

*Village of Alexandria Bay
Town of Alexandria
Joint Meeting
October 6, 2026
6:00pm
Audio/Video*

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call:

Trustee Fulmer-Present
Trustee Millett-Absent
Trustee Strough-Present
Trustee Caputo-Present
Mayor Putnam-Present

Town Board in attendance- Supervisor Brent Sweet, Board Members: Christopher Vaphiadis, Timothy Davidson, Dale Hunneyman, Shawn Thomas (arrived at 6:33pm)

New Business:

1: Meeting with the Chamber of Commerce-

Dale Hunneyman- “It’s not a comment about how to help them but I’ve heard from 3 or 4 businessman this summer that there wasn’t enough advertising on the events being held by the Chamber. In years past they would bring out these posters that you could put in your window and the only time I ever saw one was at the Watertown Savings Bank when you walk into the lobby. There wasn’t one at Kinney Drugs.”

Mayor Putnam- “Ron any comments on that?”

Ron Thomson- “Ashley used to print a lot of those up. I just made a note to find out what changed from last year to this year. So, your saying Dale that there’s a noticeable difference from last year to this year?”

Hunneyman- “Oh yeah. 2 or 3 different businesses asked me where the posters are that we use to get because the Chamber would go around and hang them.”

Thomson- “I know the ones you’re talking about this is certainly the first I’m hearing about it and I will find out.”

Brent Sweet- “We have a set of those posters at the Town Office.”

Thomson- “I can tell you that there wasn’t a decision to not take them around.”

Christopher Vaphiadis- “Digital advertising is really the way to go. And promoting stuff on social media platforms like Facebook is actually pretty affordable too. Obviously, I don’t want to be in charge of it but just a comment about the availability of online marketability. The first I’ve seen is online for the Taste of the Bay. I just saw it today on Facebook.”

Mayor Putnam- “That was kind of a spur of the moment deal. We didn’t even have a Board Meeting. He just came to me and said we’d like to do it, and I didn’t want to say no. You want to try something new, so it was kind of short notice, and I think it’s going to be somewhat ok. It’s a trial.”

Thomson- “It used to be 25-30 years ago. Same concept and everything. I know it’s last minute, but you hate to dampen somebody’s willingness to do it.”

Trustee Fulmer- “The question I have, and I always ask this and I really think it’s a communication thing, why isn’t every event or function that happens in the Village under the umbrella of the Chamber? He was told he’s an event that’s not a chamber function; he’s a chamber member. They are participating chamber members.”

Vaphiadis- “Well that’s a great question.”

Thomson- “It’s just like Mike said there’s a procedure. You have an event and you would like it to become a chamber event, come to a Chamber meeting, present it, explain and everything and then it can become a Chamber event. We don’t discourage events. We actually have a new event committee that hopefully comes up with ideas on a monthly basis, but when you don’t know about it, I think we found out between meetings and one of the main reasons people want to become part of a Chamber event is our overall insurance. That’s the biggest thing but you’ve got to find out about it before you can say yes or no. We didn’t know anything about it.”

Fulmer- “I think it was just a miscommunication error. And like I said I think that every event and the Chamber should let everyone know, that every event in this Village should be under the Chamber umbrella. Why not, when you don’t allow people to be under the Chamber umbrella for whatever reason we do, we lose them to other places.”

Thomson- “Have you ever heard of anyone being denied for a Chamber event? Just curious?”

Fulmer- “What happened to the Jeep thing?”

Thomson- “They wanted an indoor venue and there was no indoor venue in the Town of Alexandria that could handle it, and they ended up going inside the rink in Clayton.”

Sweet- “Theres a lot of misinformation on that deal because that’s why you’re asking the question and I looked into it and got the same answer that Ronnie just gave. It was all about the size of the event. It was the same deal with the Santa deal that left. There were a bunch of organizations that were asked.”

