deliver to each municipal board a copy of their final report by the end of September;
- Each municipal board will then have to make a determination on how they are going to proceed with the recommendations as presented in the report.

At the present time, no timetable for implementation has been set. Final implementation of adopted recommendations will be subject to each board's approval process.

APPENDIX

Survey Results

Committee Public Presentation of Options – October 20, 2010

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DEMOGRAPHICS

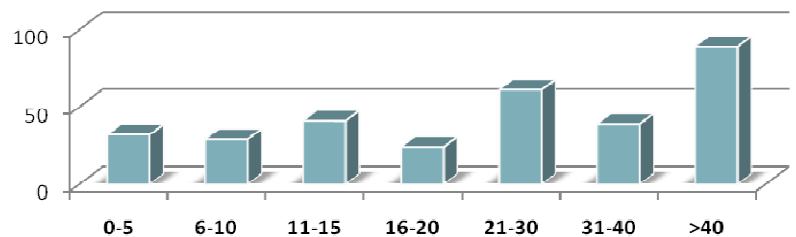
I currently live in:	#	%
Village of Dansville	229	65%
Town of North Dansville	77	22%
Neither	22	6%
Both	14	4%
Blank	8	2%
Total	350	100%

I own property in:	#	%
Village of Dansville	214	61%
Town of North Dansville	55	16%
Both	37	11%
Blank	44	13%
Total	350	100%

How many years have you lived there?	#	%
0-5	33	9%
6-10	37	11%
11-15	40	11%
16-20	25	7%
21-30	46	13%
31-40	39	11%
>40	107	31%
Blank	23	7%
Total	350	100%

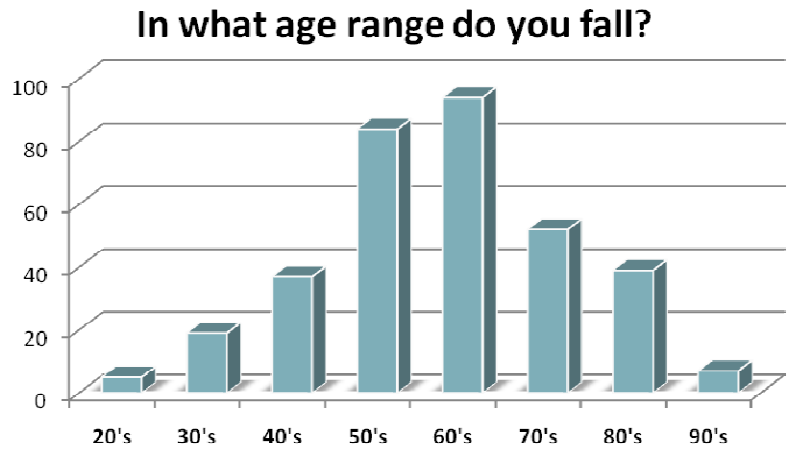
How many years have you owned property in Dansville?	#	%
0-5	32	9%
6-10	29	8%
11-15	41	12%
16-20	24	7%
21-30	61	17%
31-40	39	11%
>40	89	25%
Blank	35	10%
Total	350	100%

How many years have you owned property in Dansville?



Which best describes where you currently live?	#	%
I own the property	303	87%
I rent	20	6%
Other	5	1%
Blank	22	6%
Total	350	100%

In what age range do you fall?	#	%
20's	5	1%
30's	19	5%
40's	37	11%
50's	84	24%
60's	94	27%
70's	52	15%
80's	39	11%
90's	7	2%
Blank	13	4%
Total	350	100%



What is your Gender?	#	%
Male	177	51%
Female	140	40%
Completed Together (Husband/Wife)	18	5%
Blank	15	4%
Total	350	100%

I CURRENTLY LIVE IN...

I own property in:	I currently live in:									
	Village of Dansville		Town of North Dansville		Neither		Both		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Village of Dansville	199	96%	0	0%	14	67%	0	0%	213	70%
Town of North Dansville	0	0%	50	83%	3	14%	0	0%	53	17%
Both	9	4%	10	17%	4	19%	14	100%	37	12%
Total	208	100%	60	100%	21	100%	14	100%	303	100%

How many years have you lived there?	I currently live in:									
	Village of Dansville		Town of North Dansville		Neither		Both		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-5	19	8%	9	12%	5	42%	0	0%	33	10%
6-10	28	12%	6	8%	2	17%	1	7%	37	11%
11-15	21	9%	18	24%	1	8%	0	0%	40	12%
16-20	13	6%	10	14%	0	0%	2	14%	25	8%
21-30	36	16%	8	11%	0	0%	1	7%	45	14%
31-40	27	12%	5	7%	3	25%	4	29%	39	12%
>40	82	36%	18	24%	1	8%	6	43%	107	33%
Total	226	100%	74	100%	12	100%	14	100%	326	100%

How many years have you owned property in Dansville?	I currently live in:									
	Village of Dansville		Town of North Dansville		Neither		Both		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-5	22	10%	4	6%	4	18%	2	15%	32	10%
6-10	20	9%	3	5%	4	18%	2	15%	29	9%
11-15	24	11%	13	20%	3	14%	1	8%	41	13%
16-20	18	8%	3	5%	2	9%	1	8%	24	8%
21-30	44	21%	12	19%	2	9%	1	8%	59	19%
31-40	26	12%	6	9%	5	23%	2	15%	39	13%
>40	59	28%	23	36%	2	9%	4	31%	88	28%
Total	213	100%	64	100%	22	100%	13	100%	312	100%

Which best describes where you currently live?	I currently live in:									
	Village of Dansville		Town of North Dansville		Neither		Both		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
I own the property	202	94%	60	83%	20	95%	14	100%	296	92%
I rent	12	6%	7	10%	1	5%	0	0%	20	6%
Other	0	0%	5	7%	0	0%	0	0%	5	2%
Total	214	100%	72	100%	21	100%	14	100%	321	100%

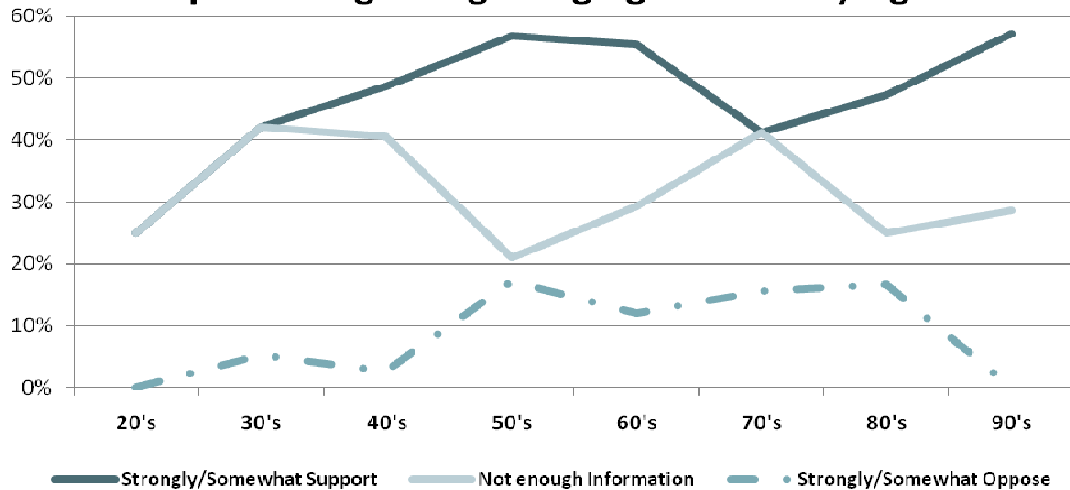
Gender	I currently live in:									
	Village of Dansville		Town of North Dansville		Neither		Both		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Male	121	55%	31	42%	15	71%	5	36%	172	53%
Female	91	42%	33	45%	5	24%	8	57%	137	42%
Husband & Wife (Couple)	7	3%	9	12%	1	5%	1	7%	18	6%
Total	219	100%	73	100%	21	100%	14	100%	327	100%

Age Range	I currently live in:									
	Village of Dansville		Town of North Dansville		Neither		Both		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
20's	4	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4	1%
30's	13	6%	2	3%	2	10%	2	14%	19	6%
40's	29	13%	4	5%	3	14%	1	7%	37	11%
50's	53	24%	21	28%	3	14%	3	21%	80	24%
60's	58	26%	23	31%	9	43%	3	21%	93	28%
70's	32	15%	14	19%	4	19%	1	7%	51	16%
80's	25	11%	9	12%	0	0%	4	29%	38	12%
90's	5	2%	2	3%	0	0%	0	0%	7	2%
Total	219	100%	75	100%	21	100%	14	100%	329	100%

Opinion regarding merging services between Village & Town

Opinion regarding merging services between Village & Town	I currently live in:									
	Village of Dansville		Town of North Dansville		Neither		Both		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
You strongly support merging services	96	42%	16	21%	12	55%	9	75%	133	39%
You somewhat support merging services	27	12%	7	9%	3	14%	1	8%	38	11%
Strongly/Somewhat Support Merging Services	123	54%	23	30%	15	68%	10	83%	171	51%
You somewhat oppose merging services	2	1%	8	11%	1	5%	0	0%	11	3%
You strongly oppose merging services	12	5%	16	21%	1	5%	1	8%	30	9%
Strongly/Somewhat Oppose Merging Services	14	6%	24	32%	2	9%	1	8%	41	12%
You have enough information but have not yet formed an opinion	6	3%	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	7	2%
You do not have enough information so you have not yet formed an opinion	73	32%	26	34%	4	18%	1	8%	104	31%
This matter is of little interest to you	11	5%	2	3%	1	5%	0	0%	14	4%
Total	227	100%	76	100%	22	100%	12	100%	337	100%

Opinion Regarding Merging Services by Age

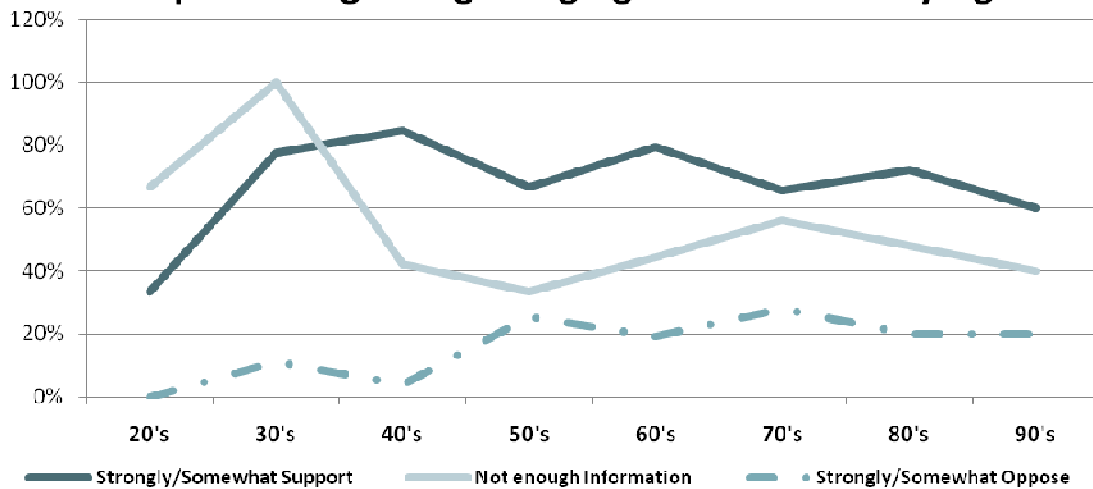


Opinion regarding merging services between Village & Town of North Dansville	#	%
You strongly support merging services	134	38%
You somewhat support merging services	38	11%
Strongly/Somewhat Support Merging Services	172	49%
You somewhat oppose merging services	11	3%
You strongly oppose merging services	31	9%
Strongly/Somewhat Oppose Merging Services	42	12%
You have enough information but have not yet formed an opinion	7	2%
You do not have enough information so you have not yet formed an opinion	104	30%
This matter is of little interest to you	14	4%
Blank	11	3%
Total	350	100%

Opinion regarding merging the Town & Village Governments?

Opinion regarding merging the Town & Village Governments	Currently live									
	Village of Dansville		Town of North Dansville		Neither		Both		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
You strongly support merging the governments	93	42%	12	17%	9	43%	9	75%	123	38%
You somewhat support merging the governments	29	13%	7	10%	3	14%	1	8%	40	12%
Strongly/Somewhat Support Merging Governments	122	56%	19	27%	12	57%	10	83%	163	50%
You somewhat oppose merging the governments	2	1%	3	4%	2	10%	0	0%	7	2%
You strongly oppose merging the governments	15	7%	18	25%	1	5%	1	8%	35	11%
Strongly/Somewhat Oppose Merging Governments	17	8%	21	30%	3	14%	1	8%	42	13%
You have enough information but have not yet formed an opinion	6	3%	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	7	2%
You do not have enough information so you have not yet formed an opinion	67	31%	28	39%	5	24%	1	8%	101	31%
This matter is of little interest to you	7	3%	2	3%	1	5%	0	0%	10	3%
Total	219	100%	71	100%	21	100%	12	100%	323	100%

Opinion Regarding Merging Governments by Age



Opinion regarding merging the Town & Village Governments	#	%
You strongly support merging the governments	124	35%
You somewhat support merging the governments	41	12%
Strongly/Somewhat Support Merging Governments	165	47%
You somewhat oppose merging the governments	8	2%
You strongly oppose merging the governments	37	11%
Strongly/Somewhat Oppose Merging Governments	45	13%
You have enough information but have not yet formed an opinion	7	2%
You do not have enough information so you have not yet formed an opinion	104	30%
This matter is of little interest to you	10	3%
Blank	19	5%
Total	350	100%

What aspects of village government <u>contribute</u> to your overall quality of life?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
Good water	1	0	0	0	1
Help when we had a flood in our yard	1	0	0	0	1
High taxes	1	0	0	0	1
I appreciate the local officials and the hard work they do. Worth every budget dollar.	1	0	0	0	1
I don't feel that I get much for the high taxes that we pay.	1	0	0	0	1
I feel merging the 911 center with the county was a great decision. The farm and family coming into town was great.	1	0	0	0	1
I love the brush pick up service. I definitely utilize it as often as I'm able to.	1	0	0	0	1
I think it would make all life better and simpler.	1	0	0	0	1
I think we need a dispatch on duty at all times. We need police on duty at all times.	1	0	0	0	1
I'm satisfied	1	0	0	0	1
Keep police & fire	1	0	0	0	1
Leaf collection, police & fire, EMS service	1	0	0	0	1
Life seems "status quo"	1	0	0	0	1
Local village government at this time - None	1	0	0	0	1
Maintenance & improvements to roads, parks, etc	1	0	0	0	1
Mayor a good ole boy trying to get the entire village square (financial, taxes, public works, community wellness) waste of time and money enforcing skateboard rules and harassing children	1	0	0	0	1
Mayor's office and some village board members who really wants to help the village. The democrats want to help village - republican themselves.	1	0	0	0	1
Members of local government consider opinions of the people and do what they can to get answers.	1	0	0	0	1
Most services	1	0	0	0	1
Nice parks, summer concert series, street Dept. Took care of two problems, more open police reports.	1	0	0	0	1
None - it is dysfunctional right now	1	0	0	0	1
Once a year brush & branch pick up. Water purification should be checked.	1	0	0	0	1
Parks, library, police, brush pickup	1	0	0	0	1
Paved roads are repaired/resurfaced well	1	0	0	0	1
People who live here	1	0	0	0	1
Pick up trash. Some trees should be trimmed or cut down. (lean over the road or street)	1	0	0	0	1
Police department - safety	1	0	0	0	1
Police department and emergency (fire/medical) departments close at hand, friends are close	1	0	0	0	1
Police Dept and streets being plowed.	1	0	0	0	1
Police Dept. fire Dept, paramedics	1	0	0	0	1
Police Dept. trash pickups	1	0	0	0	1
Police Dept., fire Dept, ambulance service, water, sewer, road maintenance, street lighting.	1	0	0	0	1
Police protection	1	0	0	0	1
Police protection, water, sewer	1	0	0	0	1
Police services, brush pickup, plowing, street repair	1	0	0	0	1
Police, DMV, Clerk's office	1	0	0	0	1

