



Joint Lake Placid Village, Inc. and  
Town of North Elba  
Board Meeting  
Friday, June 27, 2014

Minutes of the Joint Lake Placid Village and Town of North Elba Special Board Meeting being held on the above date beginning at 4:00 pm in the North Elba Town Hall, 2693 Main Street, Lake Placid, New York.

**Village Board Members Present:** Mayor Craig Randall, Deputy Mayor/Trustee Art Devlin, Trustee Peter Holderied, Trustee Scott Monroe, Trustee Jason Leon, Ellen Clark, Village Clerk, Peggy Mousaw, Village Treasurer and Janet Bliss, Village Attorney

**Town Board Members Present:** Supervisor Roby Politi, Councilman Bob Miller, and Councilman Jay Rand

**Members Absent:** Councilman Doty and Councilman Favro

**Others Present:** Dean Dietrich, Jeanne Brennan, Julie Ball, Pat Gallagher, Matt Turner, Adirondack Daily Enterprise and Ted Morgan, WNBZ

Mayor Randall opened the Meeting at 4:00 pm and Supervisor Politi waived the reading of the Public Notice by the Clerk. Said Notice is made a part of these minutes below:

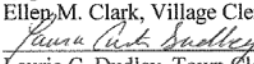
TOWN OF NORTH ELBA



LAKE PLACID VILLAGE, INC.

**Town of North Elba and Village of Lake Placid  
Joint Meeting**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Village Board of the Village of Lake Placid and the Town Board of the Town of North Elba, will hold a joint meeting, on Friday, June 27, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room, 2693 Main Street, Lake Placid, New York, regarding the Village of Lake Placid/Town of North Elba Comprehensive Plan.

  
Ellen M. Clark, Village Clerk  
  
Laurie C. Dudley, Town Clerk

Dean Dietrich: The easiest thing to do is go through the things that have already been discussed with other people. We did have the public hearing but did not get a lot public comments except from Naj Wikoff, and Jay Rand was at the last two meetings as well. At the last of the two meetings that Jay attended, we discussed community facilities and services, and this is kind of wrapped around a grant that the Town and Village are looking for. We had language in there to maintain the quality of the old Olympic venues and this basically clarifies that we want to maintain the quality and quantity design to make sure we can bid for national and international competitions. It is a clarification language. We have had meetings with the Village Board and they have expressed a couple of concerns. One deals with government structure and services, which basically deals with a hiring a grant writer. The Village Board was concerned that maybe the wording was such that they were committing themselves to hiring a grant writer so we made the language a little more flexible. Basically, we are saying let's take a look at that shared position and see if something can happen. We did have a discussion and we did note that the Village and Town both use Garrett Dague and the Essex County Planning Office and that is good, but there are some advantages to having a second person doing an agenda that is solely with the Town and Village and not necessarily with the county, and who also would deal more with non-profits. We looked at different ways of funding and a lot can be incentive-based. A lot of time people write grants and are able to keep administrative fees for writing a grant. So we get quality people who are retired that have done this before and maybe we can generate some money for the Village. In discussions with the Supervisor he pointed out that sometimes it's not good because your tax cap gets in the way. But at least it doesn't hurt to have a second source of funding. The third thing we discussed was the housing and it was mentioned in the housing preamble and is mentioned in what we were trying to do with the housing, but again some clarification. The rental permit system idea is to basically target the goals of dealing with the health and safety code requirements and quality of life in neighborhoods. Those are the three things that we think a rental permit system should focus on. Again, it's nebulous language. We will look in to it and get some background and make some recommendations and it might be we don't do it, but the idea is we look in to it with those goals in mind.

The last thing is also with housing, and again it's a clarification because we have talked about promoting energy efficiency in construction of new homes and renovations of existing housing, and we thought existing housing stock would include rental housing. The Village Board wanted us to bring that out a little more. So, rental housing units are clearly included in the existing housing inventory.

