

ANALYSIS OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF COBLESKILL
PROS AND CONS BY DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT	PROS	CONS	COMMENTS/QUESTIONS
Generic	<p>1) Town Supervisors have never made Village issues a priority at the County level because they aren't "on his/her radar" as they aren't in the Town budget. Consolidation would put all departments within the Town budget and thus would become a priority. This would help when raising issues at the County level.</p>	<p>1) Loss of direct control</p>	<p>1) What is the projected total cost savings? 2) Is the savings sufficient to justify dissolution? 3) Review List of All Village Debts by Dept. 4) What future expenses are anticipated on assets that would be transferred to the Town? 5) Bring in representatives from NYCOM, FASNY, Assoc of Towns, former officials from a Village that has dissolved. 6) Is it possible to change State Law to allow Town to dissolve and expand Village to Town limits?</p>
Clerk	<p>1) Eliminate Village Attorney - Cost savings of \$15,000/year. 2) Eliminate Village Clerk - Cost Savings of \$30,000/year. 3) Court records are currently split between both clerks and would be brought together. 4) Having one Clerk would result in shared workload/economy of scale/efficiency. 5) Currently 3 budgets would combine into 1. 6) Not-for-Profits would be taxed for Fire District (may be a Con).</p>	<p>1) Village currently allows taxes to be paid 1/2 at a time at 6 month interval. State law doesn't allow Towns to do this. 2) Personnel changes could result in loss of services (although may be the case even as is). 3) Town Attorney costs may increase. 4) Town Accountant costs may increase. 5) Not-for-Profits would be taxed for Fire District (may be a Pro)</p>	<p>1) Currently no cooperation between Clerk's offices. 2) Consolidation not possible, only dissolution - If the Village exists it needs a Clerk. 3) Targetted inter-municipal agreements may be another option for specific tasks/services. (ex. Share the postage meter) 4) What is the impact on State aid such as AIM, CHIPS or grants?</p>

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Codes	<p>1) Would make review/update of Town Master Plan a priority</p> <p>2) Would allow for zoning to be "blended" and thus improve the transition between current boundaries</p> <p>3) Moving into 1 office has been VERY beneficial</p> <p>4) Allows for shared coverage during vacations, etc.</p> <p>5) Lowe's left because of fight between Village and Town</p> <p>6) Codes employees are in favor of an increased sharing of resources between departments whether or not consolidation/dissolution occurs</p> <p>7) Would reduce the number of boards reducing the demand for volunteers which are hard to find.</p>	<p>1) Lack of knowledge of Town officials relative to Village codes</p> <p>2) Lack of updated Town Master Plan is a detriment to future grant opportunities (this is also true without consolidation)</p>	<p>1) Explore the pros/cons of adding "In Lieu of Park Lands Fees" to subdivision permits</p> <p>2) Should Master Plan be re-written prior to consolidation?</p> <p>3) Town and Village operate differently</p> <p>4) Have Town & Village Boards allow current CEOs to work together (without authority to sign) if consolidation doesn't occur</p>
Highway	<p>1) Consolidation has</p> <p>a) created an economy of scale for use of financial resources</p> <p>b) allowed Hwy Super to hire a employees that can specialize in a given task and eliminate the need for "jack of all trades"</p> <p>2) Full consolidation would</p> <p>a) mean that Town would "own" all roads and in turn would receive all revenues (specifically State funding through CHIPS).</p> <p>b) allow for economy of scale to enable hiring a "Director of Public Works" to oversee capital expenditures across Highway, Water, Sewer, Bldg & Grounds and Parks & Rec.</p> <p>3) Hwy Super now only reports to one board = greater accountability.</p>	<p>1) Current Intermunicipal Agreement needs to be improved: specifically that better definitions of responsibility are need to clarify whether Town or Village pays for a given scope of work.</p> <p>2) Current model is uncertain due to the nature of a 5 year agreement that can theoretically be abandoned.</p> <p>3) Village hasn't been maintained as well since early '90's when department became shared. This is primarily due to a lack of funding rather than an issue with consolidation.</p>	<p>1) What are the rate multipliers for services provided to the Village?</p> <p>2) Currently have 9.5 FTE employees including Hwy Super.</p> <p>3) Lack of funding for infrastructure maintenance and repair (has nothing to do with consolidation/dissolution).</p> <p>4) Joint Town & Village Highway Committee is working well. It would be unnecessary if Department was fully consolidated.</p> <p>5) Total of 38.42 centerline miles of road in Town (11.92 in Village + 26.50 outside Village)</p>