What aspects of village government <u>contribute</u> to your overall quality of life?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
Police, fire & ambulance services. Snow removal, leaf pickup, road repairs & maintenance.	1	0	0	0	1
Police, fire, hospital.	1	0	0	0	1
Police, fire, water & sewer. Zoning DPW.	1	0	0	0	1
Police, fire, water, roads, parks, property codes, etc.	1	0	0	0	1
Police, water, public works	1	0	0	0	1
Police, water, sewer, brush clean up, snow plow, park maintenance, holding down taxes.	1	0	0	0	1
Provides services	1	0	0	0	1
Road, water, sewer maintenance, policing, zoning and code enforcement.	1	0	0	0	1
Roads quality, police, concerts, snow removal and sanding, brush, leaf pickup.	1	0	0	0	1
Safety & road maintenance	1	0	0	0	1
Services	1	0	0	0	1
Services provided - highway, streets, fire, police, and ambulance	1	0	0	0	1
Sewer & water system.	1	0	0	0	1
Sidewalks /sewers & water treatment /police Dept/village Dept at times	1	0	0	0	1
Snow plowing and brush pick up, sidewalks police protection.	1	0	0	0	1
Snow removal, street repair & maintenance of sewer & water lines rubbish pickup	1	0	0	0	1
Spring / fall cleanup, streets & road maintenance.	1	0	0	0	1
Street plowing, street lighting	1	0	0	0	1
Streets	1	0	0	0	1
The people we've elected & the persons they've appointed have not turned out to be wise choices.	1	0	0	0	1
They pick up brush, call NYSEG to change light bulbs. We live on Rt 256, the state does all the work. We have water & sewer.	1	0	0	0	1
They pickup brush a lot. We asked for a street light to be fixed and it was done.	1	0	0	0	1
Very little. Not too many services.	1	0	0	0	1
Village government has sincere desire to make village better.	1	0	0	0	1
Village police Dept.	1	0	0	0	1
Village services	1	0	0	0	1
Village streets in good repair	1	0	0	0	1
Water - sewer, fire - ambulance protection, trash - leaves - brush removal	1	0	0	0	1
Water & sewage disposal	1	0	0	0	1
Water & sewer, street plowing, zoning/planning, police, fire, ambulance, leaf pickup, limb pickup	1	0	0	0	1
Water, sewer, street lights.	1	0	0	0	1
Water/sewer/law enforcement/zoning/planning/maintenance.	1	0	0	0	1
We have police and fire protection	1	0	0	0	1
Yearly clean-up, no longer have. Brush pickup (only a few now), Library, bus, hospital, fire Dept. Police Dept. bike trails @ park	1	0	0	0	1
Zero	1	0	0	0	1
Zero. Dysfunctional village board	1	0	0	0	1
Zoning officer enforcing codes regulating landlords in village	1	0	0	0	1
Civic events	0	1	0	0	1
Fire/EMT	0	1	0	0	1

What aspects of village government <u>contribute</u> to your overall quality of life?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
Has banks, post office, grocery store, police Dept., and fire Dept.. Voting at Town hall, ambulance Dept. and hospital.	0	1	0	0	1
If I lived in the village I would have to pay taxes	0	1	0	0	1
Like it as is	0	1	0	0	1
Maintenance of roads, plowing and sanding, maintenance of sewer, brush pick-up, enforcement of zoning laws in regard to maintenance of property. Local police services.	0	1	0	0	1
Municipal water	0	1	0	0	1
Need more information	0	1	0	0	1
No comment	0	1	0	0	1
None and I like it that way.	0	1	0	0	1
None directly	0	1	0	0	1
Not in village so don't get benefits offered	0	1	0	0	1
Services provided - roads, water, zoning officer is a plus.	0	1	0	0	1
Unaware but some decisions add to my life as to water service and assessments	0	1	0	0	1
Water	0	1	0	0	1
Water system, police, roads, I appreciate and utilize all services provided by the village.	0	1	0	0	1
Water/sewer, building is on state highway so we get very little. Good fire Dept.	0	1	0	0	1
We need more notice on all board of education and town & village meetings. No more behind closed door meetings.	0	1	0	0	1
Working with concerns of the taxpayers	0	1	0	0	1
Insurances, cutting back on vehicles and overtime issues. 1 government 1 set of rules and regulations for Town & Village	0	0	1	0	1
Plowing of streets, collection of brush	0	0	1	0	1
Police	0	0	1	0	1
Water, sewer, police Dept. The general governmental services contribute to our overall business life.	0	0	1	0	1
Duplicate tax for items already provided at town & county level - special interest legislation by village	0	0	0	1	1
Good police care	0	0	0	1	1
Police protection, ambulance service, parks, fire protection, seasonal snow removal, and leaf removal.	0	0	0	1	1
Water & sewer	0	0	0	1	1
No comment	132	53	18	9	212
Total	229	77	22	14	342

What aspects of village government <u>interfere</u> with your overall quality of life?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
Code enforcement turns a blind eye on zoning and permit violations. Sadly the village gets shabbier. The village doesn't embrace change, yet continues to practice favoritism toward officials & programs.	1	0	0	0	1
Code/zoning not being enforced or overlooked	1	0	0	0	1
Conduct of village administration, lack of business growth.	1	0	0	0	1
Created positions for executives while eliminating lower level positions (dispatchers, etc)	1	0	0	0	1
Current infighting, not listening to or asking for input. Face to face genuine concern lacking.	1	0	0	0	1
Dansville is a small community with a small taxpayer base. We have a lot of unemployed, renters, etc. The burden falls on the few we cannot support overly high salaries. I do not understand why we need a mayor & an administrator. We have not always had both. To give such a large salary in order to keep 1 individual is not necessary. It puts all of us in a different situation. Salaries go down - bills go up no relief.	1	0	0	0	1
Digging up lawn with snow plow, lack of enforcement of leash laws and noise ordinance regarding barking dogs. Irregular brush pickup.	1	0	0	0	1
Discouraged that the board meetings are not civil. Services could be more consistent.	1	0	0	0	1
Don't like Village tax - Town doesn't have	1	0	0	0	1
Everything else	1	0	0	0	1
Excessive salaries and benefits, high building-land assessments. Over staffed police Dept. w/cruisers.	1	0	0	0	1
Extremely high taxes with too high assessments.	1	0	0	0	1
Fail to clean drain in front of house on town property. Flooding of basement.	1	0	0	0	1
Have kept certain businesses out. Don't want Mayor serving now to look after anymore. I think we can save more money than we do. We need lower taxes!	1	0	0	0	1
Have to go out of Town to shop and work	1	0	0	0	1
High expense to live in village.	1	0	0	0	1
High taxes, poor administration.	1	0	0	0	1
High water and sewer rate. High tax rate.	1	0	0	0	1
High water bills. Poor lighting on side streets. Sidewalks in poor condition.	1	0	0	0	1
Hostile environment for start up of new businesses. Lowes, Walmart, losing businesses & tax base.	1	0	0	0	1
I am not sure if the village or town is responsible, but someone needs to solicit more businesses in our community.	1	0	0	0	1
I cannot transport brush and would like it picked up at least every other month until fall.	1	0	0	0	1
I feel our village government is very poor in quality. They don't know village laws or how to run a meeting or consider other opinions when making decisions. Just really dumb mayor & assistant mayor.	1	0	0	0	1
I have seen nothing further by our current politicians to add any commerce or trade to the village. Our sidewalks and streets and village as a whole has fallen by the wayside, while people such as Keith Petti still have a job. When we drive through other villages such as Geneseo you see a distinct difference in the appearance as well as store fronts. Why do you always see broken beer bottles/kids/teens fighting? Where is our village police Dept.? Maybe Mr. York should take over that as well.	1	0	0	0	1
I see very little from the village government. The last few years our village board is a joke. Taxes are way too high on my street we receive no services.	1	0	0	0	1
If Mr. Petti was given a lesser salary we could afford to have one police man at all times.	1	0	0	0	1

What aspects of village government <u>interfere</u> with your overall quality of life?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
If we could combine services there would be more money for village street repair.	1	0	0	0	1
Inability to bring in business such as Lowes, Home Depot, Applebees, finer restaurants, Dept. stores. High overall taxes for a small community.	1	0	0	0	1
Inept village administration (no street maintenance) need to help get new business.	1	0	0	0	1
Keith Petti	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of brush removal, snow removal, the ridiculous parking on odd and even days from November to April. When we have a storm coming yes. There is so little snow in Dansville why do we have this stupid rule? To people who have no choice but to park on the street this is a real inconvenience.	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of cooperation among village board members. No stores to buy clothing, small appliances, thread, household supplies. No sidewalks in the outskirts of the village.	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of enforcing code for outside of property, yard, bushes hanging over sidewalks, poor sidewalks.	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of interest in trying to improve the downtown area. Only bars, hangouts, fallen down property.	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of procedural knowledge and implementation of legal issues concerning village administrator position.	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of sidewalk regulations & clear snow, repair, and junk property, etc. Very negative representation of village	1	0	0	0	1
Lousy village government. Foolish spending, such as, village administrator. Send him packing - Mayor too! Police chief too!	1	0	0	0	1
Main street development at a standstill, constant village gov't bickering, it seems like our town as a whole has gone downhill over the last 10 years and the housing upkeep is horrible. (Thanks village board & code enforcement) Welcome "BINGO" to main street!	1	0	0	0	1
Majority of current administration is too self-serving and can't be trusted to do the will of the people - lack of growth in business	1	0	0	0	1
Most decisions are wrong or too late to correct the problems	1	0	0	0	1
My landlord told me \$50/month of my rent goes to village tax. I don't receive any village service.	1	0	0	0	1
My personal opinion is that village is "sick" and need a different direction. Need a more aggressive approach to maintenance.	1	0	0	0	1
Need brush pickup more often. Need to enforce clean up. Not allowing yards to be filled with garbage, etc.	1	0	0	0	1
Need to bring back trash pick up. Too much garbage along curbs. Too much administrative costs. Spend it on fixing the pothole.	1	0	0	0	1
Never picked up in time stated in paper.	1	0	0	0	1
No clue who is in charge where (too many taxes, town, county, and Village!!)	1	0	0	0	1
No other pick up of trash. Is our water safe?	1	0	0	0	1
No shopping centers, no "affordable" clothing stores (only salvation army)	1	0	0	0	1
No snow removal in area of widened road on main street	1	0	0	0	1
Not getting enough services to justify village taxes	1	0	0	0	1
Odd/even parking, sidewalks in disrepair, lack of enforcement for shoveling snow on sidewalks. Government officials arguing and not working together, taxes.	1	0	0	0	1
Ok	1	0	0	0	1
over taxed on property	1	0	0	0	1
Perhaps nothing except the duplication of services.	1	0	0	0	1
Petty politics	1	0	0	0	1

What aspects of village government <u>interfere</u> with your overall quality of life?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
pick up of leaves	1	0	0	0	1
Politics in fighting between parties inhibit progress	1	0	0	0	1
Poor brush pickup system	1	0	0	0	1
Ruining residential neighborhoods by rezoning for commercial. Unfair taxes, lack of traffic control, do nothing village board.	1	0	0	0	1
Rules regarding parking in winter and brush pick up	1	0	0	0	1
Sewer system smells like a** every Wednesday.	1	0	0	0	1
Sidewalks in terrible condition, strollers, skateboards & bikes frequently use roads.	1	0	0	0	1
Some people who are paid way too much, 85,000, and given a 5 yr. contract. We can not afford this in Dansville.	1	0	0	0	1
Some village board members who say one thing then change their minds when it's crunch time - only to benefit themselves, not the village.	1	0	0	0	1
Stupidity & arrogance	1	0	0	0	1
Stupidity & arrogance of some elected & appointed officials & taxes.	1	0	0	0	1
Taxes too high for very little services, increase very high	1	0	0	0	1
Taxes too high.	1	0	0	0	1
Taxes we don't get any more than the people in the town do and taxes are a lot higher.	1	0	0	0	1
The high cost of taxes, relatively low services (I do not want more services)	1	0	0	0	1
The Mayor's way of running meetings.	1	0	0	0	1
The squabbling between Mayor and councilmen. I wonder if they have the best interest of the community in mind.	1	0	0	0	1
The tax base is ever dwindling. Property taxes are too high. Many village residents pay high flood insurance premiums. It seems to me that a small investment into this "mini stream" would save all residents money.	1	0	0	0	1
The taxes are too high.	1	0	0	0	1
The village government at the meetings often entertain us with their stupidity over issues of bickering	1	0	0	0	1
The village has taken several cut backs on some of their services to us.	1	0	0	0	1
The village is a trash dump. They refuse to enforce any of the ordinances designed to make homeowners or business owners keep properties cleaned up. Trash sits on curbs 24/7 - main street business area is littered with garbage, dog s*** on sidewalks, etc.	1	0	0	0	1
There is too much infighting going on especially with our village government. No respect being shown for those that do take time to come to meetings & voice their opinion.	1	0	0	0	1
They continue to waste money on things we cannot afford. They drop the ball on real issues and act like children which is an embarrassment to anyone moving here.	1	0	0	0	1
They do not at present work to what the people of this community are telling them. They do just what they want. They are not willing to work with the 2 boards together.	1	0	0	0	1
They do not try hard enough to bring business in here. Shopping sucks. Water bill been paying for capital improvement project for 10 years. Village also needs to appeal to FEMA to have flood zone mapping redone. I have to pay \$1700 a year and my house hasn't flooded over.	1	0	0	0	1
They don't fix sidewalks; plow my road even though I am 2 blocks from main street.	1	0	0	0	1

What aspects of village government <u>interfere</u> with your overall quality of life?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
They have destroyed two of my families. They allowed illegal junk yard in the village that killed Mrs. Henderson with all the noise and harassment all hours of the night. The police Dept. have broke laws to hurt people and sabotaged the law. All to make lawyer welfare. We have 2 illegal flood zones and the Mayor doesn't help the taxpayer he helps the predator loaners, realtors, lawyers, insurance agents, and mortuaries because stress kills. There is no rule of law unless you hurt one of the above predators, then there is hell to pay. The village government and friends have in the past help stop renters from renting our buildings.	1	0	0	0	1
Too high taxes	1	0	0	0	1
Too much government too many taxes. Expensive police department, village administrator	1	0	0	0	1
Too much in-fighting & inability to solve problems because of their unwillingness to work with each other.	1	0	0	0	1
Town government looking at pros and cons on given situations. Enticing new stores & businesses and industries, small or large.	1	0	0	0	1
Village administrator - overpaid, incompetent. Mayor - incompetent	1	0	0	0	1
Village administrator unwilling to listen. Village board and mayor, poor street maintenance & storm response, poor water supply, poor attempt to attract business & jobs	1	0	0	0	1
Village board decisions, bad sidewalks/high tax, lack of respect for resident concerns	1	0	0	0	1
Village politics	1	0	0	0	1
Village supervisor (overpaid)	1	0	0	0	1
Village taxes excessive for return on value of taxes paid/ \$1,000 value	1	0	0	0	1
We are very disappointed in the current leadership or lack there of in both the village and town	1	0	0	0	1
We right now are represented with a board that can't even do a budget. They needed to hire an administrator to do that job. This has been an unneeded expense for the tax payer. It has also been documented that they are a dictatorship.	1	0	0	0	1
What do they do but argue and make a**** out of themselves to make us look bad.	1	0	0	0	1
When the village made me build my own road before I was allowed a C of O. All they do is put way too much salt on the roads in the winter instead of plowing like the town does. It rapidly is deteriorating the roads.	1	0	0	0	1
Would like lower assessments	1	0	0	0	1
By not living in village I wouldn't pay taxes	0	1	0	0	1
Can't keep doors and windows open because of sewer plant smell. We have put up with this since 1960s.	0	1	0	0	1
Can't keep doors and windows open because of the sewer plant smell. We have put up with this since (1960s) it's dangerous for our health. When its bad we always say Welcome to Dansville.	0	1	0	0	1
Constant bickering and small town politics	0	1	0	0	1
Everyone need to stop hiding on secret taxes. We need to clean up our village and town with these run down houses, and every entrance to our place, make it more presentable.	0	1	0	0	1
Glider aircraft flying over my home, too loud. Should have a set flight pattern.	0	1	0	0	1
Have to drive 20 miles to shop because town and village government doesn't want business	0	1	0	0	1
High taxes, kept certain businesses away.	0	1	0	0	1
I an we the neighbors have complained about the sewer smell for years. It is unhealthy - it continues after many complaints for years!	0	1	0	0	1

