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## Extra Lyons dissolution work explained - Finger Lakes Times: Local

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### Extra Lyons dissolution work explained

By JULIE ANDERSON [janderson@fltimes.com](mailto:janderson@fltimes.com) | Posted: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 10:15 am

LYONS — A question asked at three village Dissolution Committee meetings thus far is this: In addition to producing a dissolution plan, why has the appointed, nine-member group been assigned the task of finding alternative solutions?

Prior to the November vote, MRB Group, the Rochester-based consultants assisting the village, showed trustees a PowerPoint presentation explaining all options on how it could proceed. Mayor Corrine Kleisle decided to incorporate alternatives to dissolution when she applied for grant money from the state.

However, not only is the decision to explore alternatives not listed in any of the Village Board's meeting minutes, Trustee Dennis Alvaro and former Trustee Terry VanStean said they don't even remember discussing that approach.

Trustee Joanne Greco said she was under the impression there had to be two plans.

Kleisle applied for a \$49,500 grant from the state Department of State for Expedited Reorganization Assistance, covering most of the \$55,000 in expenses involved in the dissolution process. Of those expenses, \$4,700 was earmarked for supplies and postage and \$50,300 for contractual expenses.

The village provided a local match of \$5,500.

The village's application, which was titled "Expedited reorganization Assistance/Dissolution plan," contained the following information:

- In 2010, a town/village shared services study was conducted, resulting in a shared code enforcement officer.
- The town, village and school district have a shared services committee that meets regularly. A shared maintenance facility and shared equipment were developed as a result.

- The purpose of the grant is to cover costs incurred by the village for the development and dissemination of information to the voters prior to a referendum. If dissolution is approved, the grant also will cover the development of the dissolution plan.
- The grant will pay \$33,000 toward developing a dissolution plan.
- The grant will pay \$12,000 toward developing dissolution alternatives as part of the task work plan constructed by the mayor.

In Section III of the Grant Application and Instructions, there is a list of eligible projects and the following statement: “A re-organization study will form the foundation for a consolidation agreement or dissolution plan and can provide information on alternatives to local government reorganization.”

The work plan cited by the village in the grant application binds the dissolution committee to creating an alternative plan along with the dissolution plan. In fact, in the request for qualifications and again in the contract provided to MRB for its services, the phrase “for the purpose of development of a Dissolution Plan and Analysis of Alternatives for the Village of Lyons” is used.

Also stated in the grant application: “In addition to the Work Plan specified in Attachment A, the Village Board has determined that taxpayers deserve full analysis and disclosure of the financial impacts per service for dissolution and for alternatives for dissolution, including the non-financial impacts on the delivery of services themselves.”

Ultimately, Kleisle decided alternatives were necessary in order to provide the most information to village and town taxpayers about the financial impacts of dissolution.

### **What the law says**

In the March 2010 “Guide to Local Government Dissolution and Consolidation Under General Municipal Law Article 17-A” issued by the state Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials, the No. 1 entry under Section B (Practical Considerations) states the following: “While the former Village Law 19-1901 specifically required the village dissolution report to address alternatives to dissolution, there is no such requirement ... Nonetheless, village officials should examine alternatives to any proposed dissolution, including intermunicipal agreements or elimination of specific services. Such alternatives may provide cost-savings or efficiencies while allowing residents to retain control of their local government. Local government officials should charge study committees and

consultants to, in addition to developing the dissolution plan, examine alternative methods of achieving cost-savings and efficiencies.”

**Next meeting**

The Lyons Dissolution Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the 23 Water St. firehouse.