Mayor Randall: Just to clarify that, the thought we had is that as we encourage development of new housing, affordable housing for worker levels families, we have an existing inventory of rental, especially apartment rental properties that there is never seems to be any grant opportunities to improve those properties. As we continue to add new, those are only going to degrade further and that is contrary to the better interest of the Village. Although I'll admit, and

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Roby might agree and Bob that sometimes when that happens, better uses are found for the properties that are not keeping up. There are a couple way to look at that, but I felt for a while that we have done quite a bit with grant funding, even though community block grants or through the IEEP programs to get at least the Village properties some help and there never seems to be much help out there for the buildings that are apartment type rentals.

Dean Dietrich: Those are the types of things that have been discussed in terms of changes so far. I guess I should also say the document is the document and most of the document is “shoulds” and not “shalls” or “mays”. The power of the document is really comes from public opinion and has wonderful power of good ideas. If they are good ideas, they will take off with or without us. Thirdly, it does open up some grant opportunities. For instance, the language for the first change and the second and last change opens up some grant opportunities because if you are going to get grants nowadays, it has to be in line with the regional plan and the comprehensive plan. Otherwise, it just doesn’t fly. If you want to react to these changes, then I can address any other concerns you might have. I don’t have an agenda because I do not know what your concerns are.

Supervisor Politi: I don’t have any problem with the document at all if it’s from the sense that we will investigate each and every one of the objectives because I don’t agree with a number of objectives that are either being done, even in the form of sharing, or five year management plans within Departments we are already doing and I am sure the Village is already doing, but I am sure this wish list came out of a group of ideas – maybe we should address this, this and this, not necessarily knowing whether those things were being done. Such as, the Advisory Committee – well I have requested formally the Governor and the Chairman to establish Advisory Committee now on at least two occasions.

Councilman Miller: And at the last meeting, they decided that they are finally going to put it together, but it’s something we have been working on, encouraging

Supervisor Politi: That’s something you wouldn’t necessarily know but that’s something I have been working on to get it done anyway. But the other issue for both the Village and the Town is always cost and the unfortunate part about cost today is this ridiculous tax cap and as you and I discussed the special benefit districts count against us – the park district, sewer and water districts. Areas where you should be spending money to benefit the people who live in our community are penalized because those dollars spent count against the tax cap which is ridiculous, but that is the way it is, so both the Village Board and the Town Board have to always be considering the ramifications to the taxpayers. From the stand point that why don’t we investigate .....

Dean Dietrich: Sometimes a Comprehensive Plan is called a blueprint and it is a blueprint in a sense because it can change like blueprints can change and its more of an agenda than anything else. It does tie our hands in one way – that if you say for instance we are going to look at

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public pathways. It means you really shouldn't pass any legislation that is going to prevent public pathways. I can't even imagine what that would be, but we wouldn't give away all of our rights of way because that's in opposition to the Comprehensive Plan. I have trouble understanding what you would possible do that would be in opposition to the Comprehensive Plan. Basically, it says the things you do at least have to follow what's there.

Supervisor Politi: The Mobility section, in my opinion, is excellent.

Dean Dietrich: Jeanne Brennan, who is here, is the mobility Chairman.

Jeanne Brennan: What is the next step? That's what you are talking about. What do we do? How do we begin?

Councilman Miller: If you look at the language, one of my concerns is it says explore the idea of a Municipal Manager. If we are exploring it, that is fine, but then we get in to another issue where it says require utility lines associated. It does not say explore the idea of burying lines, it says "require" and "offer subsidies". So are we passing this with the idea that these are things that we should explore?

Mayor Randall: I will tell you that burying primary overhead lines is very expensive. On the other hand, the old plan in 1997 had that in there and we have progressed gradually in that direction when we had funding, like that Mirror Lake Section. I read this and interpret it to mean that any residential permit that was issued would have underground service. That would be good and could be desirable.....

Councilman Miller: But my concern is the bigger picture.....are we doing like Roby suggested – are we looking at this plan as ideas we need to explore because it does not say explore, it says this is what we want done.

Dean Dietrich: I think Mayor Randall answered that because that has been in their since 1996 and they have done what they could and it's not like you are going to come to 100% but you do what you can when possible.