What aspects of village government <u>interfere</u> with your overall quality of life?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
If I were in the Village it would be the tax structure.	0	1	0	0	1
Need more information	0	1	0	0	1
Never respond to emails. Do not follow through, especially creek flood, supports still not replaced. I lost 2' of property that I pay taxes on!	0	1	0	0	1
None and I like it that way.	0	1	0	0	1
Not allowed to vote in some elections	0	1	0	0	1
Not giving the zoning officer enough authority	0	1	0	0	1
Nothing - their inability to run the village in a businesslike manner makes the town of North Dansville residents suffer. We don't get the use of the sewer plant but we suffer year round because of the villages neglect in this matter.	0	1	0	0	1
Overbearing, administrative politics, good ole boy mentality, inability to bring new development to Poags Hole project or vacant lot w/utilities.	0	1	0	0	1
permits	0	1	0	0	1
Politics between village and town is not good.	0	1	0	0	1
Property tax increases	0	1	0	0	1
Redundancy with town	0	1	0	0	1
Regarding sewer plant - the awful smell, the high price of water bill. Concerned about the prevalence of welfare in our community and concerned about future well-being of community	0	1	0	0	1
Taxes are high for a dirty village, bad streets.	0	1	0	0	1
The constant bickering of those in charge!	0	1	0	0	1
The village fathers should not have the right to tell us what we can and can't have on our porch.	0	1	0	0	1
The village fathers should not have the right to tell us what we can and cannot have on our porch.	0	1	0	0	1
The winter streets are very dangerous & slippery & sidewalks are never open	0	1	0	0	1
There is no place to shop, we have a little Family Dollar and a Dollar General. No big stores anymore.	0	1	0	0	1
There should be a local office for Livingston county Mental Health services.	0	1	0	0	1
Village police & DPW are among the poorest public service entities I've ever seen. Village admin position is a joke. Totally unneeded.	0	1	0	0	1
Code enforcement officer, police department	0	0	1	0	1
Cost of water for multi-unit apartment house	0	0	1	0	1
Government officials have been inept at attracting new businesses; any businesses that want to open/build here have too many roadblocks that prevent them from opening. They give up in frustration.	0	0	1	0	1
High taxes, poor services	0	0	1	0	1
No interferences at this point.	0	0	1	0	1
Redundancy of service and cost	0	0	1	0	1
same as above	0	0	1	0	1
Should the officer be cut in the merging to one set of them for Village and town	0	0	1	0	1
Some services between the village and town overlap	0	0	1	0	1
Anything I might get from town I get nothing from the village except a tax bill. They do not even get brush here.	0	0	0	1	1
General operation of village by present village board officials	0	0	0	1	1
High taxes for substandard government, small town elected officials resistance to growth	0	0	0	1	1

What aspects of town government <u>contribute</u> to your overall quality of life?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
airport	1	0	0	0	1
At least the town board and town crew are productive. The village board and crew are a joke.	1	0	0	0	1
clean up road ways	1	0	0	0	1
Cost more	1	0	0	0	1
Good highway maintenance & eagerness to collaborate/conservate duplication of services.	1	0	0	0	1
I get little in the way of town services since I live in the village	1	0	0	0	1
I see everything the town seems to be doing right and the Village is doing wrong.	1	0	0	0	1
I'm not sure who/which government is responsible for which part of my issues.	1	0	0	0	1
It's ok	1	0	0	0	1
None, I don't use their roads, airport, or dump.	1	0	0	0	1
Not aware of any services that contribute to overall quality of life provided by the town.	1	0	0	0	1
Police	1	0	0	0	1
Public parking is available almost always.	1	0	0	0	1
reasonable tax rate	1	0	0	0	1
Road maintenance	1	0	0	0	1
Roads, parks, etc.	1	0	0	0	1
Services provided	1	0	0	0	1
Snow plow, park maintenance, airport, holding down taxes.	1	0	0	0	1
Snow plowing, roads, town government.	1	0	0	0	1
Snow removal.	1	0	0	0	1
Streets & roads maintenance.	1	0	0	0	1
Taxes are lower	1	0	0	0	1
The board meetings are a good idea - not enough people there to represent the population of the village.	1	0	0	0	1
The roads are always plowed in the town.	1	0	0	0	1
The town is open and willing to listen to the village but not the village listening to the town	1	0	0	0	1
The town officials and workers do a very good job.	1	0	0	0	1
The town seems to have their act together and do not support "special interest" unless they have funds for it.	1	0	0	0	1
They are willing to work with the people and are open minded (unlike the village government)	1	0	0	0	1
Town does a wonderful job maintaining Greenmount Cemetery.	1	0	0	0	1
Town government generally flies under the radar.	1	0	0	0	1
Town supervisor was very helpful on our behalf of pressing past village board to act on enforcing housing codes.	1	0	0	0	1
Village taxpayers pay too much of towns taxes	1	0	0	0	1
We already cooperate with planning, zoning, 2BA - assessment	1	0	0	0	1
We can read about town board meetings in local paper.	1	0	0	0	1
Roads	0	2	0	0	2
Both sheriff department and police department	0	1	0	0	1
Fine so far	0	1	0	0	1

What aspects of town government <u>contribute</u> to your overall quality of life?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
I don't know much about the town government.	0	1	0	0	1
I don't know what benefits I get from Town government.	0	1	0	0	1
Just the Village	0	1	0	0	1
Keep the town road in shape	0	1	0	0	1
Like it as is	0	1	0	0	1
Lower tax structure	0	1	0	0	1
Lower taxes, town employees that do their job properly.	0	1	0	0	1
Maintenance of roads outside of village.	0	1	0	0	1
Nothing other then taxes	0	1	0	0	1
Plowing (live on county road) basically I get nothing from the town.	0	1	0	0	1
Provide fire department coverage - plow & maintain roads	0	1	0	0	1
Roads maintained	0	1	0	0	1
Same as above, I assume.	0	1	0	0	1
Seem to be open to new ideas.	0	1	0	0	1
Super job keeping roads clear & safe in winter. Very regular on checking our road & plus cleaning off sand	0	1	0	0	1
The town does a very good job with what they have. Combined everyone would benefit.	0	1	0	0	1
They run an efficient low cost government, and there are no bullies, that enforce their will on the other board members.	0	1	0	0	1
Town of North Dansville DPW is outstanding. Livingston County Sheriff and NYSP provide superior law enforcement compared to village police. Village water & sewer can't reach me. If consolidation goes through, I'd be paying for "services" of the village that do not benefit me.	0	1	0	0	1
Upkeep of roads	0	1	0	0	1
We live on the hill and our road is maintained very well, including snow removal, ambulance and fire departments availability. These are paid with our taxes.	0	1	0	0	1
Lowering tax dollars, 1 government, not arguing over issues of Town & Village	0	0	1	0	1
Not in town	0	0	1	0	1
Dig out my ditches, snow plow my road, cut tall grass on either side of road.	0	0	0	1	1
No comment	178	51	20	12	261
Total	229	77	22	14	342

What aspects of town government interfere with your overall quality of life?

What aspects of town government <u>interfere</u> with your overall quality of life?	I currently live in:									
	Village of Dansville		Town of North Dansville		Neither		Both		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Nothing/Zero/None	7	14%	2	9%	1	17%	1	20%	11	14%
Taxes	16	33%	8	36%	1	17%	1	20%	27	33%
Lack of Business/Jobs	6	12%	2	9%	0	0%	0	0%	8	10%
Total Comments	49	100%	22	100%	6	100%	5	100%	82	100%



What aspects of town government <u>interfere</u> with your overall quality of life?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
Taxes	6	0	0	0	6
None	5	1	0	0	6
Not sure	1	1	0	0	2
High taxes	1	0	1	0	2
Same	1	0	2	0	3
A town hall which our village pays rent on	1	0	0	0	1
Absence of brush & spring clean up. Date for brush removal too narrow & threat of tickets for violation is frustrating. 2009/2010 - snow plowing & removal on main street was awful. Couldn't access businesses.	1	0	0	0	1
Another tax - no benefits	1	0	0	0	1
Get that Petti out of his horrendous salary - don't need him at all - he has done nothing but brown nose.	1	0	0	0	1
Good ole boys club - out for themselves not the community. Do not take office if you do not intend to support Dansville. Get your priorities straight.	1	0	0	0	1
Have to wait for response for emergency personnel to respond.	1	0	0	0	1
High assessments	1	0	0	0	1
I'm not sure if it's the town or village responsibility but projects such as the water treatment facility problems are not being solved. Neither the town nor the village report directly to their constituency via the paper or radio, and they should.	1	0	0	0	1
If we merge, would not like to be called "North" Dansville.	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of business development at Exit 4	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of business growth	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of effort to attract jobs & business. Poor leadership, lack of effort in job, join county efforts.	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of jobs, lack of stores, high taxes.	1	0	0	0	1
Need to know truths & finite savings of efforts, not verbal. No rhetorical just simple truth to override lies.	1	0	0	0	1
No problems	1	0	0	0	1
Not enough business.	1	0	0	0	1
Not happy with the wrangling at town board meetings, no open disclosure until a vote is called for.	1	0	0	0	1
Nothing	1	0	0	0	1
Our community is currently headed in the wrong direction	1	0	0	0	1
over taxed on property	1	0	0	0	1

What aspects of town government <u>interfere</u> with your overall quality of life?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
paying for town taxes & I get no service	1	0	0	0	1
Property taxes for all fixed income personal on an adjustable scale.	1	0	0	0	1
Property taxes way too high	1	0	0	0	1
Same as above	2	0	0	0	2
Same big-brother zoning rules	1	0	0	0	1
Taxes are way too high also in the town for the services we receive.	1	0	0	0	1
The same concerns	1	0	0	0	1
The village board members who can't see beyond their political parties - basically republican - they are there for themselves not the village.	1	0	0	0	1
They don't think about the taxpayers enough.	1	0	0	0	1
They have a town hall in our village and for that I have to pay town taxes and our village has to pay rent.	1	0	0	0	1
Time to dump the airport	1	0	0	0	1
Very little	1	0	0	0	1
We live on a state highway. No services are provided by the town of N. Dansville	1	0	0	0	1
Always getting different answers about different subjects. Example, putting a double-wide on your own property.	0	1	0	0	1
At my age I don't need the expense of more taxes	0	1	0	0	1
Because we don't live in the village we pay more for water, even though we are located right next to the reservoir. We can't get brush pickup since we are not of the village. Village police can't respond to our home.	0	1	0	0	1
Constant bickering and small town politics	0	1	0	0	1
Does not maintain town owned roadway in front of house.	0	1	0	0	1
Drainage is overdone/diverted, damage to property	0	1	0	0	1
I don't know much about the town government.	0	1	0	0	1
Increase in assessment when values are down.	0	1	0	0	1
Not having enough stores of quality. You have to drive 20 miles either direction.	0	1	0	0	1
Nothing comes to mind	0	1	0	0	1
Paying taxes for little to no service	0	1	0	0	1
Poor leadership - lack of aggressiveness in seeking new business to the area. Code enforcement and taxes.	0	1	0	0	1
Power struggle, bipartisan mudslinging.	0	1	0	0	1
Property tax increases	0	1	0	0	1
Property/school taxes	0	1	0	0	1
Rising taxes, lack of services	0	1	0	0	1
Same as above, adding:390 is causing smog and unhealthy air - houses get coated with smog	0	1	0	0	1
Town doesn't pick up leaves.	0	1	0	0	1
Trying to bring big name monopolies into a small town. Those monopolies will destroy small businesses that make a small town unique from the big cities.	0	1	0	0	1
We have made yearly calls to plant and sometimes Mayor for many years. Whenever it does get taken care of why should we help pay for the suffering all these years.	0	1	0	0	1

What aspects of town government <u>interfere</u> with your overall quality of life?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
Not in town	0	0	1	0	1
Nothing specific comes to mind (that's a good thing)	0	0	1	0	1
Tax assessors who raise tax and never come look at the property, land locked and over 600' from road.	0	0	1	0	1
Always arguing can't ever decide or agree on anything.	0	0	0	1	1
If ever we have a brush & leaf pickup in town, why are we told to put them out by the curb bagged and bundled on such a date? It's never picked up for five or six weeks later. By that time the leaves have fallen out of the broken disposable bags & the grass underneath dies & grass grows around it and can't be mowed.	0	0	0	1	1
Nothing in general	0	0	0	1	1
Paying both village & town taxes	0	0	0	1	1
The town must call village police before answering my call.	0	0	0	1	1
No Comment	180	55	16	9	260
Total	229	77	22	14	342

What would you say is your primary reason for supporting/opposing merging the governments?

Opinion regarding merging the Town & Village Governments	You strongly support merging the gov'ts	You somewhat support merging the gov'ts	Strongly/Somewhat Support Merging gov'ts	You somewhat oppose merging the gov'ts	You strongly oppose merging the gov'ts	Strongly/Somewhat Oppose Merging gov'ts	You have enough information but have not yet formed an opinion	You do not have enough information so you have not yet formed an opinion	This matter is of little interest to you	Total
Cost/ Save Money	39	12	51	1	3	4	0	21	2	133
Combine/ Merge/ Consolidate	28	19	47	2	8	10	1	5	0	120
Tax Savings	47	17	64	1	13	14	1	22	1	180
Total Comments	117	33	150	7	33	40	2	55	4	251



What would you say is your primary reason for supporting/opposing merging the governments?	You strongly support merging the governments
Cost	2
Save money	2
Consolidation of services	2
Lower taxes	2
Save taxpayer dollars	2
Saving money	2
Saving taxpayers money	1
As it stands as of now we have no leadership and not holding Dept. heads responsible (police, streets, etc). For example, pot holes, the police should be reporting them.	1
Better services & shared costs	1
Cheaper taxes and better services through the town.	1
Clarity of services from town - or is it village? What do my 2 individual taxes pay for? Is Mayor Dixon Village Mayor? Is it town court or do we have town & village court? etc..Clarity of services.	1
Close configuration of the two entities, too few district town services	1
Combined services should reduce taxes by keeping tighter controls on spending.	1
Conserving duplication of services decreased to save money. Keep tax rate stable, loss of business in village has affected tax rate.	1
Consolidate government. Size (geographical area) begs for consolidation. Got to Town government or city but put one of them together.	1
Cost cutting, less bureaucracy, make high paid office holders responsible and earn their wages.	1
Cost savings	1
Cut down on administrative cost.	1
cut of too many administrations	1
Cut payroll costs at the top.	1
Cutting cost - taxes	1
Decreasing taxes	1
Do away with Village police Dept.	1
Do not need 2 levels of government. Both can be merged and overseen by the same person. Ex: Town clerk can do both town & village duties same with justices.	1
Duplication of services & governance	1
Economical	1
Economy of operation	1
Efficiency, remove duplication of services and administration.	1
Efficiency, taxes	1
Eliminate duplication of officials.	1