Thomson- “Like the Santa as an example, Doug went to Clayton and said ya know I’ve got this event where, whoever explained it, they said great who’s your committee? And they said I don’t have a committee. Well, he was told no by the Clayton Chamber because there’s a big problem over any area of lack of volunteers. You could have a great event and nobody to run it and so what happened was the Clayton Rotary Club picked up River Santa. Pumpkin Chunkin was very close to not happening because of lack of volunteers.”

Mayor Putnam- “To get back to missing the meeting of the event downtown, I kind of overstepped my bounds as the mayor and I said yeah. I kind of pulled everybody individually and didn’t get any no’s, so that’s how it went through without having a lot of advertising and he had to do it on his own. It was slow going, but I didn’t want to tell him no.”

Fulmer- “But it’s working.”

Mayor Putnam- “And it’s working, but it’s too short of notice. I just wanted to make that point. The other thing about the Chamber I want to talk about is what do you want to do with the building down there? I mean the tree come down.”

Sweet- “We talked to them about we have a place for the girl to work up there and she told me that wouldn’t be necessary that she’s got approval from the Chamber Board to work from home.”

Putnam- “The other thing Brent is sidewalk in disrepair. Need a fence between there and the restaurant. We need to work with the Town, like we’ll take the sidewalk out. The stump should come out. You know just spruce up that building a little bit.”

Vaphiadis - “It does and it’s really a beautiful building and it would be a shame for it to be a not very welcoming welcome center, which it’s kind of has become. I discovered that it hadn’t had working mechanicals in 15-20 years, I mean frankly I don’t like that. I think we’re responsible for making sure that things don’t become derelict and if it doesn’t have a good heating and ventilation system, then it’s not a very good building.”

Fulmer- “I thought we had talked, you got estimates to do that. To put in heat. Are you putting in a heating system in there?”

Sweet- “Yeah, we got a bunch of estimates, but we haven’t acted on them because we really kind of like to know before we spend, I don’t want to say how many dollars’ worth but it’s a lot.”

Putnam- “I’m talking like the sidewalk needs to be redone. It’s kind of a hazard and both along the front end going into the building. I think the stairs need a little bit of repair. Some landscaping. If the Chamber is going to be there then we need to spruce that up.”

Vaphiadis - “I agree and I’ve always felt like it should have at least one public bathroom in it. I’ve never been to a Chamber that didn’t have one. It would be a nice thing to fix it up a bit. I know that the Town owns the building and I look at it as capital improvement projects are money back in your pocket. So, I think it’s worth investigating some of these capital improvement projects for the building because I think it’s part of the reason why there’s so much back and forth about whether people work there or not because it’s kind of in disrepair. Make it a good office that’s welcoming to people and that they want to work in.”

Sweet- “We had that tree cut down and have a big hump in the sidewalk. So, we’re going to talk to a couple of our DPW guys about going in there, digging it up, doing a whole thing. Leveling, land and kind of relandscaping the front of that building. I mean the sidewalk needs to be fixed. That’s a liability for the Town.”

Putnam- “Let the Village take care of that. You know digging it up and like we do with a lot of, you know we can take care of the sidewalk. And if you’re going to take care of the sidewalk then you need to put new water and sewer into the building.”

Timothy Davidson- “I think there were a couple of things that were overlooked in that discussion with Judy. When you look at resourcing and renovating, you know it sounds like there’s an agreed upon mutual effort of what we can and tackle corporately together. But to her point I think we need to look at how we’re renovating for a purpose and then what that purpose is for year-round use. Are we doing a cost analysis, is it going to be used in a different capacity than it currently is or we broaden that capacity and we look at a year-round approach, we’ve done the data. The summertime it makes sense to invest into something corporately with both boards in the best interest of the overall footprint.”

Sweet- “This discussion tells me that we’re not going to pour \$70,000 or \$120,000 and pay back into that in the next whatever until we have somebody hat wants to use it.”

