

Notice of Public Hearing Village Board of the Village of Salem

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Salem, pursuant to Resolution 2 of 2015, shall conduct a public hearing on the **24th day of March 2015, at 7:00 P.M.**, at the Salem Village Hall, located at 181 Main Street, Salem, New York, for the purpose of hearing public comment on the Dissolution Plan (the "Plan") for the dissolution of the Village of Salem, New York.

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Salem accepted a proposed Dissolution Plan for the Village of Salem on January 13, 2015. As proposed, the Village of Salem would dissolve on December 31, 2015. The proposed plan outlines how the Village will dissolve and what government services, local laws, and municipal positions will be continued or discontinued as a result of the Village's dissolution. As proposed:

- The fiscal estimate of the cost of the dissolution is approximately \$110,000 funded primarily with a New York State Local Government Efficiency Grant. This includes \$25,000 in consultant fees; \$25,000 in legal fees; \$10,000 in consultant fees to assist the Town with zoning law updates; \$15,000 in consultant fees to assist the Village in preparing the required documentation to create a new Water District; \$12,000 in consultant fees to assist the Village in preparing the required documentation to create a new Lighting District; \$20,000 for an independent audit of the Village books, and \$3,000 for miscellaneous advertisement fees and public referendum fees.
- Upon dissolution, applying 90% of the projected Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit, it is estimated that Village tax rates will decrease by 46.6%, an estimated savings of \$523 per \$100,000 of assessed value for a former Village taxpayer. Town tax rates would decrease by 13.7%, an estimated savings of \$70 per \$100,000 of assessment. Former Village property-owners will still be required to pay their user fees, and per unit rates for debt service for the Town of Salem Water District, as well as Lighting District costs. See section VII of the Plan for more details.
- Upon dissolution, all full-time and part-time Village positions will be abolished. The costs associated with the Village Library will be transferred to the Town; therefore the current part-time Library personnel (1 Library Director and 3 Library Technicians) will remain necessary. The Village Hall/Bancroft Public Library building will be transferred to the Town, and will still require custodial needs; therefore, the part-time custodian position will remain necessary. Upon dissolution, it is expected that the Town will create 1 new full-time and 1 new part-time position to expand the Highway Department's capacity to provide services to the area of the former Village, and absorb the necessary Water District duties and responsibilities. Former Village employees will be given first consideration by the Town Board when such positions are made available. Section III of the Plan outlines the plans for the transfer or elimination of employees in more detail.
- At the time of dissolution, all remaining Village assets will become Town property. This includes Village municipal structures and building contents (insured value of \$2,068,299); Village owned machinery and equipment (insured value of \$92,000); and all other personal property. See Section IV of the Plan for more details.
- All services currently provided by the Village will be provided by the Town. This includes the following: local government representation, court services, clerical and administrative services, building and public property maintenance where

applicable; crossing guard; road maintenance and related highway services, cultural and recreational services; and library services. Public water to former Village residents, whose property currently receives water from the public water system, will be provided by the Town through the creation of a special Water District encompassing the geographical region of the former Village. The newly created Town of Salem Water District will levy approximately \$.90 per \$1,000 assessed value on former Village properties, whose property receives water from the public water system, to pay for water services, plus \$177 per unit for the debt service. As of April 2014, the Village had \$2,137,000 in outstanding debt for a 0% interest Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan that was issued in April 2006. Street lighting will also be provided through the creation of a special Lighting District. The special Lighting District will levy approximately \$.68 per \$1,000 assessed value on former Village properties to pay for street lighting. Assessment, fire protection, rescue squad, police, and code enforcement services will not be impacted by dissolution. See Section III of the Plan for more details.

- All Village local laws, ordinances, rules or regulations, in effect on the date of dissolution shall remain effective for a period of two years following dissolution, unless these laws are revised or repealed by the Town of Salem to become effective upon dissolution. Such local laws, ordinances, rules or regulations in effect on the date of dissolution, which have not been revised or repealed, shall be enforced by the Town within the limits of the dissolved Village as if they had been duly adopted by the Town Board. At any point during the two year period after the date of dissolution, the Town Board shall have the power to review, adopt, amend or repeal such local laws, ordinances, rules or regulations pursuant to New York General Municipal Law § 789. If no action is taken by the Town Board within the two year period, the law(s) will be automatically repealed. See Section VI of the Plan for more details
- Upon dissolution, the Town will create a special Water District and Lighting District in accordance with Articles 12 and 12-A of the Town Law in order to furnish public water services and furnish street lighting services within the area of the former Village. All of the real property lying within the bounds of the Water District and Lighting District will be subject to the indebtedness of such districts, including any outstanding obligations and bonds issued for these services. See Section VIII of the Plan for more details.

FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the Dissolution Plan is available to the public on the Village of Salem's website at <http://www.salem-ny.com/dissolution.html>, and printed copies are available for review in the Village Clerk's Office and Bancroft Public Library, during normal business hours. Any person desiring to be heard with regard to the Dissolution Plan shall be provided with an opportunity to do so at the said public hearing.