What would you say is your primary reason for supporting/opposing merging the governments?	You strongly support merging the governments
Eliminate one layer of government. This should remove position of mayor, Highway supervisor. (at village level) Village clerk, administrator position, and hopefully village police Dept. Let the county provide security.	1
Gain efficiency	1
Geographies - large village sits within small township	1
Greater representation with more ideas	1
Hopefully lower taxes	1
Hoping it would be to the benefit of the poor & middle class people who are trying to survive on a daily basis.	1
I don't think it is necessary to have two separate governments. Our areas are too close to warrant double governments. Also there is a monetary savings by having "one" government. It enlarges the area to draw candidates for leadership reform.	1
I hope when the term is up of our current mayor (police chief, etc) someone will run for the office and really make a difference as I see us turning into another Mt. Morris. An entirely new governing body is needed to correct the mistakes of the whole of which now exists.	1
I pay village taxes and get absolutely nothing from them.	1
I support merging the village into the town to form 1 water district and one sewer district. I get tired of hearing people say they can't build here or there because of some boundary line. It's way past time to join the two governments into one.	1
I support merging to eliminate duplication of employees and services and to decrease expenditures.	1
I support the merging because there are too many different rules & laws for the village and town.	1
I think when the study is over it will save the taxpayers	1
In the past we from the NDRCOA have been made to stand and say the pledge to our flag only to have the Mayor set us down then take God out of everything by lying to us. Does the Mayor, administrator, Chief of Police and Village Lawyer think we are new comers to the village with all the documents we have the NDRCOA has stopped hundreds of families from moving into the village and town. Even companies have changed their minds about building in this area because of the lies. With one government and services no one will have someone else to blame.	1
Increased efficiency, decreased costs	1
It would be cheaper in the long run.	1
Less duplication of services, holding down taxes.	1
Less government = less expense	1
Less political positions the better	1
Less spending , less government	1
Less taxes, bigger tax base.	1
Lower taxes and eliminate wasteful village spending.	1
Lower taxes, better services.	1
Lowering the taxes. I would support merging services if it would cut down on our taxes and give us better services.	1
May result in higher taxes for town residents.	1
Maybe without 2 sets of politicians working against each other, something may get done.	1
Merging the governments should decrease taxes.	1
More effective government services, simpler bigger tax base. Less duplication of services, etc.	1
More efficient use of employees and taxpayer money.	1
No matter what my decision is this will probably be ignored anyhow	1
No need for 2 governments for anyone, would also dissolve county government	1
One tax bill rather than 2	1
One town - One Government	1

What would you say is your primary reason for supporting/opposing merging the governments?	You strongly support merging the governments
Our mayor, administrator, chief of police and our attorney all lie to the taxpayers. This is known fact, yet who are you going to tell it to? They own all the judges in Washington DC.	1
Over government & double the need for staff & costs	1
Poor management of the village - spend beyond their means for help and staff in general. There is nothing left in the village to save. The town could manage all aspects of both the village and the town. The town does not do things without asking the public. Unlike the village.	1
Primary reason is if merging will reduce property taxes.	1
Reduce government costs.	1
Reduce governments in our life and reduce taxes. Have 2 of each in town, village, reduce some of the taxes.	1
Reduce high property taxes	1
Reduce number of village workers or town workers.	1
Reduce overhead, increase productivity, reduce taxes.	1
Reduce redundant functions and the cost associated with them.	1
Reduce size of government	1
Reduce staff and better oversight of employers to do their job with more effort.	1
Reduce taxes	1
Reduce taxes not having to maintain 2 levels	1
Reduced tax burden, less regulatory roadblocks for economic development	1
Save money merging duplicate services	1
Save money/taxes. More efficient use of tax dollars	1
Saving money, no overlaps on officials.	1
Saving money/less duplication of services.	1
Saving taxes (property)	1
Savings of monies, more efficient services, government	1
Should be less people to pay salary to. Should lower taxes.	1
Smaller government	1
So that we could do away from overpaying on administrator that we don't need.	1
Something has to done to try and cut expenses over all.	1
Spread cost more evenly and avoid duplication of services.	1
Support: better cooperation from both political parties when more members work for the good of both town & village	1
Tax dollar savings.	1
Tax savings, cost of government, village population shrinking, tax base shrinking.	1
Taxes	1
Taxes, spread out taxes with more people. Combine the work force. Village will not have to rent office space anymore. Smaller government.	1
The town is too small to have two municipal governments.	1
The town of N.Dansville is small in area, with the village taking up most of it. Reducing the equipment expense.	1
The village has no money so why would the town want to take and merge with the town having money?	1
They already do several dual roles/purposes	1
This village is far behind any other similar villages. Will results of this survey be in our paper?	1
To be honest, am not sure which are the village's and which are the town's effects. Based on my knowledge of other communities experiences I don't see why they couldn't be merged and be made to be more efficient and more cost effective.	1
To cut cost & reduce taxes and to be more effective overall.	1

What would you say is your primary reason for supporting/opposing merging the governments?	You strongly support merging the governments
To pay one tax & one government. Eliminate positions to save money.	1
To receive sewer services. More taxes to increase interest in a smaller town.	1
To save money	1
To save on taxes. Put it up for vote in November.	1
Too many taxes doesn't take 10 people to run town & village. Duplication of services, get rid of police Dept. We cannot afford or need it. Only need Town, not city or village or coterminous	1
We don't need two governments.	1
We don't need two overlapping local governments, more efficient to have only one.	1
We have too much waste due to duplication of services with no regard to taxpayer expenses. The town seems to run much smoother than the village. I would support dissolving the village.	1
We no longer need 2 governments & 2 of all the services. This should save money if done correctly. It is a chance to start over, keep the good and remove the bad.	1
Why should I pay a separate tax for a useless government?	1
No comment	7
Total	124

What would you say is your primary reason for supporting/opposing merging the governments?	You somewhat support merging the governments
Cost	2
Save money	1
Saving taxpayers money	1
Communication & cooperation between officials	1
Consolidation of services. Lower taxes	1
Efficiency and tax reduction?	1
Expanding the border for Village departments, lessening expenses of double governmental salaries. (ex: mayor, supervisor, clerks, highway departments.)	1
Get rid of village government & foolish spending. Save on taxes.	1
How long would it take for emergency personnel to respond to an emergency call and if emergency enough emergency personnel on hand.	1
I have never learned who would become in charge after the merger	1
I support merging as a cost savings measure	1
I think that in the long run it could save money but need more information on the pro and con.	1
If it could keep down taxes and only eliminate jobs thru attrition	1
It seems it would be more efficient.	1
Living in North Dansville and not the village I would worry about taxes increasing with services. I already have water & sewer, no sidewalks, and I don't need street lights. So I would not have any interest in paying more taxes for these services.	1
Lower tax burden	1
Lowering taxes substantially, improving Main street and surrounding village neighborhoods.	1
money and sense	1
More efficiency, hopefully less expense	1
Neither the town nor village is large enough to warrant separate entities.	1
Property tax reduction	1
Property taxes shared	1
Reduce duplication of services	1

What would you say is your primary reason for supporting/opposing merging the governments?	You somewhat support merging the governments
Redundancy of services, eliminate Mayor & administrator position, eliminate 1/3 employees & their benefits.	1
Save money, lower taxes.	1
save tax dollars	1
To get everyone on the same page and to decrease taxes.	1
To save money, eliminate duplicate services/costs	1
To save money, reduce taxes	1
To save taxpayers money by forming a more efficient government & avoid duplication of services.	1
We support the merger but need to know if we lose state and federal funding and how will our village/town taxes be calculated?	1
Why do we need two government boards - do we get any services from the town of N. Dansville to whom we pay taxes?	1
No Comment	8
Total	41

What would you say is your primary reason for supporting/opposing merging the governments?	You somewhat oppose merging the governments
Don't believe would be much of a savings unless you have a lot of unneeded personnel on one payroll or other.ex: highway Dept. Opposed to merging but in favor of combining or keeping such services as the police and fire shared by both.	1
Government take over small village	1
Oppose losing voice in government	1
The present system seems to be working.	1
There has been little or no communication which outlines the benefits to those living outside the village of Dansville.	1
Village taxes	1
What will benefit me from this merger?	1
No Comment	1
Total	8

What would you say is your primary reason for supporting/opposing merging the governments?	You strongly oppose merging the governments
Bad idea and bad government structure	1
Bigger government, corruption, too much debt, more taxes!!	1
Change is not what we need.	1
Different rate of taxation	1
Don't look forward to change and the "birthing" problems of a new system. Other towns doing this are causing problems/fights with friends and neighbors.	1
From the very beginning of our nation, smaller transparent governments have served us very well. It seems that this time in history there is a rush for "bigger is best"	1
Higher taxes, too much interference.	1

What would you say is your primary reason for supporting/opposing merging the governments?	You strongly oppose merging the governments
I don't know why anyone in the town would want to pay for the village problems. Pay higher taxes and get worse or no services for it. Not me!	1
I don't think that they would save a great amount of money because you would still need the same services you already have. Getting rid of one government politician would be small amount of money.	1
I feel the only reason right now that the village is going after this is not for the people but to protect positions they have created, like administrator. We need to go back to the boards doing the budget. This way they would know what's going on. Right now the village board cannot due a budget without the administrator.	1
In the town we do not have police, we use Sheriff /County. Have wells and septic tanks so is much more economical to live as such.	1
Layoffs, merging councils, who is in charge? Combining boards, supervisors?	1
Local government is always the most responsive	1
May be appropriate under some circumstances - that if it reduces costs but being from North Dansville I am leary of the nonsense in the village way of governing.	1
Oppose bigger government	1
Our founding father knew that the closer your local government is to you the better you are represented.	1
Potential loss of services - time lapses in times of emergency - prefer village citizens to be in charge.	1
Taxes will go up, too much politics	1
Taxes, no work in the village. The stores are closed.	1
The tax payers in the village will never see a decrease in taxes and we will always need a supervisor to represent us at the county level. We would never see our debt decrease if anything it would increase. It would also create unnecessary job titles with high paying salaries.	1
The town should not have to repay the debt the village has incurred - especially most recently.	1
The village created their own problem (poor management, a police Dept that is not needed, a DPW that doesn't work, and poor leadership, "The Mayor")	1
True savings of merging is so minor. The interests of the people of the village are different than those of the town.	1
Village administrator position is not necessary or needed. Village mayor and trustees cannot be trusted. They've openly lied to public at meetings.	1
Village services & village character. The needs of people within the village are not identical to those people outside the village.	1
Village services are already inadequate, yet taxes continue to be raised.	1
We all have our own septic, own water line. We pay for all of this this. There are 9 houses here. My taxes went up for this year, 12, 300 dollars more. Can't afford jumps like this. Why pay more? We are stuck between 390 and it's fumes plus sewer plant fumes. The sound of traffic never stops. What better would it be for us?	1
We all have our own septic, own water line. Pay for all of this (9 houses) Taxes went sky-high this year.	1
We don't support change. The Village of Dansville is in debt \$7,000,000 I was told. The village is in need of a new sewer plant. I pay no sewer or water. Combining village and town means additional expenses for us. I don't feel it is my responsibility to help the village with its debts. I know what my present expenses are. We definitely feel combining would significantly increase our expenses. What is the reason for combining Village & Town? Is the present arrangement inadequate or is this financial reasons? At present we strongly oppose the merge.	1
Why should we agree to merge? The village is not going to do anything for us except make us pay village taxes and we don't think that is right.	1
Why should we agree to merge? The village isn't going to do anything for us except make us pay village taxes and we don't think that is right.	1
Will not help me	1

What would you say is your primary reason for supporting/opposing merging the governments?	You strongly oppose merging the governments
Would pay more taxes, more debt, more corruption and larger government.	1
No Comment	4
Total	37

What would you say is your primary reason for supporting/opposing merging the governments?	You have enough information but have not yet formed an opinion
Undecided concerning merger	1
The village exists solely for the purpose of providing special services: police, fire protection, street lighting, water, sewer, brush pick up, etc to a defined area of homes & business owners. The town provides service to residents on a different taxing base one would suppose that is reason for living in town - No village tax.	1
No Comment	5
Total	7

What would you say is your primary reason for supporting/opposing merging the governments?	You do not have enough information so you have not yet formed an opinion
Undecided concerning merger	1
Need more information	3
cost & efficiency	1
Cost effectiveness as pertains to me as a resident and property owner.	1
Cost savings, non duplication of services. I think the option of City of Dansville is ill advised.	1
Costs & efficiency	1
Costs factor to the taxpayer.	1
Don't know yet, More information needed.	1
Don't like change	1
Eliminate the bias & self serving current Village board & mayor.	1
Eliminating taxes	1
Finance, getting the best services for the money.	1
Have not yet formed an opinion.	1
I do not want to pay more taxes	1
I don't have enough information as yet and would like to know more about the pros and cons of merging the town & village.	1
I don't want to pay the village tax base I was there once and had to move.	1
I favor less taxes	1
I may support it if it will save money for the tax payers.	1
I need more information - ex.: sewer treatment plant - is that a town or village problem? The republicans will they do what's best for the village, town, or themselves? Republicans in this village only care about their party not what's best for the village on the whole.	1
I support whichever will save tax payers money or save on utilities (H2O)	1

What would you say is your primary reason for supporting/opposing merging the governments?	You do not have enough information so you have not yet formed an opinion
If it cuts any costs to the taxpayers I am for it	1
If it saved money we would support it, as long as the services remained.	1
If it will keep taxes and water bill down I think it's great. Also, if it helps with getting funding for school and upkeep of the area.	1
If taxes are going to be higher and services costs are going to be higher.	1
If there are significant tax savings, and if it eliminates duplication of services, I'd be more favorable. I don't want Dansville to lose it's identity. I'm proud to be from here.	1
Local government, small town, big political presence, wrong.	1
Loss of jobs. Do not get rid of Tim Wolfanger, he is the best PR person in the building.	1
My concern is that the town board members who have done a great job will be replaced by some of the village board members who have not.	1
My gut feeling tells me no.	1
Need more info.	1
None	1
Not enough info yet.	1
Opposing - loss of village and town employee jobs, raised taxes down the road	1
Possible cost savings to village as well as improving surrounding town services.	1
Possibly be in favor. Need change of attitude and change of will! Cooperation, government acting like reasonable grownups and not children. Attitude of what I can do or the community and not to help my relatives and friends. In this town, if you are not on the IN, you're really OUT!!!	1
Prevent duplication of services, promote more efficient/extensive services, reduce operational costs	1
Primary reason if I was to support would be to save tax dollars.	1
Reduce overall costs by eliminating a level of government & further combining services	1
Reducing cost of government, reducing tax burden.	1
Reducing taxes, more cooperation, getting things done. More jobs in area.	1
Reduction in taxes. Less services would be fine with me as long as taxes are reduced	1
Reduction of taxes	1
Removal of duplication at all levels creating a more efficient & streamlined government.	1
Save money & more efficient government	1
Saving money and to be more efficient.	1
Saving money on my taxes is my only reason to support this.	1
Support - It seems the same services are paid for and done by 2 separate entities. Combining services would be practical. Hopefully combining services would add services done in other areas, like sidewalk snow removal and garbage services.	1
Support if it lessens costs. Maintenance, taxes, coordinating services.	1
Tax savings	1
Taxation	1
The only reason I would support this is the fact the men that work for the town can do a way much better job than the men under Petti. I have never seen a village have so many DPW workers that can't get the work done. They have no problem leaning against rakes & shovels to look busy.	1
To put both governments together to lower taxes. Taxes are out of hand.	1
What seems to be working now - why change what isn't broken?	1
No Comment	49
Total	104

What would you most want to learn before making a decision about merging the governments?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
Nothing - just do it	2	0	0	0	2
Not a thing	1	0	0	1	2
A breakdown of how the change would effect services & taxes paid, specifics, estimates, not generalizations. Examples of other communities which have merged & problems/benefits encountered.	1	0	0	0	1
A simple list of pros & cons of the merger	1	0	0	0	1
Above - specifically - definitively	1	0	0	0	1
Address issues stated in #9	1	0	0	0	1
Are you going to raise taxes to do it?	1	0	0	0	1
Been reading articles on other towns possible mergers with interest. There should be similarities to Dansville merger talks.	1	0	0	0	1
Benefits of merging.	1	0	0	0	1
Can the police Dept. be salvaged?	1	0	0	0	1
Can the town be incorporated into the village rather than vice versa? Repercussions, losses and gains.	1	0	0	0	1
Cost and face to face interaction with the people.	1	0	0	0	1
Cost effectiveness, who will be the responsible person to look to? Who do we look to as our leader-political person overseeing & setting policy?	1	0	0	0	1
Cost/savings to tax payers. Services to community.	1	0	0	0	1
Effect of taxes	1	0	0	0	1
Effect on taxes, services, more or less?	1	0	0	0	1
English language	1	0	0	0	1
Exactly what the benefits will be.	1	0	0	0	1
Facts and figures	1	0	0	0	1
Finances & services to be provided	1	0	0	0	1
Financial aspects	1	0	0	0	1
Governing body	1	0	0	0	1
Government structure, services provided, tax structure.	1	0	0	0	1
How costs can be reduced and is it more cost effective?	1	0	0	0	1
How do they show a savings to the taxpayer? Who would be in control of the government, mayor/supervisor?	1	0	0	0	1
How it effects me and my budget.	1	0	0	0	1
How it will affect my taxes/services	1	0	0	0	1
How it will affect the taxpayers	1	0	0	0	1
How items listed in #9 would/could be accomplished savings possible through merger of governments	1	0	0	0	1
How many members are board, how much budget toward new sewer system?	1	0	0	0	1
How many more actual workers would be hired? Excluding paper pushers - no value there!	1	0	0	0	1
How much it will effect village services, taxes, etc.	1	0	0	0	1
How much taxes would be reduced?	1	0	0	0	1
How much taxpayers will save by eliminating these positions.	1	0	0	0	1
How much will we save on taxes and will the different departments save costs of operation? Will we be a village or town of North Dansville?	1	0	0	0	1
How quickly it can be accomplished	1	0	0	0	1
How soon can it happen? Village tax rates & unequal assessment are killing us.	1	0	0	0	1