Thomson- “Speaking for myself, moving the Executive Director up to the Town Offices makes all the sense in the world to me.

Sweet- “Theres a couple big stone steps and their cracked.”

Christopher- “My whole point was that I just didn’t like the idea of us owning something that hasn’t been touched in 2 decades. Because we wouldn’t encourage any other business to behave that way.”

Trustee Strough- “We are in the same situation with the new bathrooms downtown. We had that beautiful building set down there vacant forever. The roof was going on it; we finally put a new one on it to keep it from caving in. Now we’re in there, now we’re going to put new bathrooms in it.”

Fulmer- “Once you do all of that and open for the season it needs to be more lit up outside. Can the town apply? I know we had a problem trying to sell fixing that building with the New York Forward people from the state. Can the town apply for the small project fund?”

Caputo- “Because he looked into it and it said no municipalities.”

Davidson- “I think we missed an opportunity there not to double tap and make sure the village wasn't paying twice for fireworks too; we made that right on our side that we paid out of the bed tax funds for fireworks. That I think in the future, depending upon the dollar amount, and I don't know, but the bed tax money should have paid for both of those. It should have paid for the village’s portion and the town portion. If that comes up this year, I'd just like make sure that the village is not taxed on that twice. And thanks, Ron, for the clarity of that in the bed tax committee looking at the uses of that fund to broaden tourism. So, I appreciate that. Just wanted that as a note. Third, I know there was a meeting about the village about the feedback from Pirates Weekend. I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to watch that, but did we get everything worked out with the chamber as far as policing, noise control, all. All those things, because I think overall both boards in the past had had concerns about that. You're not the sole representative, but making sure that we are moving collectively as organizations and want the best interests of what we want to see in the future, realizing that in some regards it's volunteer dependent, and sometimes you don't have enough volunteers. I think this shouldn't be like a once-in-a-blue-moon conversation. I think it needs to be a regular dialog that we're working together to make sure. Hey, did we miss the mark? Do we need to improve these whatever the function is? And are we all working together? Whether it's infrastructure, we just talked about the building. We just talked about the fireworks. Well, then, every event. Hey, just honest, candid feedback on what we can do better as organizations to support the chamber and to make sure that they know where we're going strategically.”

Vaphiadis - “I think more important than our feedback on the event is the public. I think if there’s a way to collect that kind of info about if the public are enjoying the event. That would be nice.”

Thomson- “I don't disagree with any of them being concerns, but I do want to point out that a Chamber of Commerce can't tell businesses how to conduct their business if they're violating ABC law, if somebody's not maintaining the exterior of their building, I agree with those concerns. But when the Chamber of Commerce starts telling their members, you know, you better put a coat of paint on that and do this or that, all of a sudden, they

say, okay, well, I'm not going to spend my \$350 in for dues anymore because you're not going to be telling me what to do. But again, the list that I saw regarding pirates, I don't disagree with any of the concerns. What can the chamber be involved in? What can't they? The other is regarding the fireworks. The bed tax committee, which we are the Town of Alexandria Bed Tax Advisory Committee. Key word there is advisory because the last word is with the town board, and dollars are split by the county after 2% administrative fee. Half goes to the municipality that generates it. The first criteria is not to entertain the people that are already here but bring new people here. And as Chris was talking about earlier, like with Facebook advertising, Instagram, things that I haven't even got a clue on, the Chris Bogenschutz Clayton runs the program, and the majority of the dollars, in fact, almost all the advertising dollars are run through him. When it comes to the fireworks, we had a discussion, and what came down to is it was the town board's decision, and their decision was to use bed tax dollars to help fund the fireworks. Fireworks have been an issue for a long time. We paid \$5,000 forever. John Russell, at one point in time, what to give you an idea how long ago it was, the joke we had was they may have forgotten they've been charging us \$5,000 for 15 years or 20 years because obviously everything costs a little bit more all the time, and so now it's up to \$10,000. And the problem we have is that not only are there less and less people volunteering, but businesses-it's a struggle with all the different costs that are mandated by the same federal government, it's tough, and so we have seen our donations drop off towards that. So having money from the town and the village has been great. We've been able to have a \$10,000 show, and last year, we had an anonymous donor give us \$5,000. So, some of the stuff I saw over by the whatever would be the upriver of the playhouse. If you notice, there were a bunch of different mini finales that went off. That was paid for with \$5,000. So, we had a \$15,000 show this last year, only problem with that is when people because if it's the \$10,000 to the 15, what's wrong? You know. Me personally, and I can say as a member of the committee, we try to use it to bring people here. Our point was we feel it's entertaining the people that are already here instead of bringing new people to the area”.