Supervisor Politi: I think the Planning Board requires everything underground anyway...

Dean Dietrich: It does, for development whenever possible. There is some language where it says if it's going to be really costly, like go over a lake or something, of course. But, basically for new developments.....

Supervisor Politi: I think any time we can do it and it's financially feasible to do it, it behooves us to do it.

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Jeanne Brennan: Everything is up for review too. There is a Review Board so everything in every plan you write can be questioned.....

Councilman Miller: Are we doing it as Roby suggested or are we looking at this as things to explore.

Dean Dietrich: I think that what that document says is that you have to look at everything and ask are we going to be able to require it. You move toward the goal of the Comprehensive Plan and if you can't do it, you can't. But at least it makes you ask the question everything you do something. Can we bury the line?

Councilman Rand: These are objectives and ideas to explore, we are not saying it's the law and we have got to do it. But how are we going to do this. I want it to go further than just a discussion at this table.

Supervisor Politi: I want this to go further than just a discussion at this table. How are we going to do this?

Julie Ball: When we were writing this, we looked at the previous Comprehensive Plan and almost all of that was completed. So how did we do the last one? Then we can formulate a plan from what we did before.

Supervisor Politi: Ultimately, it is not going to get done by the Town and Village Board. Only in a legislative way.

Dean Dietrich: There are a couple of things. One of the nice things that happened is that you guys have supported the Development Commission and there are some initiatives that we have already done. We are thinking about a welcome. We have Bill Borzelleri working on a welcome gathering. We are going to put some input in to the school long range plan. We have a public pathway initiative and there is a map out there and Jean has been in touch with Paul Smiths and the idea is that Paul Smiths can take all of those maps so that we will have one map which will show you this is where we needs rights of way or a sidewalk or a need to improve the surface so we are taking those things on. The Rotary Club is taking on the bike path. We have a meeting with Merci-Care and they are going through to see what they can do for us. So the idea we are talking about is that you are already doing something, that's fine, but it's a matter of coordination. We as a community development commission are going to take on as much as we can. We are volunteers, which is why we call for eventually replacing us with perhaps a planning office down the line. We keep reviewing the document and move forward. One of the things that I want to do that is called for in the by-laws is that the Community Development Commission comes to you every year and make suggestions as to what needs to be done.

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Supervisor Politi: I'd rather we saw you every 6 months or twice a year. That would give us enough time for the Planning Board to be able to say we have issues here and there. Then suggestions are made and it's a moving document.

Dean Dietrich: Alright, we can do that. Our thought is that we had a constant communication with Jay and Art and we can come to you with recommendations.

Councilman Rand: We can give a monthly report and every six months, we get everyone together, if necessary.

Supervisor Politi: And say we are recommending, for instance, the following 5 things or whatever it is.

Trustee Leon: You are suggesting, in a sense, a partnership from the Village and Town Board with the Commission. I don't believe the responsibility ought to be on us. It should be a partnership between the community and its legislators.

Dean Dietrich: There are some things you guys needs to do that we cannot do. For instance, upgrade this building so that we could have a nice meeting area but we can tell you that something that's on a list and remind you of it every now and then. It might be 10 years before you get the money to do it, but if you keep it in the forefront of your thoughts, you might be better off. We understand that some of this is going to fall through because we are going to find out that this seems like a good idea and if you look at the details, it just wasn't a good idea.

Councilman Miller: The thing is there are so many suggestions here; we are not going agree on every one of these. I think it will be pretty difficult to get 5 members of two different boards to all agree that we need to implement every one of these suggestions. To go back to my question, if I am voting in support of this document, I am voting in support knowing that there are going to be some items here that I do not agree with.

Dean Dietrich: I think you have to look at the document as a whole. If there is enough in there that you do not agree with, it's a personal decision and you have to vote no.

Jeanne Brennan: Also, there can be changes. That's why we are bringing here. If there is verbiage you want changed.

Supervisor Politi: The only issue to me is that you have a vote to approve it and my friends in the press automatically say Town and Village vote to expand police or this and that. But, there are issues that we are unlikely, because of representation of our constituents that probably is going to be difficult to accomplish under two separate governments.