What would you most want to learn before making a decision about merging the governments?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
How taxes, services, and government structure will be affected	1	0	0	0	1
How the division of elected officials will be made.	1	0	0	0	1
How the merger will effect government position and the tax base.	1	0	0	0	1
How the structure of the resulting boards, departments & their supervision will operate.	1	0	0	0	1
How will it affect my taxes for both my home & business?	1	0	0	0	1
how will it affect taxes for school & property and county tax. How will it affect water/sewer billing? Will is assist with high costs?	1	0	0	0	1
How will it affect the average village resident?	1	0	0	0	1
How will it save me tax dollars without excessive cutting of services.	1	0	0	0	1
How will this effect us as tax payers	1	0	0	0	1
How would services be covered? Would we need fewer police cars, could policing the village & town be totally taken over by the county sheriff's Dept?	1	0	0	0	1
I have made my decision - NO!	1	0	0	0	1
I would like to know if we would keep our police Dept. If it would be more economical to have just one government and what services we would still have or would be losing.	1	0	0	0	1
If I worked less than 60 hours a week and had time to go to meetings and sit around eating grapes and watching soaps I might care.	1	0	0	0	1
If merging will save tax payers money or cost them more	1	0	0	0	1
If services will improve, impact on taxes	1	0	0	0	1
If taxes would be lowered and jobs eliminated!	1	0	0	0	1
In general, advantages and disadvantages. No number games or "smoke & mirrors"	1	0	0	0	1
is it cost effective?	1	0	0	0	1
Keep your head on your shoulders and know what you are doing, so the poor and middle class people can financially & safely survive.	1	0	0	0	1
Little interest	1	0	0	0	1
My main concern is that I do not want a combined service to mean the end to the local police department. There are a lot of issues in Dansville that would be exacerbated by the demise of the local police Dept.	1	0	0	0	1
Nothing, it can not get worse.	1	0	0	0	1
Nothing. I have been paying attention to Genesee Country Express.	1	0	0	0	1
Projected savings for each option listed on website. Cost of each option. Number of jobs lost/gained for each option.	1	0	0	0	1
Property tax wise what would happen? What is the financial benefit and detriment?	1	0	0	0	1
real cost comparison for village residents	1	0	0	0	1
Research other villages & towns that went through this. Follow up research after 5 years and 10 years. I want to know how this has worked in other small towns & villages - taxes, sewer service, street services, police, etc.	1	0	0	0	1
Savings versus loss of services	1	0	0	0	1
shared living expense	1	0	0	0	1
Sounds like you're wanting to merge regardless of survey. You best not go there!	1	0	0	0	1
Specifics about the change in services.	1	0	0	0	1
Steps needed, ramification on personnel	1	0	0	0	1

What would you most want to learn before making a decision about merging the governments?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
Structure of new government	1	0	0	0	1
Tax dollar savings	1	0	0	0	1
Tax issues, operating costs, still extra village tax	1	0	0	0	1
Tax saving	1	0	0	0	1
Taxes, trash pick up, sewer price, anything that concerns taxpayers	1	0	0	0	1
That it will reduce our over inflated property taxes	1	0	0	0	1
The benefits and disadvantages of merging and the cost savings or increase. How will it affect services/taxes?	1	0	0	0	1
The cost, but regardless, local government needs to be streamlined. 1 focal point. A merger may not reduce costs directly, but it might lead to efficiencies that could make doing business here better, and that will benefit everyone.	1	0	0	0	1
The effect it will have on taxes.	1	0	0	0	1
The effect it would have on tax payers in village.	1	0	0	0	1
The effect on taxes and listening to the community as a whole.	1	0	0	0	1
The financial benefits to taxpayers. What other benefits, but be honest about the disadvantage.	1	0	0	0	1
The pros and cons of both merging and leaving as is.	1	0	0	0	1
The real cost of village services. The village mayor and administrator are very untruthful.	1	0	0	0	1
The truth	1	0	0	0	1
The truth if it will save money and not what is at the best interest of the mayor and councilmen, and see the study in full.	1	0	0	0	1
There should be open meetings to discuss. I have seen a lot of consolidations that have failed. This will be one of them!	1	0	0	0	1
This is a no brainer. I totally support a merger but only want the town to take over the village.	1	0	0	0	1
We would like to know more details	1	0	0	0	1
What advantage it would be to me on 20 Adam. We do need a change, for better.	1	0	0	0	1
What and where are all the savings? Will Town & Village work crews merge?	1	0	0	0	1
What are the downside? Would the community save money by merging? How much?	1	0	0	0	1
What are we going to be named?	1	0	0	0	1
What benefits would the people receive and would merging hurt the village or town?	1	0	0	0	1
What cost savings would be achieved?	1	0	0	0	1
What does this do for our tax rate and services we receive?	1	0	0	0	1
What happens to the village police department?	1	0	0	0	1
What is the plan? To see a 5 yr budget complete with departments, head counts, identify all merged services & show improvements vs. un-improvements. I would like to see an organization chart with who is in what position and why. A merger must show a reduction in duplication & positions, such as, one supervisor/mayor instead of 2 and right down the line.	1	0	0	0	1
What is the savings to the tax payer if this merger takes place? Not just say 10 things, but list of actual savings.	1	0	0	0	1
What it means to me as a home owner as far as services & taxes	1	0	0	0	1
What it will cost the individual in taxes, fixed income can not sustain anymore raises in taxes.	1	0	0	0	1

What would you most want to learn before making a decision about merging the governments?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
What services would we lose? (police, plowing brush pickup)	1	0	0	0	1
What the taxes will cost in the future for real	1	0	0	0	1
What they will do	1	0	0	0	1
What would be the advantages?	1	0	0	0	1
What would happen to & about services & taxes	1	0	0	0	1
What would the Government of the city of Dansville handle emergencies.	1	0	0	0	1
Where services can be completed without duplications, we now have a manager and mayor?	1	0	0	0	1
Where taxes could be saved and how much.	1	0	0	0	1
Who is going to be in charge? Sounds like we have a circus on our board now.	1	0	0	0	1
Who will be in charge? We need to watch salaries - 80K is way too much for a village official to make on the back of only 5,000 population.	1	0	0	0	1
Who will be person "in charge" of decisions. Mechanism for taxpayer to be heard.	1	0	0	0	1
Who's going to run the government?	1	0	0	0	1
Why is the village committee include the village administrator?	1	0	0	0	1
Why they both aren't done away with.	1	0	0	0	1
Will anything really change?	1	0	0	0	1
Will it be more efficient/effective?	1	0	0	0	1
Will it really save money and make one government more efficient?	1	0	0	0	1
Will it reduce costs? Will it cut duplication and labor? What are (if any) advantages for any fed and state support town vs village?	1	0	0	0	1
Will it save tax dollars	1	0	0	0	1
Will jobs be lost? What is the cost savings to taxpayers?	1	0	0	0	1
Will my Village taxes be affected?	1	0	0	0	1
Will there be any cuts in service? How can positions be cut to save tax money?	1	0	0	0	1
Will there be tax increases and how much? Will services improve or get worse?	1	0	0	0	1
Would there be any advantages to keeping them separate?	1	0	0	0	1
A more complete and detailed program.	0	1	0	0	1
Actual cost savings. Taxes up or down, extension of sewer to town citizens.	0	1	0	0	1
All I can before making a decision	0	1	0	0	1
All information	0	1	0	0	1
Benefits vs. negatives.	0	1	0	0	1
Benefits, savings, other impacts, potential difficulties.	0	1	0	0	1
costs & regulations	0	1	0	0	1
Everything	0	1	0	0	1
Financial considerations	0	1	0	0	1
For residents living in Town of N. Dansville if the town is merged into the village then it seems those residents would pay an additional village tax.	0	1	0	0	1
Get some kind of a shopping mall.	0	1	0	0	1
How is this merge going to effect our taxes? Will town/village taxes increase because it will be one tax?	0	1	0	0	1
How much (if any) money can be saved?	0	1	0	0	1
How much can be saved?	0	1	0	0	1

What would you most want to learn before making a decision about merging the governments?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
How much difference will it make to me?	0	1	0	0	1
How to keep individuals from abusing power.	0	1	0	0	1
How we are going to change this government and help each other out and make this community effort instead of a few people who think they own us.	0	1	0	0	1
How will it affect me?	0	1	0	0	1
How will it effect taxes, sewers and upkeep of roads?	0	1	0	0	1
How will it work?	0	1	0	0	1
I don't have time to study the situation. However, it would be nice if the sewer treatment plant didn't smell so bad.	0	1	0	0	1
I like the idea of combining the two governments, but I would like to know the pros and cons of both systems on services and dollars.	0	1	0	0	1
I would like to know what advantage there is to merging. I currently live in town, not village.	0	1	0	0	1
I'm not interested in this at all. They say they are not raising taxes and they are right. They just raise my assessment (thanks Mr. Knapp) I'm being penalized for making my home look nice.	0	1	0	0	1
I've already made my decision, no merging the government!	0	1	0	0	1
If Mr. Petti gets his contract? Therefore the village would still have to pay him! Basically for nothing as usual.	0	1	0	0	1
If we get sewer line, it will make it all worthwhile. So much water in the ground and so many new regulations.	0	1	0	0	1
Is it the same way of running things?	0	1	0	0	1
Loss/gain of services. Will town residents pay more taxes to cover loss of village tax base? Will former village residents still receive benefits of village services, and former town residents, NOT?	0	1	0	0	1
No change.	0	1	0	0	1
Nothing - don't do it! The town with less people will have fewer services. The village with more people will have their way over us.	0	1	0	0	1
Pros and cons of merging	0	1	0	0	1
Some hard numbers about cost vs. savings.	0	1	0	0	1
Specific services that will be combined. What the monetary savings will be for each. What the affect will be on my property taxes.	0	1	0	0	1
Tax information. A government the village and town of North Dansville could be proud of. No Keith Petti who lies and bad mouths people behind their backs (from personal experience)	0	1	0	0	1
The additional cost to merge. The savings to be realized from merging. Show us the numbers!	0	1	0	0	1
What is going to cost the families that live in North Dansville?	0	1	0	0	1
What the approximate tax rate would be and savings we would see in merging services. Will this void any contracts approved by the village?	0	1	0	0	1
What the cost will be to taxpayers	0	1	0	0	1
What will it cost me?	0	1	0	0	1
What would be the tax base?	0	1	0	0	1
Will combination be more efficient?	0	1	0	0	1
Will my taxes increase? Will I inherit village officials & debt?	0	1	0	0	1
Will taxes for town of N. Dansville now have to include a "new" village tax which we don't pay or what?	0	1	0	0	1
Will taxes go up or down or the same?	0	1	0	0	1

What would you most want to learn before making a decision about merging the governments?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
Will the village run water to the town people? Will the village policeman be able to come to the town people?	0	1	0	0	1
Would all employees & governing officials be retained? Would all town residents get water & sewer services or not have to pay for them?	0	1	0	0	1
A business plan to manage the whole community and to prosper.	0	0	1	0	1
Amount of potential savings.	0	0	1	0	1
Cost analysis	0	0	1	0	1
Do town people get all the perks of the village people? Ex: water , sewer, to build or do upkeep to sewer plant, anything over and above quarterly bills.	0	0	1	0	1
Have all I need to form my opinion	0	0	1	0	1
How many positions will be eliminated and how much money will be saved?	0	0	1	0	1
If offices are going to be cut in half you don't need two sets of offices.	0	0	1	0	1
Just do it!	0	0	1	0	1
Recommendations and costs	0	0	1	0	1
The economic impact, positive and negative, of the merger.	0	0	1	0	1
The three/four/five major reasons for merging	0	0	1	0	1
What are the pros/cons to such a decision? I'm not sure how the current division of government truly affects me. What are their roles independently and what are their roles as a hole, working together?	0	0	1	0	1
What will the cost analysis show? Village, Town, Village & Town	0	0	1	0	1
Costs for, village police vs. county patrol. Village water & sewer vs. WSA operated. Village streets Dept. vs. town operated	0	0	0	1	1
If agreed upon the merger, what are the steps & process that will follow? What would be the possible length of time for the transition?	0	0	0	1	1
If the present administrator of the village as appointed by the present mayor would be changed from anything within either administration.	0	0	0	1	1
Is it going to help lower taxes and increase services?	0	0	0	1	1
Nothing I want to be in the town I have been petitioning this for 25 years.	0	0	0	1	1
No comment	89	25	8	7	129
Total	229	77	22	14	342

What is your greatest concern for the future of Dansville?

What is your greatest concern for the future of Dansville?	I currently live in:									
	Village of Dansville		Town of North Dansville		Neither		Both		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Business Growth	54	28%	11	19%	8	47%	2	20%	76	27%
Jobs/Employment	38	20%	10	17%	2	12%	4	40%	54	20%
Economic Growth	7	4%	2	3%	0	0%	0	0%	9	3%
Total Comments	191	100%	59	100%	17	100%	10	100%	277	100%



What is your greatest concern for the future of Dansville?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
Jobs	2	1	0	0	3
Economic growth	2	0	0	0	2
A failing police force. Not following thru cases to completion probably due to work overload.	1	0	0	0	1
A government for the people run with good business practices. For the people means the majority of the village & town citizens not friends of current office holders.	1	0	0	0	1
Affordable taxes, inviting environment to businesses/employment	1	0	0	0	1
Assessments out of control on properties & can the low income and seniors continue to be able to pay their taxes to stay in their homes?	1	0	0	0	1
Brain drain, lack of jobs	1	0	0	0	1
Bringing business & jobs to the area	1	0	0	0	1
Bringing in some more retail. I don't see this happening with the way main street looks. Can't you do anything about the way some vacant stores look?	1	0	0	0	1
Bringing in stores/business/jobs. Keeping the residents safe. Maintaining current services.	1	0	0	0	1
Business growth and economic stability.	1	0	0	0	1
Business growth, conduct of government affects tone of village and town.	1	0	0	0	1
Business growth, quality of educational system.	1	0	0	0	1
Can't buy a dress, you have to go to Rochester to mall, many things like we used to.	1	0	0	0	1
Castle on the hill project & Poag's Hole exit - I support	1	0	0	0	1
Commercial sprawl, businesses being built on the outskirts of out village, while downtown decays.	1	0	0	0	1
Competent government to lower taxes and bring business to area.	1	0	0	0	1
Concerned for future government	1	0	0	0	1
Control spending.	1	0	0	0	1
Cost of government & animosity between mayor and other party. Larger board would give better representation.	1	0	0	0	1
Cost of living & available employment & spending opportunities	1	0	0	0	1
Crime, transient population	1	0	0	0	1
Dansville needs a good clothing store, an appliance store, another good grocery store to compete with Tops. Also needs industry - we use to have all these things, and now have nothing.	1	0	0	0	1
debt service that was put in place by past and current village	1	0	0	0	1