Fulmer- “I appreciate that and I don’t think the Village was trying to say to the Town or the Chamber get your people to paint their building and I think something we have to work on for next year is that there is an assumption out there that all summer every weekend or even every day is an open container day in the village and it’s not. I mean, that is something that we are probably going to have to work on more policing on that ahead of time. Sending around a letter that says you can't do this. You cannot just let your people walk out with glass bottles. It's not open container just because it's pirate weekend. I heard it a couple of times, and I think you and I talked about it. That the attitude was, in quotes, "It's private weekend”. We can do whatever we want, but I think we have to, as a group, work together to communicate better and to you know follow some of the rules of the village for downtown and maybe we need to have a discussion with bar owners and talk to each you know they need to take some responsibility too if not the village the town and the chamber but I think that list was thrown around that this is a bunch of stuff we need to talk about.”

Thomson- “I’ve had conversations with different board members, and the chamber can be a conduit to get that information out. You know, we're not the policing arm, but we can certainly.”

Fulmer- “And I think we have the policing arm now with the chief here to help start doing some of that next year, because we don't want open container all over the village. It's not a good thing.”

Strough- “Like I said, when as soon as you come into this village, everywhere you come in, there's a sign. Everybody says, “Well, nobody knows about it. You go to any village when you pull in. There's a village sign saying, “Welcome to Alexandria Bay. Below that sign are all the rules that we have in this village, if there are any. Every village is the same way. Just write on it, no open containers.”

2: Shared Services

3: Discuss Equipment purchases, Town & Village

Mayor Putnam- “Ok Shared Services.”

Sweet- “Well, talked to Zach today. We keep track of everything we're doing. We've been keeping track of that pretty diligently for, I want to say, a year, maybe a little more. He's got a file on it. That's kind of what we do. I believe your guy does the same thing because I've talked to Jarrett about it. Because when we kind of went on this deal a year ago, whatever time that was, I needed to talk to him about it to make sure everybody was understanding what was going on and I want to thank you guys for the shared services because I see all the shared services because they call us right, and I'm the one who calls Jarrett and says, “Can we borrow this? Can we borrow that? Like I said, we got a construction project going on at the rink, right? Yep. We needed you guys at the last minute, numerous times I just want to say thank you.”

Strough- “Me and Jarrett talked about it. I told him anything the Town wants, take care of it.”

Sweet- “In the future, here we need to work together on equipment, as we all have talked about quite a bit. When each one of us is buying two \$250,000 loaders we don't use them enough. And now we're looking at buying another one in the next year or so.

Strough- “So you're more than welcome. You know that. From now on, you know we're going to change all that and make sure from now on you need the banks pushed back. Just give Jarrett a call. He'll send the guy up there to do it.”

Sweet- “I think if you have Jared put a list together of his equipment that he's thinking that he needs in the next X amount of time, that's what Zach is doing for us right now.

Mayor Putnam- “Brent can you answer me a question? When your guys are plowing during the winter, are they scheduled to plow at night, so you don't pay overtime, or is they work their eight-hour day, and they come in and they plow?”

Shawn Thomas- “They work their eight-hour day.”