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Councilman Miller: On the whole, this is a wonderful document and people have put a lot of time and effort in to providing wonderful suggestions, but there are certain things like the police department that I disagree with. But I am going to have to vote for something looking at its entirety knowing that I am going to be confronted in Hannaford by someone saying I can't believe you voted to support the Town now paying for the police department.

Dean Dietrich: In this particular case, you are voting for investigating this.

Supervisor Politi: It's likely that we will come to an agreement at some point, but it may take time and change in attitude and change in costs etc. I think as an investigatory document, it's wonderful.

Dean Dietrich: That's the thing, it is an agenda, we do what we can and what we agree on we do and I understand that things don't get done. I think Julie is correct- if you look at the 1996 plan, about 95% of it has been accomplished. It took 10 years to get the walk way around Mirror Lake. If that allays some of your fears, I wish to do that. I think you are tying your hands to this document to the point where you cannot go against the plan.

Trustee Devlin: Wasn't that the intention of the whole Board is to be reactive and keep growing and it can change?

Trustee Leon: So that means the change process would require a vote on both sides.

Supervisor Politi: The government structure is the more controversial of the aspects of the document. The other sections are very easy to deal with, in my opinion.

Dean Dietrich: An example in the Mobility section is the GPS trackers in the trolleys. They are there and you can purchase an app for that.

Supervisor Politi: Craig and I have talked about that. There are solar signages at the stops where you can take an Iphone and click on to it and it tells you how far out the Trolley is from stopping. That technology is available and may be available through a grant. I know Nancy was looking in to it.

Dean Dietrich: And having the language in the Comprehensive Plan makes it easier to get a grant. There is a lot of low-hanging fruit. We are going to try to do one thing this summer ...that is quicker and easy to accomplish and then try to do a longer range task or get a committee together to move in on a longer range task.

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Supervisor Politi: Some of these things with regard to electrical efficiency obviously I would say, unless Peter Kroha agrees, I would not even go there.

Dean Dietrich: A lot of things about housing efficiency – Peter met with our committee and we have the capacity to do an inventory of houses and tell them if you put a door in this will save you x number of dollars.

Supervisor Politi: I think that permits for rentals are an absolute necessity for safety and a lot of things. They shouldn't be parking on the lawns and there has to be carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms and we need to know if something goes wrong, who do you call? No one ever knows because the owner is never there.

Dean Dietrich: We have a head start on this. A few years ago, we had kids from Cornell come in and they did a study of 50 to 60 different communities and gave us a model that they used and the approach and cost, etc. We have basic understanding.

Mayor Randall: I know I saw a document that Emily Kilburn put together as a thesis, and there is a lot of good material in there that should not go to waste.

Supervisor Politi: I thought that was a very interesting point you made today. Once you grant a permit, like the city of Rochester, you have a point system where if there are violations.

Dean Dietrich: If you leave your trash out or there is a noise complaint, you get x number of points and after a while, they just yank your permit to rent.

Supervisor Politi: That hanging over some landlords heads is going to solve a lot of problems. I have the same problem with live music in Raybrook. The only way to resolve the problem is a penalty of some kind. When it's a financial penalty, it's amazing how the problem goes away.

Dean Dietrich: I am sensing a go ahead from both Boards. What we would do is establish it and look at the number of people interested in serving on it.....

Mayor Randall: I think its significant part of the population in the community would endorse that today based on the observations that we hear regularly.

Dean Dietrich: We had series public, informational meetings for the land use codes and a second series with the Community Development Board and the Comprehensive Plan and it was always there.

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Trustee Holderied: For the traditional housing or weekly rentals.

Dean Dietrich: The impact of rental units on neighborhoods – mostly weekly vacation rentals - short term rentals.

Trustee Holderied: It needs to be decided how many parking spaces they need per the maximum numbers of occupants. It has to be part of the zoning.

Supervisor Politi: Another thing that has always bothered me is salt around the Lake, even when I was Mayor. You can't get the State to stop.