What is your greatest concern for the future of Dansville?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
governments					
Decay, lack of vision	1	0	0	0	1
Developing main street keeping our hospital. Bringing a new retail (larger big box) Not Wal-Mart, business to town	1	0	0	0	1
Economic decline.	1	0	0	0	1
Economic development	2	0	0	0	2
Economic stability	1	0	0	0	1
Elected people working for the residents of Dansville not the party. Too much "If you don't agree with me I'm going to get you."	1	0	0	0	1
Employment	1	0	0	0	1
Employment and property taxes.	1	0	0	0	1
Employment for the residents.	1	0	0	0	1
Employment opportunities. High property taxes.	1	0	0	0	1
Employment!	1	0	0	0	1
Employment. Nursery, shoe factory, paper mill, owens publishers, foster wheeler, car dealers, no replacements of the amounts that were lost.	1	0	0	0	1
Empty store fronts on Main street, lack of businesses. Few job opportunities.	1	0	0	0	1
Few jobs/very high taxes.	1	0	0	0	1
Get the village out of debt and keep it out! Keep low income out of this village! Would like specific businesses to come in. I want character and truth in village government. Take care of it like you would your own household.	1	0	0	0	1
Getting some business in the village and town. The town is dead.	1	0	0	0	1
Greatest concern is that things remain the same.	1	0	0	0	1
Growth - we need to move forward or we will never survive.	1	0	0	0	1
Growth of business and the way the village administration conducts business	1	0	0	0	1
High taxes have chased away employers and that has led to "brain drain".	1	0	0	0	1
High taxes w/less & less done by the village for residents & families who own property.	1	0	0	0	1
Higher taxes or loss of services	1	0	0	0	1
How to get businesses back into Dansville.	1	0	0	0	1
I have always enjoyed living here in Dansville. I am approaching my retirement years and was hoping to remain in my home, but it is getting more difficult with raised property taxes & utilities. My wages do not increase a lot.	1	0	0	0	1
I hope Dansville successfully moves from a manufacture economy to a service economy.	1	0	0	0	1
I would like to see more businesses thriving on Main street.	1	0	0	0	1
I would like to see the town/village cleaned up! Sidewalks fixed old dirty homes condemned. Why in the 21st century with cell phones/pages etc is their still a Fire Siren? Are they that desperate to feel needed? Its ridiculous. Why do we have a village admin and a mayor?	1	0	0	0	1
I'd like the village board to reestablish civility and mutual respect, even when holding opposing viewpoints. As with the state and nation office holders need to work for consensus, not forcing the majority party into decisions just by voting in a block.	1	0	0	0	1
I'm afraid the Village is dying.	1	0	0	0	1

What is your greatest concern for the future of Dansville?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
If the emergency personnel overlook a person in need of help.	1	0	0	0	1
Improving main st. & business district - Control low income housing. Reduce or control unsightly rental properties which devalue neighborhoods	1	0	0	0	1
Increase business environment	1	0	0	0	1
Increasing taxes, poor decision of hiring a Village Administrator, lack luster performance of Village services.	1	0	0	0	1
Industry to keep people here.	1	0	0	0	1
Industry, hoping that somehow Dansville can be attractive to industrial services and jobs, both white collar and blue collar can come here.	1	0	0	0	1
Industry, retail - there is not enough work in the area and better retail (big box) stores are needed. The town and village seem to run off any potential business wanting to move in.	1	0	0	0	1
Ineffective Village government / village administrator	1	0	0	0	1
Infiltration of non contributing citizens	1	0	0	0	1
Is getting back to a government that works for the people and not themselves by appointing people to positions because they owed them political favors, (unqualified people) Also to get the two governments to work together and to utilize both resources	1	0	0	0	1
Is to get the 2 boards to work together and listen to the people. Right now sitting in on village board meetings they can't even run themselves let alone the village.	1	0	0	0	1
It is a dying community. Empty store fronts, no new business coming in. Nothing to draw people here. Schools, community center, No YMCA, Nothing!	1	0	0	0	1
It is a dying town.	1	0	0	0	1
It's going "downhill" quick. You ask to fix some potholes or safety items & the response is "we don't have the money"	1	0	0	0	1
It's going to hell in a hand basket. Looks run down, sidewalks are in need of repair, not taken care of in winter. Pot holes in roads. All new road must be milled down before blacktop is down.	1	0	0	0	1
Jobs and more business.	1	0	0	0	1
Keep control on fire & police spending. Get real with fire Dept. equipment we don't need a ladder truck bigger than the cities around us.	1	0	0	0	1
Keeping and improving what services we have. Wise fiscal management. Cutting cost on services (ie: number of staff not out working)	1	0	0	0	1
Keeping it open	1	0	0	0	1
Keeping taxes low and bringing in new business	1	0	0	0	1
Keith Petti	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of business - need for Wal-Mart or Target	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of business development, ineffective police force, taxes out of control, dwindling services.	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of business.	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of businesses, high taxes driving everyone away.	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of employment opportunities for young folks.	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of employment, lack of a good retail store like Wal-Mart, while Geneseo booms we stagnate.	1	0	0	0	1
lack of good leadership & rising costs	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of industry & retail business. Dansville needs aggressive recruitment.	1	0	0	0	1

What is your greatest concern for the future of Dansville?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
Lack of industry, manufacturing and so few stores with quality clothing, dry goods, appliances, etc.	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of job creating expansion - empty main street store fronts, empty fields in [poagsholes] with great expenditure already giant school system with declining enrollment	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of jobs & deteriorating of Main street.	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of jobs/economy sucks, No industry - No stores of quality. This is ridiculous to have to travel 20 miles to either Hornell or Geneseo to go to even a Wal-Mart. Get something in here.	1	0	0	0	1
Lack of planning or the future. How to pay for major projects at the same time keeping equipment current and rotated.	1	0	0	0	1
Let's work together for once. Quit splitting services.	1	0	0	0	1
Little interest	1	0	0	0	1
Little to no job growth. Increasing taxes, poor village planning regarding new businesses!	1	0	0	0	1
Loss of industry, nothing to keep your people here.	1	0	0	0	1
Loss of the small town atmosphere.	1	0	0	0	1
Low income housing - we should do our part, but should not be the center of the county for low income housing.	1	0	0	0	1
Lowering taxes - I see all this money spent on taxes and we get nothing. Maybe a street plowed a couple times or brush picked up other than that this village is a joke.	1	0	0	0	1
Main street appears distressed because property owners are not made to keep up to code. Snow removal for one, vacant buildings are an eyesore.	1	0	0	0	1
Main street is looking bad.	1	0	0	0	1
More business on main street	1	0	0	0	1
More business to employ more people. Ability to shop at a discount department store = not necessarily too large or a Wal-Mart.	1	0	0	0	1
More businesses	1	0	0	0	1
More businesses. Decent department store to shop at so we don't have to travel so far.	1	0	0	0	1
More job losses - lack of industries and job opportunities - loss of productive people	1	0	0	0	1
My concern is taxes are always going up and nothing can be done about it. We are always told to grin and bare it.	1	0	0	0	1
My greatest concern is that the people "in charge" will let self interest dictate how they make decisions rather than considering the best interests of the residents of the community.	1	0	0	0	1
My greatest concern is that village and town voters will not be fully informed of the pros and cons concerning this proposal.	1	0	0	0	1
Need to bring more outside business in. We need somewhere to buy clothing. Let the people of Dansville, the taxpayers, decide not the village/town what comes in and what doesn't	1	0	0	0	1
New businesses	1	0	0	0	1
New sewer plant. There is no advantage in delaying. It won't get any less expensive.	1	0	0	0	1
No businesses in the village, you have to go out of town.	1	0	0	0	1
No development of retail businesses	1	0	0	0	1
No growth. Older population, stagnant economics. Younger people	1	0	0	0	1

What is your greatest concern for the future of Dansville?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
leaving.					
No jobs	1	0	0	0	1
No jobs and diminishing tax base.	1	0	0	0	1
No jobs for local people.	1	0	0	0	1
No jobs, too high taxes. Too many social services people in the Village, other villages don't have as many (ex: Mt. Morris)	1	0	0	0	1
No jobs. Too many homes for sale. Need \$ to prosper the community. Everything is costing way over a retirement villager can pay. More good jobs.	1	0	0	0	1
No leadership, no jobs, poor future, everyone leaves sooner or later.	1	0	0	0	1
No leadership.	1	0	0	0	1
Not overtaxing our water - sewer capability. Clean up main street, dilapidated store fronts, more business on main.	1	0	0	0	1
Opportunities to bring in industry and safety of our children	1	0	0	0	1
Our ability to attract employers and developers.	1	0	0	0	1
Our continuing increase in taxes will cause residents to struggle to keep their homes and will also discourage business from relocating in Dansville.	1	0	0	0	1
People will leave due to tax hikes & service discontinuations. Already businesses closing & downsizing on Main street.	1	0	0	0	1
Police department, ambulance protection, stupid decisions by administrator and mayor.	1	0	0	0	1
Poverty levels affecting real estate. There is nothing for low income/moderate income home owners to help maintain their appearances on houses. Mine is fine, my neighbor's looks like a s*** hole.	1	0	0	0	1
Prefer open, honest government.	1	0	0	0	1
Property value & rising taxes	1	0	0	0	1
provide excellent quality of services, maintain safe/healthy environment	1	0	0	0	1
Rate of growth and future of airport	1	0	0	0	1
Real estate taxes are increasing at a rate that the retired will not be able to own their home.	1	0	0	0	1
Remaining in Dansville for retirement.	1	0	0	0	1
Retail business. A "big box" store like Ames you can't even buy underwear here. Need a large industrial business that could sustain a large workforce to stabilize economy and support the economy.	1	0	0	0	1
Rising taxes, schools, drug traffic	1	0	0	0	1
Small mindedness of several elected & appointed officials & many citizens. Dansville is no longer the crown jewel of Livingston County & its time for Dansville to become more realistic about goals, expectations and the slow hard work to achieve results. (occupancy of Main st. enforcement of zoning, cleaning up crappy buildings, more community infrastructure) Why does our town stink? I'm ashamed of Dansville.	1	0	0	0	1
Stop the constant bickering.	1	0	0	0	1
Tax base erosion.	1	0	0	0	1
Tax hikes, loss of local businesses	1	0	0	0	1
Tax increase - school deserters	1	0	0	0	1
Tax rates , that the elderly can't afford or support	1	0	0	0	1
Tax rates creating an atmosphere where people can't afford to own leading to rentals from absentee landlords.	1	0	0	0	1

What is your greatest concern for the future of Dansville?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
Taxes - empty stores - schools, why do we need a principal and a vice principal in our schools? No small department stores.	1	0	0	0	1
Taxes are too high and we have nothing here.	1	0	0	0	1
Taxes will have to go up as it is now due to the fact that most of people in village are over 62 and less & less younger are moving in.	1	0	0	0	1
Taxes, welfare of children & over all appearance of Dansville (for town not to look bad like Cohocton)	1	0	0	0	1
That Dansville remain a good place to raise families.	1	0	0	0	1
That high taxes will force homeowners to move out o area.	1	0	0	0	1
That in the future this town or village won't exist.	1	0	0	0	1
That it will be an attractive and affordable place to live.	1	0	0	0	1
That it will become a ghost town in the real near future. Our village fathers will never allow our new businesses that the majority of the people could benefit from.	1	0	0	0	1
That low income rental units in village not be allowed to expand. Also to convert back homes that were once single family and now are multiple rental units.	1	0	0	0	1
That the community retains its small town integrity while encouraging businesses to come to Dansville, improving overall economy by creating jobs.	1	0	0	0	1
That the village meetings are not getting things done. There is too much squabbling which does not get things that need to be done, done.	1	0	0	0	1
That we cannot attract business like our neighbors	1	0	0	0	1
That we need one board handling our affairs not two because we are one except for some lines across the map.	1	0	0	0	1
The ability of Dansville and surrounding area to grow. There is little infrastructure available within the town/village.	1	0	0	0	1
The business district, doing something with out closed stores, our store fronts. Good, better Christmas decorations. Being able to keep businesses & attract new ones.	1	0	0	0	1
The constant downfall of the neighborhoods	1	0	0	0	1
The cost	1	0	0	0	1
The lack of businesses in town (new business) the appearance of homes in town (garbage, run down etc.)	1	0	0	0	1
The poor economy there and consequent lack of opportunities for workers; the lack of positive thinking leadership; the overall negative/depressed attitudes.	1	0	0	0	1
The poor leadership that is currently in place. The Mayor is a bully who has lap dogs to do his bidding and Keith Petti is ignorant. Also the empty buildings on Main street.	1	0	0	0	1
The redundant services cause extraordinarily high taxes. This suppresses the future viability and desirability of our community.	1	0	0	0	1
The village has a major slum lord problem. Downtown is dead! We have one major nighttime business open on main street. A tattoo parlor. Says a lot! Drugs and bums seem to have invaded the area and settled in Dansville.	1	0	0	0	1
There is no future if we don't bring business in. People go to Corning or Rochester to shop.	1	0	0	0	1
There is no retail (or big businesses) in Dansville I have to travel for most everything I buy.	1	0	0	0	1
There should be apartments for senior citizens.	1	0	0	0	1

What is your greatest concern for the future of Dansville?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
To have a government that's a friendly place to live in with no high taxes.	1	0	0	0	1
To have a government to benefit most of the people to reduce taxes and water & sewer.	1	0	0	0	1
To have continued growth while expanding opportunities for new business to augment employment of local population.	1	0	0	0	1
To stay as a beautiful & quiet place to live.	1	0	0	0	1
Too many high paying officials (ex: Mr. Petti)	1	0	0	0	1
Too many rental properties	1	0	0	0	1
Using non-local consultants	1	0	0	0	1
Village will die without employers/business	1	0	0	0	1
We are taxing ourselves to death.	1	0	0	0	1
We can not keep adding high paid people doing what the mayor should be doing!	1	0	0	0	1
We have no reason to exist! Very few high-paying jobs. Few businesses that can be competitive with Geneseo or Rochester.	1	0	0	0	1
We need more stores! A big retail would be great. Why won't they come? Find the reasons and fix it! We have an airport, hospital, 2 exits off I-390. What is the problem?	1	0	0	0	1
We need new leadership who care about the people.	1	0	0	0	1
We need to make sure we keep the rural aspect of life here but also afford basic service at a reasonable rate so that we continue to thrive as a community persons want to live here.	1	0	0	0	1
We need to offer more here. We don't even have a department store or a shoe store. It is even hard to buy a kids birthday present. I really think calling Dansville a "city" is a laugh!	1	0	0	0	1
We need to reduce the rental and low income housing to make Dansville more marketable for future businesses, tourism, and more jobs locally.	1	0	0	0	1
We would like to see a department store come in here, and also a new grocery store, Tops is too expensive.	1	0	0	0	1
Welfare takeover	1	0	0	0	1
What are we to do with liars in our government?	1	0	0	0	1
Where do I start..my ability to afford to live here - services that I am offered by my local municipality. In flux of low income people - driving out middle class.	1	0	0	0	1
Will not be able to afford to stay here	1	0	0	0	1
Will we be able to get rid of the liars in our government	1	0	0	0	1
Would have some businesses that would give lots of employment.	1	0	0	0	1
Growth	0	2	0	0	2
A town that is progressive, truthful	0	1	0	0	1
Being able to afford living here or for that matter anywhere in New York State. Hate to see Dansville become another Wal-Mart/Lowes/Home Depot/Applebee's town. Lost identity, lost uniqueness, lost small town persona.	0	1	0	0	1
Businesses that were supposed to come did not work out. What can we do to reverse that situation? We need to be sure that current zoning rules are enforced to keep our community neat and maintain buildings.	0	1	0	0	1
Cut out all the bureaucratic BS	0	1	0	0	1
Debt sewer plant. It has been let go ever since Mr. Petti came here. Administrators should have been writing grants long ago! People are leaving as fast as they can!	0	1	0	0	1