Mayor Putnam- “Here was my theory behind this, is that you guys are out plowing, right? You get caught up. Village has to call their men in the middle of the night. Is there any reason the town couldn't swing through the village and do the main streets at the same time?”

Sweet- “The only thing I'm going to add to that is that'll make that more doable. It's usually one of those crews that's out plowing later. Okay, one of ours, not all night, but later, because they work their overtime. I see their time. They work eight, 9o'clock at night and then they're back at 6o'clock next morning or five. Okay, it's one of those trucks

is what I call a ford 550. I know just the dual wheels, a smaller truck that we can use in the village easier than our huge trucks.”

Mayor Putnam- “I’m not saying all the time. I’m thinking you know to save the village some money and guys.”

Davidson- “I think we should leave that to the experts. It is a nightmare, depending on the winter that you have. We can give them the intent. Yeah, I think it's something that we need to explore, should explore. But a lot of that, as you know, is dependent upon what drivers we have, what type of winter we have, and then are we running into the logistics? So, I think if we give them intent, say, "Hey, we'd love to get there. Can you two work this out in some meanable, some way for Rome, so to speak? Get back to us and say yes, it's doable, or why it's not doable, versus just saying no.”

4: Ambulance scenario

Mayor Putnam- “What about ambulance services? Is that something you guys want to discuss?”

Thomas- “So our original, I guess this was year two of the fire district. So essentially, fire district came to us asking for information of a joint or a joint ambulance district. Which, with the timing, a motion was placed, but never got seconded the first night. I think it was our August meeting. I believe is when that happened. We engaged in a lot of conversation back and forth, and essentially what it boils down to is the fire district felt that a 14.5 cent per 1000 tax on everybody within Redwood and Plessis and Alex Bay district would be a good plug for them to be able to manage the services throughout the town, so that everybody within the district was paying for the service, even though it serviced everybody, right, including Plessis, and Redwood. We made the decision last night to essentially, which we had two options pretty much, or one option was just say no, handle it yourself. And last night we decided to vote on the other option, being they would remove a portion from that their original budget, and we would place that tax equally amongst Redwood and Plessis, so they get to the number that they needed to provide the service throughout the community. Now everybody Redwood, Plessis, Alex Bay, everybody's paying an equal fair share, the 14 and a half cents per 1000 for that service for the town.”

Putnam- “That would lower ours down somewhat is that what you’re saying?”

Thomas- “But now the tax isn't what we were up against is being able to form a district and then put it on the tax bills for this upcoming year. Once we made the decision not to form the district that night, we essentially were up against it right after that, so we knew it couldn't make it on the tax bill for the first coming year, which is why we had to choose essentially to add on as a town tax this year.”

Davidson- “I think the caveat of what we challenged them with the people in attendance last night, was creating a joint fire district of Plessis, Redwood, and the Bay to reap the overall benefits that one district that was talked about and that was didn't come to fruition because of what I believe, given I have opinion, is personality conflicts and some things that were in the best interest of the overall whole as a whole. Now, fast forward, we get approached as Shawn was saying with some of a, you know, a quick decision, a quick flash to bang, where we didn't have enough information to make an educated decision in the best interests of all parties, because we felt it was mismanaged. We felt that there

were some timelines that this conversation could have happened well in advance, but we still left last night with, if we can't get to the joint fire district, then we should reestablish. We should establish an ambulance district at a minimum, but I think we do great disservice to everybody if they cannot come together and form a point fire district. They can reap the rewards across the board. Every chief, every commissioner said it in those four meetings that we had talking about this on how it would be a perfect scenario.”

Vaphiadis - “There was some awfully uncomfortable things said by certain people. People too that lead me to believe that they're going to have a difficult time putting their hubris aside to actually make this work.”