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Rescue			1) Keep it owned by either Town or Village or the squad will be hit with costs for insurance, workers comp and building rent. 2) In order to change to Town ownership need State DOH Cert. of Operation, Medicare/Medicaid approval and Inter-municipal agreements with other Towns in the district.
Building & Grounds			1) Town currently maintains Reilly Park and several cemeteries. Would this be incorporated into the duties of this department? 2) Does the current Village B&G Department Head maintain position with Town? 3) Need to keep Highway separate from B&G as tasks/skills are too dissimilar.

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Recreation	1) Town ownership would fix the tax-inequity so that all taxpayers pay equally based on assessed value. 2) Having 1 Board in charge of budget would eliminate conflicts that result in underfunding. 3) Consolidation would enable better coordination of resources and long range planning.		1) Current split of costs is 72% Village and 28% Town, while assessed values are split 62%/38% respectively, meaning that Village taxpayers are covering a disproportionate share of costs.
Police	1) Reduce cost to Village taxpayers by spreading costs over whole Town. 2) Provide service to areas of Town currently not served that may need it due to potential growth along Route 7.	1) Potential that Town Board eliminates department in the future. 2) State Law doesn't allow a Police District that isn't for the whole Town. 3) Raise cost to Town taxpayers by spreading costs over whole Town.	1) What are the proposed boundaries? 2) How many calls (NYS police, County Sheriff, Village police) in Town outside Village? 3) Issue of police need in Town outside Village may occur due to growth along Route 7 anyway. 4) Can a Town PD provide service within a Village? 5) Would an Intermunicipal Agreement to provide service to the Town be an option? 6) Need Town PD created prior to dissolution in order to maintain service. 7) Does a District give same Civil Service protections to officers? 8) State Law changes must account for jurisdiction and other legal issues.

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Water	1) Eliminates border/tax disputes over the sale of services outside Village limits. 2) Facilitates equal billing of all customers eliminating a major cause of the "us vs. them" mentality. 3) Growth results in "windfall income" because approximately 97% of costs are fixed and thus any additional revenue is almost all "profit".	1) Existing employees would have to transfer to the Town or to a newly formed District which likely require buyout of existing accrued benefits (as was done with highway employees). This would mean they wouldn't have time available if an extended illness occurred.	1) Whether managed by the Town or the Village, the structure and cost would remain the same. 2) Would consolidation/dissolution lead to rates for services provided by the highway dept. being lowered if the Town was in charge?
Sewer	Same as Water Department	Same as Water Department	Same as Water Department

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Fire	1)	1) State Requirement for a Town to have a Board of Fire Commissioners 2) What is the process & timeframe for creating a Board of Commissioners and is it through FASNY (Fire Assoc. of the State of NY) or another State agency? 3) Secretary/Treasurer may be (at the discretion of the Fire Board of Commissioners) a paid position. 4) Conflicts between the Board of Commissioners and the fire department members. 5) Members do not want to be a district due to potential liability.	1) Could growth result in pressure to have paid positions in the Fire Department? 2) Can the Town Board serve as the Board of Commissioners? 3) Who sets budget/tax levy for Fire Dept. - Town or BoC? 4) Who owns the Dept. - Town or BoC? 5) Fire fighters are eligible to be elected to the BoC. 6) Does the District have to purchase the building & equipment at Fair Market Value given the the service area will not change? 7) Purchase of property and trucks requires a voter referendum, thus preventing a BoC from spending without direct control. Such spending by a Village or Town owned department would be at the discretion of the elected Board. 8) The BoC is unpaid per State statute.