What is your greatest concern for the future of Dansville?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
Decline in number of businesses. Rising taxes.	0	1	0	0	1
Down trend in jobs, businesses	0	1	0	0	1
Economic well-being	0	1	0	0	1
Enough jobs.	0	1	0	0	1
Expansion	0	1	0	0	1
From news in the paper, Dansville is having a hard time running it's own village.	0	1	0	0	1
Get some leadership in here that won't act like children at the meetings.	0	1	0	0	1
Have somewhere to shop where we did not have to go to Geneseo and Hornell. We have to go 30 - 40 miles away.	0	1	0	0	1
Having our taxes increase and increase and our benefits of good work and caring are less and less. Do without like we are.	0	1	0	0	1
High cost of services	0	1	0	0	1
Higher property taxes.	0	1	0	0	1
Hopefully we never get a big box store in town.	0	1	0	0	1
How will it help?	0	1	0	0	1
I would like to see it grow more businesses!	0	1	0	0	1
It's economically stagnate. Population declining, welfare recipients is the vast majority of village population.	0	1	0	0	1
Its doing its best to survive, but its not in Cummingsville. Marks has made it impossible to get sewer service with his trailer court.	0	1	0	0	1
Job creation and stopping anything the village government was to offer those that live outside of the village.	0	1	0	0	1
Keep it alive and grow the tax base.	0	1	0	0	1
Keeping the taxes at an affordable level. Bringing industry to the town. A group of people that run the local government that can get along & make intelligent decisions.	0	1	0	0	1
Lack of businesses, high taxes.	0	1	0	0	1
Lack of businesses, jobs, falling population, increased taxes.	0	1	0	0	1
Lack of clean focus, poor state of WTP & poor maintenance practices, just want new, new, new.	0	1	0	0	1
Lack of growth - our location being a dumping ground for social welfare problems. I don't know anyone anymore. Population is pretty scary.	0	1	0	0	1
Lack of tax base. Lack of growth.	0	1	0	0	1
No industry/business base except Hospital.	0	1	0	0	1
No jobs. Nothing to keep people in the area. Now with parks closing what is left to attract people to the area?	0	1	0	0	1
No shops, no industry, high taxes, poor school system.	0	1	0	0	1
Our small town way will be gone as town residents we will be paying for all the mistakes the village has made over the years.	0	1	0	0	1
People need to take their heads out of the sand and look to grow.	0	1	0	0	1
Places so people will have work.	0	1	0	0	1
Property taxes too high. The more you pay the less you get.	0	1	0	0	1
Prosperity and growth.	0	1	0	0	1
Retail business re-growth (main st and other locales) Stronger educational system.	0	1	0	0	1
Rising taxes, loss of jobs, people moving to other states.	0	1	0	0	1
see more streets on main st	0	1	0	0	1

What is your greatest concern for the future of Dansville?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
That it stay a great place to live and also raise children.	0	1	0	0	1
That nostalgia doesn't impede progress/growth.	0	1	0	0	1
That the poverty rate will increase, and that there will be fewer jobs available.	0	1	0	0	1
That we can continue to bring in small businesses and keep them here.	0	1	0	0	1
The ones that run the town and village. They don't want any business to come in.	0	1	0	0	1
The village is deteriorating	0	1	0	0	1
The village sounds like it is turning into a dictatorship.	0	1	0	0	1
Things will grow, in a positive way. Lower taxes, more jobs, better government.	0	1	0	0	1
Too much bickering in village government. I don't want to be a part of it.	0	1	0	0	1
Town dying need more businesses	0	1	0	0	1
We don't need more money spent. We have to live within our means and we don't want higher taxes.	0	1	0	0	1
We need a large department store.	0	1	0	0	1
We need leaders that will listen to what the people want. No more bullies just because you were elected to office you still work for the people.	0	1	0	0	1
We need to get more companies in here and don't have barrier to keep them out. Have an open door policy to get more companies in our Village/Town. Stop or let use our money here instead of somewhere else.	0	1	0	0	1
When Dansville lost Wal-Mart and Home Depot that shows me the village is not run very well.	0	1	0	0	1
Will it become too expensive for lower, middle income people to own their own homes? Will it become a haven for misfits & ex-cons?	0	1	0	0	1
Bringing in new viable businesses	0	0	1	0	1
Business in general. Main street in particular.	0	0	1	0	1
Business needs to grow, main street needs to attract.	0	0	1	0	1
Businesses will continue to leave, the school system will continue to deteriorate, and taxes will rise enough that more homeowners will leave.	0	0	1	0	1
Dansville needs one efficient government, not 2 inefficient governments.	0	0	1	0	1
Government spending and taxes	0	0	1	0	1
growing	0	0	1	0	1
Increasing commercial development - increase tax base efficient use of tax money.	0	0	1	0	1
Jobs/income/attracting people able to contribute to the village/town	0	0	1	0	1
Keep small business viable without the burden of higher taxes.	0	0	1	0	1
Lack of quality jobs and businesses in the community, too much low income housing. Too much debris, tree limbs, & garbage placed between sidewalks & road for village to pick up. Town looks trashy!	0	0	1	0	1
Loss of manufacturing, retail and younger generation.	0	0	1	0	1
Poor services	0	0	1	0	1
Small business in the village and store	0	0	1	0	1
Taxes getting out of control	0	0	1	0	1
Taxes, loss of business and deterioration of Dansville.	0	0	1	0	1
Too much welfare for the community	0	0	1	0	1
Education is lousy and the streets are loaded with drunks on Friday & Saturday in the Village.	0	0	0	1	1

What is your greatest concern for the future of Dansville?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
I would like to see employment come to our community and would like to see an administration (village) that knows or cares about our community.	0	0	0	1	1
It's financial health & viability. Attracting new home owners. Not discouraging people to buy outside the village line to save paying village taxes.	0	0	0	1	1
Keeping people living in the community. Folks need an incentive to stay in a small town and paying town and village tax both is hurting that.	0	0	0	1	1
More businesses. Make slum lords clean up their property. They have a business and they should be responsible for maintaining their houses inside and out. They are making very good money from Social Services (our taxpayer money). In the meantime our taxes keep going up and the value of our homes keeps going down.	0	0	0	1	1
Need department stores for more employment. We're dying.	0	0	0	1	1
Rising costs of services	0	0	0	1	1
That we will not have a Dansville and that we can't speak at the meeting without an appointment and why go if you can't talk about things?	0	0	0	1	1
We have lost 2-3 generations of "brain power" due to the failure to attract jobs so that our children would remain here. Unfortunately the IQ of Dansville continues to plummet because of bad policy.	0	0	0	1	1
Zero positive growth, no new jobs. Only increase we have is welfare recipients and taxes.	0	0	0	1	1
No Comment	38	18	5	4	65
Total	229	77	22	14	342

Is there anything you would like the committee to know or anything you would like to add that we did not ask?



Is there anything you would like the committee to know or anything you would like to add that we did not ask?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
"Beautiful, bountiful Dansville" was a saying my ancestor Dr. Daniel Van Allen originated in the early 1900's. It's still true today. My husband believed it. I'm sure my son, former Mayor of Dansville would agree!	1	0	0	0	1
After the study I think it should be put up for a vote soon!	1	0	0	0	1

Is there anything you would like the committee to know or anything you would like to add that we did not ask?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
All committees do is make decisions about making another decision. Then add it to the tax roll.	1	0	0	0	1
Apparently the town of Dansville has a much better sense of financial handling, can sit down & talk about the problems of the town without infuriating fellow board members & village residents. A real plus for them.	1	0	0	0	1
Are these mergers of "small" village & towns ideas of the Obama government where Democrats are mayors? Is this a take over of the socialists? I wouldn't put it past them! Brockport merged and they're broke and they have to raise taxes quite a bit - like 18%. We don't have enough businesses, services to call Dansville a city. This is ridiculous! People will move out if there is a merger! You better believe it.	1	0	0	0	1
Are you proud to say you were born and raised and still live in Dansville and plan to stay? NO	1	0	0	0	1
Ask what services (town & village) we should give up. (police, airport, village board) Henrietta doesn't have a police force, why do we? Henrietta doesn't have a village, why do we?	1	0	0	0	1
Could the village government be dissolved totally?	1	0	0	0	1
Could we go to town government and still have a police force?	1	0	0	0	1
Disband the community and stop.	1	0	0	0	1
Dissolve police department, zoning needs training. Dumpy property owners need to be accountable for property.	1	0	0	0	1
Do something for the citizens of Dansville, get it back to a nice place to live, not a traffic nightmare on lower Franklin, where none of you want to live.	1	0	0	0	1
Do we need a police department or can we contract this to state police? Can we entice them to have a substation in Dansville like other communities have done?	1	0	0	0	1
Don't ask us to vote on this without full disclosure of all options & costs. Most of those on the committee have a little too much to lose.	1	0	0	0	1
Don't believe a word that mayor and administrator say!	1	0	0	0	1
Eliminate the Village. The supervisor should be a full time position (elected) eliminate village administrator reduce hours of paid clerk to 4-5 hours per day mon-fri. Fix the streets	1	0	0	0	1
Formed questions for the right answers!	1	0	0	0	1
Government needs to explain the truth to the public about real costs of merging, taxes, etc. for the future.	1	0	0	0	1
How much of my tax dollars spent on the salaries of both town and village political/clerical and what justification is there for the expenditures?	1	0	0	0	1
How much would it change the town and village	1	0	0	0	1
How will this merger reduce our tax load? There are a lot of unanswered questions.	1	0	0	0	1
I am glad we have a good group of people who are studying this issue.	1	0	0	0	1
I know businesses are important, but they are not the only thing. Concentrate more on what will be most helpful and beneficial to the citizens, not to the business person.	1	0	0	0	1
I miss the large pick up in spring an fall. At least every 2 or 3 years and the brush pick up at least every other month. I would hate to lose the local police Dept. I feel we need them, how well would the streets be plowed if we lost the village?	1	0	0	0	1
I strongly believe there are too many individuals & families that are abusing the welfare system in this community. We will never get back to the charm of Dansville once had with this being allowed to continue.	1	0	0	0	1

Is there anything you would like the committee to know or anything you would like to add that we did not ask?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
I supported the current governing body of our village. As we were promised "change". I will never again repeat that mistake. Mr. Mayor you should be ashamed. I hope you read this as I am also going to put in the paper. I've lived all my life and now I raise my children here, but I hope something comes of this for their sake, because you sir have not done your job!	1	0	0	0	1
I think if we had one Town government & not a competing Village government it would be easier to hold them accountable to state & federal laws and rules of governing.	1	0	0	0	1
I would like to see people who work for the village/town to actually work, not stand around and drink coffee.	1	0	0	0	1
I'm interested in seeing what happens in Brockport and Seneca Falls when they dissolve their villages.	1	0	0	0	1
If it is a code/rule/law/regulation then why isn't anyone enforcing it? Why are people allowed to live in places that should be condemned? If I have to spend \$7000 a year to maintain my house why doesn't my neighbor when he has a 60" flat screen?	1	0	0	0	1
If merging the two would eliminate some of village workers (the ones that are working for DPW) that do nothing for this village I would be all for it. You see other village/towns with for less DPW workers and accomplish 100% more work than these clowns we have now.	1	0	0	0	1
If nothing else consolidate police and public works and the water & sewer services into a township form of government. One supervisor of the public works, street, road maintenance, snow plowing, town wide water & sewer service. Too many duplicating of services.	1	0	0	0	1
In respect to the village of Dansville and the town of Dansville, with one government we could get rid of half the liars	1	0	0	0	1
Is lower part of Adam St. going to be repaired? Holes, broken pavement, etc. Main street to hospital at times.	1	0	0	0	1
It is truly a shame that our mayor & assistant mayor are so ignorant about so much that is important in small town government. Hopefully we will get a better mayor the next time we elect someone for that position.	1	0	0	0	1
It seems like everywhere I look Village & Town residents are tightening their belts and doing what we need to do to stay fiscally responsible within our families. If fiscal responsibility is not part of the debate then there is no debate.	1	0	0	0	1
Join the county and state for police. Cut administrator position. Update and consolidate fire department, so people don't have to listen to that fire whistle all the time. Update, Update.	1	0	0	0	1
Keep the people informed, don't rush things.	1	0	0	0	1
Lets not fool around. Evaluate everything and either decide to stay put or move halfway or go all the way to merger. But you must specify what the advantages and disadvantages are and then develop a plan to implement final recommendations along with reduced costs & taxes over the first 5 years. I would love to see your work before you final proposal.	1	0	0	0	1
Little interest	1	0	0	0	1
Living in Dansville area for all people is it worth the stay in the future, because of the taxes?	1	0	0	0	1
Make decisions based on economic factors not on political crap. I'm very disappointed in all that is going on. My water/sewer bill is rising but 1/2 the town smells like crap, literally. When will we be able to rest easy about our future here?	1	0	0	0	1
Merge village to town - Not the other way around!	1	0	0	0	1
More information should be given in order to form a better idea of how it can help the public see the good of the merger.	1	0	0	0	1

Is there anything you would like the committee to know or anything you would like to add that we did not ask?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
My biggest concern is the apathy of a populace who see a village and town government that have no other motivation than keeping the status quo and whining about how times are hard and they're doing a great job when in fact nothing is improving.	1	0	0	0	1
My wife and I are relative newcomers to Dansville. We have lived here nearly 3 years now, and enjoy it. We moved here due to employment issues. One of us works in Rochester and the other works in Canisteo. We chose Dansville because it was about in the middle. Everyone is friendly and neighborly Taxes here are exorbitant, plain & simple. What troubles me more than anything is that Dansville has very little to show for the taxes collected. Most of the village sidewalks are in great disrepair, roads are not much better. Main street has the honor of holding a historical status, yet many store fronts are empty, need repair, and a coat of paint. If merging the town & village government will decrease taxes, decrease the waste of taxpayer dollars, improve commerce, decrease local governmental corruption & "special deals" & leave the Dansvillites with a noticeable improvement in their town and town government then it would be worthwhile. I have personally taken steps to promote the area and will continue to do so as time & energy permit.	1	0	0	0	1
New admin. Jobs should not be created without a vote.	1	0	0	0	1
New stores, industry to keep people here. Big Lots store or others.	1	0	0	0	1
No garbage pickup, no recycle facility, Village sidewalks not plowed, snow removal fair at best from streets. Village equipment used for personal use, why?	1	0	0	0	1
No jobs = no sales. No tax = no money. My water & sewer bill is already high enough and we need a new waste treatment facility. How will I pay for this? How long do I have to pay for the water filtration plant @ 35.00 per meter per quarter?	1	0	0	0	1
Not at this time but my lawyer has all the documents if you would like to see them. These companies have went out of business and we have been paying their taxes, Kelly's, Shoe Factory, Publishing Co., Castle on the Hill and Foster Wheeler. The Government gave millions of dollars off their taxes.	1	0	0	0	1
Our local police Dept. is a joke! Stop making Dansville an easy place for riff - raff to settle. Enforce zoning, get on the absentee slum lords and get our village back to the way it used to be - safe and beautiful.	1	0	0	0	1
Personally I would be in favor of small city status as I understand there might be some grant opportunities there.	1	0	0	0	1
Please print details of difference between village and town government & advantages to merging resources(of course in - paper of record)	1	0	0	0	1
Please publish the results of this survey.	1	0	0	0	1
Political infighting leads to distance among your constituents.	1	0	0	0	1
Put pressure on someone to get something going. Hornell next door has no problem getting new stores.	1	0	0	0	1
Putting our police force back the way it was with dispatchers, etc.	1	0	0	0	1
Question #2 doesn't have a neither or not applicable choice. I do not own property.	1	0	0	0	1
Reassess flood map	1	0	0	0	1
Same as previously stated - I am disgusted with the current administration. What we have is not what I voted for and I will not vote for again.	1	0	0	0	1
Same as question 14	1	0	0	0	1
Somebody should teach the current village administration how a public meeting is supposed to be managed.	1	0	0	0	1
Study where the money comes from & where it goes	1	0	0	0	1
The main reason I live in Dansville is proximity to the airport.	1	0	0	0	1