Thomas- “The town can force an Ambulance District. My understanding is we have the ability to form the district so that it won't be on that. We can force the issue more. It's in their hands pretty much because next year what we said is essentially that tax will not be added into the general fund tax. It won't show up as a town tax. Instead, it'll be its own. When it comes to this, it would be highly beneficial to Plessis and Redwood residents, everybody really to hop in and form a single fire district, their fire rate would plummet. Really, Redwood and Plessis are who I mean, and Alex Bay would probably creep up slightly. I'm assuming.”

Hunneyman- “Its personality.”

Sweet- “So what that does to us, this situation, it raises the tax rate that we have worked on in our budget, and we have another 35 days or whatever to work on it and adjust it. But it raises the tax rate we had come up with by 14 and a half cents or 14 cents. From what 93 to 107, roughly. So that's the result on our end.”

Caputo- “But to clarify the position they're in as a town board, if these districts decide not to come together, they will have two options. They make a full townwide, which is what was originally offered up, a full townwide ambulance district, and in New York State, ambulance districts are not like fire districts. An ambulance district can only fall within a fire district that has a certificate of need, so they can make a townwide. And what happens with that is then the Alexandria Joint District would have all say over the budget matters for that ambulance district. They would have to put two, make Two budgets: an ambulance budget and a fire budget, which is what they did this year. But once that got formed, they have complete control over it. The other option is the second one that they, the town board, looked at, but there wasn't any time to react, and they truly hope that they'll come together. The other option is to rename the district boundaries of just Plessis and Redwood. That becomes a town ambulance district. They negotiate with the Alex Bay Joint Fire Department as to how much they're paying them, so they don't have the joint wouldn't have their complete own say over how much that budget is. If that makes sense. But because ambulance ultimately is the town, and this became clearer to me today in that stuff that you got about dissolving, because they talked about villages' responsibilities with fire, and then fire districts within a town, and how they work versus ambulances, and I thought it made it a lot clearer. There aren't ambulance districts that just behave in the same manner that a fire district does. If it is just the Plessis Redwood area, they would do what they did to the village years ago, which is why we went to the district when the town board would say we're going to give you guys a 2% raise this year, and the village board was saying, but the fire district is costing so much more, you're blowing our little bitty village budget out of the water, and I mean that-that was my reason for wanting it out of the village's hands because the village taxpayers before were

the ones that were truly paying for all of this. I mean, we would get-I don't know what it used to be that the town paid the village, but it wasn't much. You look at it compared to what their budget is right now; it was pennies. In the past they either did without, and I and I will say I think the fire district is doing a very good job with meeting requirements and getting things done that they need that they're required to have done that honestly nobody at this table knew they needed and that wasn't our fault and everybody knows how I feel about it because when you appointed me to be with them, and I showed up at their meeting to say how can I help, and I need to learn about you, and they told me I couldn't come in. I wasn't a member, and they would not let me in the room, and we don't need to be responsible for them. And yet, Court Rutherford wasn't a member at that time, and he was allowed into the same exact meeting that night. And if you don't think that didn't rub me the wrong way."

5: Combine Zoning & Planning-Enforcement

Mayor Putnam- "Combining Zoning and Planning."

Sweet- "And I think we're interested in doing that, and I have some procedures and steps that we should do. Which the first thing would be to appoint a committee."

Fulmer- "Wait are we talking about combining the village and the town..."

Putnam- "Have one zoning officer that would take care of both."

Fulmer- "But were not joining the planning and are we putting the committees together or just one officer? I'm confused."

Sweet- "All we're doing is combining the person to do it. That's, I mean, the suggestion that they said in here: three board members from the town, two board members from the village. That would be, and that would be a five-member board. There is a possibility of a seven-member board. I don't like bigger boards myself."

Putnam- "You would still have your separate Zoning Laws for the Village that are different from the Town. Half the problem with the Village we don't enforce nothing."

Thomas- "That's something that we prioritized a few years ago with rewriting of our junk from storage. I know guys did that. It's tough."