Dean Dietrich: Georgia Jones and Mirror Lake Watershed Assn have taken that initiative. That's already in the works.

Mayor Randall: It's a costly thing and we are continuing to do the engineering to get to a point where we can replace all those storm drains that dump directly in to Mirror Lake. That is a long term and constant project. We have done some of the work already like the storm drain that went in from Hampton Inn out. Brad and I met this morning and discussed other problems with drainage in Mirror Lake which are potentially rearing their heads and we are going to have to address that and figure out a way to alternatively drain the lake temporarily. That reminded me that we put that storm drain in last year and I asked Brad what the elevation of the storm drain versus the lake drain because maybe that will be our temporary fix or maybe a permanent fix, I don't know, it's an engineering issue. The big issue is right out here where we have a sinkhole developing and the condition of the pipe under those buildings isn't good. There are some temporary fixes and slightly longer term fixes and then there is maybe a potential worse situation.

Supervisor Politi: Obviously, at some point you want to correct the situation that exists with sewer lines – like they run right through my basement on Main Street, but it's pretty hard to do it right now – it would cost a fortune.

Mayor Randall: And that's a grant we got last year for just doing the inventory of what's there. The problem with some of these is that we have to do the planning now to be prepared for whenever the State decides to move on some of their stuff on Main Street. And I agree with you, Dean that having these things in this plan does help us when writing the grant because we can refer them back to that.

Supervisor Politi: Dean, how do you foresee how this would work in terms of working toward fulfilling these objectives going forward, with various committees? One committee? A group just working on one objective and one on another?

Dean Dietrich: All of the above. Sometimes, I believe it would be a collaborative partnership between the Community Development Commission and the Board and what we have done is sometimes had adhoc committee. I can envision the rental committee being an ad hoc

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committee – some realtors, hotel owners and interested citizens. Maybe that committee works for a while and goes. Sometimes its existing people like the Historic Society who took on the Historic Walk. Rotary will take on some things, etc. Sometimes it has to be the Town and Village Boards. When we came to you for the By Laws for the Development Commission we wanted some flexibility in the numbers. A GIS initiative – it would be nice is we got a couple of people on that Board.....

Julie Ball: The numbers in the Boards do change because depending on what the project will be. Like the housing, that is not going to be one or two people making these decisions. You have to get the parties involved but that includes the community.

Supervisor Politi: I am trying to get an idea of how you foresee it moving forward. Because one of the things I hate is to do something like this and then I find I have a whole cabinet full of these kinds of things that has stalled. We don't want it to stall. And yet, Town and Village Boards really cannot get involved in zoning matters in any zoning matters, other than giving direction, appointing and legislating. Dean comes and says we need to change the following things noted in the Comprehensive Plan that need to be modified or changed which would require a change in the Law.

Dean Dietrich: There are two things in the zoning area – one is to talk to the APA about their zoning. When we did our zoning, we looked at Raybrook as being a bedroom community for the two communities. APA zoning kind of makes that more difficult and we can talk to them a little bit about that. The other thing that came up in our public planning meetings was perhaps more dark sky initiative. What happens with lighting is that the generations of lighting gets better and better so the stuff you write one year, you get better non reflective lights and less glare the next year, so you have to keep up with the technology.

Supervisor Politi: How about expansion of the Hamlet area?

Dean Dietrich: It's something to talk to the APA about. There is a mapping initiative over there. That's long range.

Supervisor Politi: You have answered my questions. I think the specific issues for me come up at another time with a committee that approaches governmental structure. These are the objections that were noted - can we get there or not? That is something that would have to be discussed.

Dean Dietrich: Absolutely.

Mayor Randall: I realize the Community Development group has no staff and that is tough, but one of the things that I look at in here that I think would be helpful, and it's a step further than what Roby was suggesting – the twice a year sit down – is if all of these goals were prioritized

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in terms of their immediacy or not, and a display that would show the status of each at any given time. Today, 6 months from today, 5 years from today – where do we stand, and the priority will tell us if we had something high on the front burner or sort of on the back burner but it's something that's maybe moving along.

