

Village of Wolcott
Village Hall Conference Hall
Board of Trustees
Special Board Meeting
December 21, 2023
12:30 PM

Members Present: Mayor Chris Henner, Trustees: Dan Smith, and Andrew Marshall

Members Absent: Misty Harper and Dave Lewis

Others Present: Fran Acker, Toni M. Kellam, Tommy Mettler, OIC Brian Richie, Garth Moody, Dave Zwolinski, Don Camp, Karen Tyler, Christin Warnick, Charlie Acker, Diana and Brian Gardner, Joseph Burnett, Richard and JoAnn Steves, Eva Winter, Lorelei Howland, Richard Russo, Evelyn Nielson, Randy Depew, Darlene Depew, TV13 Wham, and AnnMarie Easley.

Mayor Henner opened the meeting at 12:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

RESOLUTION 2023-27

(Calling for a Referendum on a Proposed Dissolution by the Electors of the Village)

WHEREAS, a petition for Local Government Dissolution having been submitted to the Village of Wolcott and filed with the Village Clerk on November 15, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Village Clerk of the Village of Wolcott having determined that a sufficient number of valid signatures of electors and legal voters of the Village of Wolcott, New York having signed the petition in accordance with the provisions contained in General Municipal Law section 779; and

WHEREAS, the Village Clerk having determined that the petition contains not less than the number of signatures of electors required in subdivision 2 of section 779, with said determination having been made on November 25, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees being required to enact a resolution in accordance with subdivision 2 of section 779 of the General Municipal Law calling for a referendum on the proposed dissolution by the electors of the Village of Wolcott within 30 days after a valid petition is declared; and

WHEREAS, this matter having come onto be heard not later than 30 days after the Village Clerk's determination that the petition contains a sufficient number of signatures calling for the matter of the dissolution of the Village of Wolcott to be placed before the voters of the Village of Wolcott at a general or special election;

NOW, THEREFORE, on a motion made by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Marshall it is and shall hereby be;

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Wolcott hereby establishes a referendum calling for the Dissolution of the Village of Wolcott, New York at a special session to be held on December 21, 2024; and it is further;

RESOLVED, the referendum question placed before the electors of the Village of Wolcott shall be in a form reading substantially as follows; “Shall the Village of Wolcott, New York be dissolved? Yes... No...;” and it further;

RESOLVED, the date and time of the referendum will be Tuesday March 12, 2024 and it further;

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Village of Wolcott is hereby directed to provide for and give notice of the referendum to the eligible voters in the Village of Wolcott by publication in the official newspaper of the Village at least once a week for four consecutive weeks immediately prior to the referendum and it is further;

RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees shall take such other matters as may be necessary to provide for the conduct of the referendum and the canvas of the returns thereupon all in accordance with Title 3 of Article 17-a of Chapter 24 of the Consolidated Laws of the state of New York.

Motion having been placed before the Board of Trustees in sufficient number constituting a quorum, this resolution is hereby adopted by the following roll call vote:

CHRISTOPER J. HENNER, Mayor	[AYE]
DAN SMITH, Deputy Mayor, Trustee	[AYE]
ANDREW MARSHALL, Trustee	[AYE]
DAVE LEWIS, Trustee	Absent
MISTY HARPER, Trustee	Absent

Dated: December 21, 2023

FRAN ACKER, VILLAGE CLERK
VILLAGE OF WOLCOTT

Trustee Smith made the motion to approve Toni M. Kellam, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer to join the Village Health Insurance along with her spouse. She will be responsible for 25%. Trustee Marshall 2nd the motion. All present voted in favor.

RESOLUTION 2023-28
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO
THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE 2023 LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CITIZENS RE-ORGANIZATION EMPOWERMENT GRANT
(CREG) EXPEDITED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR GRANT FUNDS TO
SUPPORT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AND
DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE IMPACT OF
DISSOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF WOLCOTT

WHEREAS, as a result of a petition for dissolution being filed according to Article 17-A of the GML, the Village of Wolcott Board of Trustees has determined that it is desirable and in the public interest to undertake the necessary activities for the submittal of an application under the New York State Department of State Local Government Citizens Re-Organization Empowerment Grant (CREG) Expedited Assistance Program to be titled, Village of Wolcott Dissolution Study; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the grant is to provide the Village of Wolcott with financial assistance to support the study of dissolution of the Village of Wolcott prior to the referendum on dissolution of the Village; and

WHEREAS, the amount of funds to be requested from the Local Government Citizens Re-Organization Empowerment Grant (CREG) Expedited Assistance Program is an amount not to exceed \$25,000, and

WHEREAS, the CREG program has a required 10% local cash match, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Village of Wolcott is the Lead Applicant in an application for financial assistance under the Local Government Citizens Re-Organization Empowerment Grant (CREG) Expedited ; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Village of Wolcott Board of Trustees authorizes the required local matching funds; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Mayor is hereby authorized to take the necessary actions to submit the grant and take necessary action to effectuate this resolution, which shall take effect immediately.

At a meeting of the Village of Wolcott Board of Trustees, held on December 21, 2023, the following resolution was made by: Trustee Smith and seconded by: Trustee Marshall

Board Members present and voting were:

Aye: Mayor Chris Henner, Trustees: Dan Smith and Andrew Marshall

Nay: None

Absent: Trustees: Dave Lewis and Misty Harper

**CERTIFICATION
STATE OF NEW YORK
WAYNE COUNTY**

I, _____, Village Clerk, do hereby verify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Village of Wolcott, New York, on

Village Clerk

Date

Mayor Henner announced the LaBerge Group will be having an informational meeting regarding the Village of Wolcott Dissolution on January 9th, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Wolcott Fire Hall. The regular board meeting will immediately follow at the Village Hall.

Time for the Public

An attendee asked about what time the vote would take place. Can it start earlier for those who have to work? Clerk Acker will reach out to NYCOM and inquire.

Another attendee asked what services will be lost if the dissolution passes.

One resident stated she would like to know what the motivation was to those behind the petition. She understands that people were told other things that the petition would do rather than go to a vote to dissolve. She also asked what motivation those who live outside of the county have with starting the petition to dissolve.

Another resident spoke that they would like the Village to have a Facebook page. People acknowledged there are pros and cons to having a public Facebook page. Supervisor Mettler mentioned the Town of Butler had one and deleted it due to several negative issues with having one.

Tommy Mettler re-stated as the Town of Butler Supervisor, that the Town of Butler opposes the dissolution. The Town of Butler cannot handle the addition and if they had to, it would be an increase in taxes to the taxpayers. Mr. Mettler also spoke about police coverage. There would be a huge hit in police presence and financially if the Police Department dissolved.

Dave Zwolinski mentioned that maybe the reason more businesses don't come inside the Village should be explored.

Trustee Marshall made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:52 PM. Trustee Smith seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

TV 13Wham stayed to interview Mayor Henner and Supervisor Tommy Mettler.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Acker

Fran Acker
Clerk-Treasurer