Fulmer- "That's what I thought we were going to talk about tonight. Sharing a zoning officer and sharing a planning, not putting the committees together at this point."

Putnam- "We're not really sure what we want to do. We haven't talked. We talked about it a little bit, but we were thinking like, hey, one person to enforce both. You know what I mean? Because everybody has different zoning laws that you don't know, like yours are different than ours, and there's reasons for it, you know."

Sweet- "I've read quite a bit about everybody's having hard times getting people to fill the seats. Yeah, I know we ran into that problem up there for a while. We were short a person or two, thank God, we have an alternate system up there because we're using an alternate fair amount."

Fulmer- "But I don't think we have that problem yet. Our concern is this page of stuff that we're going to vote on next meeting of stuff that we need to add to the laws. This is the committee saying, "Okay, you told us to look at this, and they are, and this is what we'd like to do. Please vote on this. So, before we know if you're going to tell us no, so what we will need once we start all this, we need a more forceful zoning officer, and we need a code officer, and we've been talking about that for a couple of years."

Putnam- “And I think if we had one zoning officer put more hours in, it'd be easier for people to come and get permits instead of saying, "Oh, geez they're only there two hours on a Wednesday instead 3 days a week and I need this looked at so I can continue.”

Thomas- Yeah, the only other thing I don't see on here, but I know there was a discussion to look into doing, the feasibility study. Essentially, is what it equates to.”

Caputo- “Well, it's all over the place. I asked for it to be on there. But so, the step that was discussed here originally was putting in an application to see if we can get the funding, a grant to do a survey, which is one. I'll speak for myself. I would like to put the application in to see if we get the grant funding. And when I talk, what's his name at Danc, Tom Haynes. He said that if the town were to agree that yes, if both of our names were on the application, it would make the application stronger. And he said they've done enough of them now, and they're very basic. The question was, if we both agree that we'd like to do the study initially, and I may not have this 100% right because when the other guy from Danc came in the other day, he was really spilling a lot of stuff, which is what made us pump the brakes and go back. The way I understood it from Thomas was the cost to do the study, which he was quite sure we would get the funding for, the state puts 50% in, and he thinks it'll cost around \$50,000. The state would put in 50% and he suggested that the town and the village split the other 50% which would be like \$12,500 each. He said that makes for a very strong case for them to go ahead and fund the study. Then, if once the study was done and they showed us that it really is a good idea or it isn't a good idea, whatever it shows, if we were to move forward with the dissolution, then obviously there's that costs, but they will fund up to 90% of it of the dissolution process. So actually, we get more benefit if we do the study and decide that yes, we are going to move forward.”

Fulmer- “You can't. You would have to have a referendum. We need to have a meeting. We owe it to the people that live and vote in this Village., 651 of them and their families. You know, it was out there that we were making that decision tonight. That's what made the weekend awful. I talked to Channel 50 and Pam and the other one, and it's like no. All we said at the last meeting was we were going to start talking about it. We aren't dissolving right away, and I think we need to have public meetings and tell people. People want to know. People want to be included, and I think we owe them that. Whether it's good or bad to go forward with dissolving a process that you need to get the village people involved in.”

Thomson- “I agree with what you're saying as far as the involvement and everything. My understanding is a village doesn't dissolve until a referendum is held, and the people that have the last say-it's not a board decision. It's the people that live in the village. So, all I'm asking is you can't really have much of a discussion without information. The information is with the study. Where are we at in applying for a grant to get discussion, because the last village board meeting I was at, the meeting was adjourned on the Friday, and there was something about police officers to be decided on, and in the meantime, going to find out what the cost to apply for the grant was, and what I've been told is that they will do it for nothing. Apply the application. Oh, apply for the grant. Yeah, a cost of nothing. Yes. Right. So that was an answer you didn't have at the previous board meeting. So now we found out there is no cost to apply for the grant because that was a holdup,

and so my question is now that we know that there's no cost to apply for the grant, what's preventing the village from applying for the grant?"