Is there anything you would like the committee to know or anything you would like to add that we did not ask?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
The town/village has a remarkable history and I believe is in a wonderful location to be able to rebuild on that history; health, agriculture, environment, tourism, education. They just seem to be wallowing in what's wrong, not what they can do. I'm rooting for them.	1	0	0	0	1
The village does a poor job in the winter plowing roads.	1	0	0	0	1
There has been no mention as to what the cost to the tax payer would be to do this consolidation. I personally see no cost savings to the tax payers but a potential increase to our taxes.	1	0	0	0	1
Think of the property owners concerns & not on how much money you're going to make.	1	0	0	0	1
This form should have come with a return envelope.	1	0	0	0	1
This is a survey that is so general I fail to see the value of it other than to boast about a successful response ratio. Try a survey that asks real questions about the current quality of life in Dansville and the return on our tax dollars.	1	0	0	0	1
This is not the time to consolidate because have a current mayor that works like a dictator because if it doesn't go his way he blows up. This has been witnessed at numerous board meetings by a lot of members of this community.	1	0	0	0	1
This isn't democrat or republican - its a village life question. The village newspaper is a joke - very bias - doesn't reach enough people. Posting in the village offices doesn't reach enough people. The ideal shopper and penny saver, reaches almost everyone. Use all sources of media to get this information out. The village as a whole has to be informed and participate.	1	0	0	0	1
To put all special interests aside and do what's best for the community.	1	0	0	0	1
Village already imposes too many restrictions and continues to eliminate services. Roads are not cleared of snow, tickets are issued for storing brush on own property. Water/sewer bills too high. Property values keep people here because they are affordable, if taxes rise more people will lose their homes in a dying community.	1	0	0	0	1
We are paying big city taxes for a small town.	1	0	0	0	1
We need to ask ourselves if a union is really in our best interest for village employees. We are paying salaries that are more than we can afford. If the merger takes place does this mean more people on the union payroll?	1	0	0	0	1
We need to do all things possible to foster a community that young working families will want to purchase homes, pay for services, raise children and shop in!	1	0	0	0	1
We would like to see a sense of community. People working instead of division. We are all interested in making this community a better place so we need to respect everyone's opinions in order to make Dansville a better place.	1	0	0	0	1
What is the impact on each entity's taxes? Positive or negative?	1	0	0	0	1
What plans are there to develop main street? It is unique. Go to Niagara on the lake and see what & how they have developed a small town. You need a theme to work on. You need cooperation among groups/departments lacking in the past!	1	0	0	0	1
What would be the benefit of a merger? To all residents of both, town & village?	1	0	0	0	1
Which way will be the best way to go?	1	0	0	0	1
Why bother, no one cares!	1	0	0	0	1
Why does this survey go to Rochester? Can't you guys read?	1	0	0	0	1
Why wasn't this done as a feasibility study?	1	0	0	0	1
Wondering if the financial status of each entity will be disclosed to the public in this process	1	0	0	0	1

Is there anything you would like the committee to know or anything you would like to add that we did not ask?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
Yes I feel the group that was put together to study this was hand picked by our leaders for one reason to keep it the way it is. This should be put up for the people to vote on. I hope you give us honest answers to the questions that we ask.	1	0	0	0	1
Yes, including myself we made a big mistake electing Dixon. He is not capable of job!	1	0	0	0	1
Yes, our youth, Dansville's next generation. Where are our future leaders coming from? What will be their values?	1	0	0	0	1
Yes, who would be in charge of the combined units?	1	0	0	0	1
You made no reference to what shared services, Government or what it would contribute to a new tax base to help reduce costs & taxes by larger tax group & what it will do to matching federal & state grants in the future.	1	0	0	0	1
All pros & cons of the merger	0	1	0	0	1
Andy Kershner is cool! You rock Andy.	0	1	0	0	1
Are both parties really willing and able to tackle the issues and keep egos out of it? What does Keith Petti do?	0	1	0	0	1
Can we all get city water?	0	1	0	0	1
How would someone in the village using the sewer plant like waking to raw sewage morning - going to bed smelling it. Not being able to lie outside, hang up clothes, or any other outside event.	0	1	0	0	1
I don't have some of the same access to village services & I don't want to pay village taxes.	0	1	0	0	1
I don't need any more services and am definitely not willing to pay 1 cent more in taxes. Most other town residents feel this way also. Thanks and good luck!	0	1	0	0	1
I own my house but pay rent on the property, therefore, why do I have to pay property tax? If we merge will town people get the same water & sewer rates as the village? Our rates are ridiculous. We need a break.	0	1	0	0	1
If the entire "village" side of government and services were eliminated and the town government and services took over everything, then I'd be in favor.	0	1	0	0	1
If we merged, would I be charged village rates for water & sewer? I currently pay rent to owner of land, but I pay taxes on my home. Therefore I cannot afford to pay more taxes!!!	0	1	0	0	1
In my opinion, the difference between Village & Town residence is services (water, sewer, trash removal, sidewalks, leaf pickups etc.) It should be rejected in assessments & property tax bills.	0	1	0	0	1
Please keep all of your activities on this process open to the public. We do not trust your motives especially when it comes to the village administrator.	0	1	0	0	1
Resident of Mcwhorter road, Dansville, NY	0	1	0	0	1
Some people are not able to attend meetings or do not read local paper. Maybe some better details (written simpler) so everyone understands.	0	1	0	0	1
Take a serious and strong look at cumminsville and give Tammy Malone the authority to clean it up! Be real (The City of Dansville) c'mon wake up, quit giving raises and hiring people we don't need, like village admin.	0	1	0	0	1
The City of Dansville sounds way too progressive. We have nothing to offer except our small town ways. People have lived here for generations from mom/dad to kids/grandkids etc. Let's leave it that way. Over the last 40-50 years all the improvements/updates have left us in the mess we are in today leave well enough alone.	0	1	0	0	1
The monies you think you would save by merging would be greatly offset by the merging process(es) itself.	0	1	0	0	1

Is there anything you would like the committee to know or anything you would like to add that we did not ask?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
The sewage plant in N. Dansville is so old. The smell from sewerage is terrible. You can't enjoy a BBQ or sitting on your porch. This has been a continued complaint for years! I called several times each year, smog & noise from 390 interferes with quality of life. We need a new sewage system - not a patch job.	0	1	0	0	1
The town does more than the village.	0	1	0	0	1
They talked about change years ago, and it was not approved. Why are things different now?	0	1	0	0	1
This survey is pretty vague. Can you put out numbers that will help to determine if we would actually be for or against a merger. The data that is available does not give us enough information to make a decision.	0	1	0	0	1
Was this investigated plan worth what the cost of the questions or would money have been used in a more useful way or saved?	0	1	0	0	1
We need more jobs.	0	1	0	0	1
We need to make this area welcome and progressive for our children and grandchildren and future children or do we want a ghost town where no one wants to come. Think about it.	0	1	0	0	1
We were not told the pro/cons of merging.	0	1	0	0	1
We're concerned about the conflict taking place with the current village leadership. Time is not used well when so much bickering occurs. Need to spend more time on important matters.	0	1	0	0	1
When a person gets a 4 year extension on his so called job, and rides around in a new pickup fixing computers, that is not right.	0	1	0	0	1
When they will have department store so we don't have to travel 40 miles to buy a spool of thread.	0	1	0	0	1
Where did all the stores go, we lost them all. In Dansville did have stores to shop then were all gone. Now we have the Family Dollar and Dollar General. No place to get something to wear.	0	1	0	0	1
Who will benefit? Certainly not the average person!	0	1	0	0	1
Why has this taken forever?	0	1	0	0	1
Why should I pay sewer charges when I am not there? As I go south for 5 months.	0	1	0	0	1
Will our taxes go up?	0	1	0	0	1
Will the merge government have to accept and pay for the 5 year contract of the village administrator?	0	1	0	0	1
With people like Keith Petti involved in government Dansville doesn't have a chance. He lies and has done illegal activities and blamed others.	0	1	0	0	1
Would hope that everyone is looking out for the best of Dansville and not their own agenda.	0	1	0	0	1
Yes my name, no nothing more. (see survey)	0	1	0	0	1
After the town & village merge, then surrounding areas should be merged into the new government.	0	0	1	0	1
Forget the petty bickering and favoritism. If we don't grow up and act like adults, this town is doomed.	0	0	1	0	1
I feel uneducated regarding the impact that each government institution, town & village have on me. I feel uneducated as to the ramifications of merging or the benefits of merging.	0	0	1	0	1
Merge the Village & Town	0	0	1	0	1
The Town & country should not have to pay for anything that they don't get the use, such as, water and sewer. We need or local government to keep Albany from taking over our local representation. We need more locals to fight Albany & Washington from all the mandates we are paying for.	0	0	1	0	1

Is there anything you would like the committee to know or anything you would like to add that we did not ask?	Village of Dansville	Town of North Dansville	Neither	Both	Total
There must be full disclosure of facts for anyone to make a suggestion or decision.	0	0	1	0	1
This question of dissolution or merge has caused major problems in other villages where considered. Please try to keep the flow of information & answers open so residents can choose based on information - not on emotion, rumors and distrust. Good Luck & thanks!	0	0	1	0	1
What can be done with the sewer plant and the horrible smell? If the town and village merge would there be a better chance to get a grant to fix it?	0	0	1	0	1
What happened? What happened to the property development on Poag's Hole Road? What could and should be done to develop property in the south end of the village?	0	0	1	0	1
Please continue to communicate to the people the ongoing process. If there is a merger, a change, how would it come about? I assume voting & would that be a simple majority?	0	0	0	1	1
The village and town lines are uniquely similar which prompts merger plans.	0	0	0	1	1
Total savings for dissolution - No village election. This questionnaire, along with more residents don't understand as village residents we also are town of North Dansville and already pay for our services.	0	0	0	1	1
We should eliminate the position of Village Administrator. Eliminate town supervisor or make him more accountable for his job. Get rid of the Village.	0	0	0	1	1
When is the Village going to recognize our road (among others) except to send us a tax bill & change the road name from Old Depot Rd. to Depot. I had to even call for this survey. We do not get water from Village like many of us.	0	0	0	1	1
Yes, why do we need the present administrator, was he hired to do the mayors work?	0	0	0	1	1
No	5	0	0	1	6
No comment	132	40	13	7	192
Total	229	77	22	14	342

Comparison of Options

Full Consolidation of the Village and Town
OR
Creation of New City

*Prepared on behalf of the Village of Dansville and Town of
North Dansville Dissolution/Co-Terminous Study
Committee by the Center for Governmental Research, Inc.*

October 20, 2010



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Tonight's Purpose

- Inform the discussion regarding choices for the future of the community of Dansville
- Communicate the preferences of the committee to the community
- Obtain feedback from the community on the options that have been presented
- Define the next steps in the process



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T = TOV + V

- TOV = Town Outside of Village (7.4 sq. mi) – Pop. 852
- V = Village (2.4 sq. miles) Pop. 4,484
- T = Town = Both TOV and Village (9.8 sq. miles) Pop. 5,336

- Distinction is important because it impacts how costs are allocated and who receives services
 - 77% of Taxable Assessed Valuation (TAV) in Village
 - 23% of TAV in TOV



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Decision Alternatives

- ▶ Alternative 1– Some functional shared services (efficiency) opportunities without full municipal merger

- ▶ Alternative 2 – Full merger (consolidation) of governments
 - Co-Terminus Town and Village
 - Dissolution of Village/Full Consolidation
 - Village dissolution or;
 - Village and town consolidate under GML 17-A into a town
 - Village and town become a city
 - Village becomes a city

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Community Context

- 43% of combined annual budgets are personnel
- The Village represents 84% of the population in the Town and 80% of the combined expenses in the Town and Village governments
- Many services in the community are already combined
- Community generally satisfied with current services
- Many people in the community are frustrated with taxes and the cost of government

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Further Context - Potential Cost Savings

- Continuum of alternatives without changing police
 - One end = Increase of \$40,000 (1.2% of total combined budgets)
 - Other end = Savings of \$210,000 (6.2% of total combined budgets)
- Range of impact with police alternatives
 - Increase of \$40,000 – Decrease of \$840,000
- Maximum savings requires significant personnel cuts

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Alternative 2 Scenarios Reviewed by the Committee

- Co-Terminus Town and Village
- Dissolution of Village/Full Consolidation
 - Village and town consolidate under GML 17-A into a town; or
 - Village dissolution
- Village and town consolidate into a city
- Village becomes a city

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General Reasons for Consolidation

- Would qualify for AIM incentive (\$370,000)
- Decision can be made by both TOV and Village voters
- Tax savings for Village residents
- Reduce layers of government
- May encourage economic development
- Would maintain representation on the County Board of Supervisors

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General Reasons Against Consolidation

- No significant cost savings without significant cost cuts – primarily to personnel
- Would spread all costs across all taxpayers unless special districts were created. (Tax Shifts)
- Potential shift in power under one governing body

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Unique issues for consolidation into a town

- Would require state legislature approval to create a police district.
- Faster process than city charter creation with local control of outcome (i.e. no state approval necessary)

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Unique issues for consolidation into a new city

- Could allow for service and tax zones that would replicate current village and town differences
 - Minimize cost/tax shifts
- Would give city pre-emption rights for sales tax
- City has to be approved by act of State Legislature
 - Last approval in 1942

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Unique city issues – Continued

- Could alienate relations with surrounding Towns
 - May be difficult to work through sales tax pre-emption
- Legal costs for transition may be “sunk” if charter is not approved by the State
- Will take time (minimum 12-18 months)
- Some costs may increase (Highway) even as others decrease (Courts)

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Tax rate assumptions for consolidation into a either a town or a city

- Aggressive cost savings in personnel - \$210,000
- Cost of police protection levied on former Village tax payers modeled on Sheriff protection plan – Savings of \$183,000
 - Police District in Town Consolidation
 - Taxing “zone” in City Consolidation
- Village debt remains with Village tax payers (\$275,000)
- AIM – Increase in revenue of \$372,000



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Unique assumptions for tax rates in town consolidation

- No Gross Utilities Receipts Tax - Loss of \$80,000
- Merged court – Savings of \$9,500



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Unique Assumptions for City Tax Rates

- Addition of Sales Tax – Increase in revenue of up to \$800,000
- Maintain Gross Utilities Receipts Tax (\$80,000)
- Would be additional court cost savings due to State taking over court costs – Savings of \$43,000
- May be cost increases in highway to manage current roads in state network within new city limits



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Tax Impact Summary

Annual Tax Rate Projections - Including AIM			
	Current	Consolidation into a Town	Consolidation into a City
Village	\$15.68	\$10.67	\$6.14
TOV	\$4.57	\$5.86	\$1.32
<i>Village Change from Current</i>		<i>-\$5.01</i>	<i>-\$9.54</i>
<i>TOV Change from Current</i>		<i>\$1.29</i>	<i>-\$3.24</i>

Tax rates presented as per thousand dollars of assessed valuation



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Tax Impact Summary

Annual Tax Rate Projections - No AIM			
	Current	Consolidation into a Town	Consolidation into a City
Village	\$15.68	\$12.59	\$8.06
TOV	\$4.57	\$7.77	\$3.24
<i>Village Change from Current</i>		<i>-\$3.10</i>	<i>-\$7.63</i>
<i>TOV Change from Current</i>		<i>\$3.21</i>	<i>-\$1.33</i>

Tax rates presented as per thousand dollars of assessed valuation



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Overarching considerations with either option

- Change in community identity
 - Consolidated community or city
- Change in power structure under single government
- Tax shifts
- Changing of the cost curve for future generations
- Savings projections are annual (I.e. ongoing)
- Decision making efficiency in one government
- Next logical step for community



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Summary of Key Committee Conclusions

- Obtaining significant tax reductions will significantly influence current levels of service
- Some efficiencies can be achieved but they may only result in minimal cost savings
- City status is only option that potentially reduces taxes for all tax payers in the community
 - The way to achieve this is by assuming either pre-emption of sales tax or a more lucrative sales tax sharing agreement



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T & V = Town Consolidation - Process

- Governed by GML 17-A, Sections 751-772
- Two methods to start process
 - Elector initiated (10%), or
 - Joint resolution of elected boards
- If elector driven, vote would be held prior to consolidation plan development
- If board driven, Village and Town governments would develop joint agreement (plan) and vote would take place after public hearings on the agreement
- Must be approved by voters in both entities



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T & V = City Consolidation Process

- Would require developing a city charter
 - Volunteer charter commission
 - Outline form of government
 - Define representation on the County Board of Supervisors
- Voters in both Village and Town would have to approve the charter
- Charter would need approval from State Legislature and Governor



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Next Steps

- Committee meets again next Wednesday to finalize it's recommendation (10/27/10 @ 5:30p)
- Committee will submit final report/recommendation to the Village and Town Boards for their review
- Village and Town boards must decide whether to follow-through with the committee's recommendation assuming action is necessary
- Depending on action, boards must initiate process for next steps

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Community Feedback

- Questions/Comments
- Please visit the website at www.cgr.org/dansville
 - Submit an email
- Feel free to submit a feedback form

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