Fulmer- "You're asking me, right? Mike and I talked about this, and it's not in our budget to put \$25,000 into the study. Okay, so right now it was when we talked about it. It was the money. You know, we have other things. We're talking about another policeman. We're talking about vests. There's other things that we need. I mean, if we decide all of a sudden, or maybe and when we do the new budget in February and we add the money to do it."

Thomson- "Let me ask you this, if the \$25,000 was raised outside of the village taxes. Would you say yes?"

Fulmer- "I think so but how would you do that?"

Thomson- "There are enough people interested in having seeing this study go forward that I think we can raise the \$25,000. So, my question to you is: If the only thing preventing the village from applying for the grant is the 50% cost, which is around \$25,000, if that \$25,000 can be raised, okay, without village taxpayers, would your answer be yes to applying for the grant?"

Fulmer- "I would need to know how you would get that money to the Village. The legality of doing that."

Caputo- "Thomas told us it was going to be between 40 and 50, and I went high. They're doing these things all the time. And the question was, would the town split it? And if the town is willing to do \$12,500 for the study, and if we get some taxpayers that are willing to come up with some money, then that will help defer it. Also, I'm a yes. Absolutely, I think it's worth doing this study. I wanted to ask you, and here's my big thing is I think there is enough conversation. Okay, the people that one side of the board, you're hearing from people that want nothing to do with it. I'm hearing from the people that want to have something to do with it. That's what I'm worried about. And then what did it say? 90 days and it's done with the grant or something like that. I would rather be on the proactive side to get the information that we need to make educated choices. If it were to go forward, I would like it to be a nice process where people aren't scared to death of what's going to happen. Am I going to lose my job? Is my garbage going to get picked up? Is this going to be done? Is that going to be done? Let it be smooth. I think zoning and planning could be joined, no problem. I think DPW or winter time snow plowing could be combined, no problem. Our guys do a lot down there. Yeah, they do. You know, do I think there will be some concerns in that area, yes, I do. But I think a lot of the other stuff could be combined and reasonable and could be worked out."

Sweet- "There was an article today that we had that had 90 villages of the state that had dissolved, and I read a few of the plans. And every one of these things, they work together with all the town employees and all the village employees, and they make it so the job situation works out. They go through all aspects of everything you're talking about. And it's with village and town people on the committees that make those decisions to protect their employees."

Fulmer- "The study takes 2 years. I don't have a problem doing it if we can find the money to do it, because we do have other things that we need that money for."

Chief Mancini- "Does anybody know where all these Villages that dissolve, what happens to the Police department?"

Caputo- “Be the discretion of the town as to whether they continue to have a police force, and they can expand. At least that's what I read today. So, they could expand the boundaries of the police force. They could say, you know what, we just want to fall under the sheriff's department.”

Mancini- “Well does anyone know what they want to do?”

Davidson- “We don't have the data.”

Mancini- “Listen, I understand that, but what I'm saying is, if you dissolve the police department and it goes to the sheriff or the state police, you will not get coverage for the events. They cannot provide coverage for the events. Everywhere is short. It's just like my departments made of a lot of part timers, and I'm adding a full timer currently.”

Thomson- “Sometimes what they'll do is they'll form a district, and the district just happens to be exactly the line that the village used to be. So, it could be like a sewer plant, sewer plant basically services an area that happens to be the old village of Alexandria Bay, so they draw a line around the old village of Alexandria Bay, and that becomes the idea for the people that benefit from the service to pay for the service. And so, what I've read is what you're talking about with the police department. You can have a protection district, and when you look at it, you go, "Boy, that looks a lot like the boundary of the old village. So that you wouldn't necessarily dissolve the police department; it would just be funded by the same tax base that funds it now.”

Fulmer- “It's just a Study.”

Trustee Fulmer made the motion to close the joint meeting. **Trustee Caputo** seconded. All in favor- Aye.