Dean Dietrich: I think to keep track we need some kind of a spreadsheet, I agree. A spreadsheet is something you look at in terms of prioritizing. We have talked about that a lot. What rises to the top tends to be the thing that gets done, so we have to take a look at it.

Mayor Randall: There are many items in the plan where things are in motion and process. But, maybe not finished. You evaluate where you are in the process of moving it to completion versus the priority you assign to it so that you have some idea not criticizing something that has not moved because it does not need to right away.

Jeanne Brennan: Prioritizing is a good idea because then it gives us all a vision, but it should probably be done by the three joint boards together.

Mayor Randall: I would start with the main government structure and function and look at those and that particular focus within the group might start the process and share with other interested parties and see if we can come to a consensus on it. Just to get some idea so that somebody picking this up today might think we are working on every one of these right now. It can be a very effective tool if we could afford a Community Development Officer. You had an interesting role because you not only have been instrumental in the development of the new land codes, now you are doing the comprehensive plan and your knowledge is vastly better than certainly mine would be.

Trustee Leon: As far as prioritizing, it may behoove you to identify certain items that you feel can be accomplished and then build momentum.

Dean Dietrich: I don't know as I would prioritize them 1, 2, 3 but I think you could do it like short term, medium term, and long term. If you start saying 1, 2, 3 it get freaky. You can say look if we are going to look at dissolution of a village or looking at the judicial system, it's going to be two or three years at least. That is better than saying this is the first thing we want to do. Because it will be determined a lot by money.

Mayor Randall: That creates another column which is resources required.

Dean Dietrich: We may be a little ahead of ourselves because I wanted to get the Community Development Board established as a viable entity so we wanted to get some things done right away, which are going to be the easier things. Then we will get ourselves established in the community as somebody who knows what they are doing.

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Jeanne Brennan: In the Plan there might be some situation where you say ok we really have to focus on this now because we are having a crisis and that's when you come to us and say ok we need to rally. It might flux, but setting some type of priority keeps you going.

Julie Ball: We have already started to prioritize. It's a good idea to have an actual list.

Trustee Holderied: I'd like to see government function, like Craig said, then catalog the weekly rentals, like tourist housing and making sure we do not have twenty people in a house with three beds, and 10 cars where it should be 4 in the parking lot.

Trustee Leon: It's just my opinion, but I would like to move in a more eco sustainably community.

Jeanne Brennan: This is the GIS system. We have a lot of pieces to it and that is where it would cost a lot of money to do this.

Mayor Randall: There is all kind of GIS activity. I look at it and my first thought when I read it is that we are doing some things already.

Jeanne Brennan: Paul Smiths College is right here and they teach this course. We can't afford someone to do this, but we can try to make it a project for Paul Smith College students.

Mayor Randall: The County is piggybacking on our Trolley GIS which we are happy to have them do.

Dean Dietrich: And we had Cornell come in and did a nice job with a GIS map of all of the sidewalks, walkways, handicapped, there's a shoulder, not a shoulder, etc.

Mayor Randall: Now all we need is a completed map of where our sewer and water lines are.

Jeanne Brennan: Yes, and that can be added to. Those are the project we can work with the kids on.

Mayor Randall: Some of these things, as you get in to them, you will find, and it will be important that you interface with the governing bodies because we have pieces of it that may already working or in place that would eventually add up to a whole map.

Jeanne Brennan: Their first road block is the computer system we have here. Cornell did this already for us. We already have a bunch, but it won't fit on our computers up here so Jim Morganson still uses the old way. The memory in the computer is antiquated. It's about \$1,000 to get a new computer system. I talked to the people at Paul Smiths and they said any of the new computers would handle what we are talking about.

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Dean Dietrich: Any other specific issues you want to bring up? Or how do we proceed if we are wrapping up this meeting, if there are no other issues. How do we move forward?

Supervisor Politi: I don't think the Town has any problem approving what you have done from an investigatory standpoint that we are going to look in to each and every one of these things. The bigger issues for us are more Town and Village oriented. And it really comes down to the concept of one or two governments. Some people want one and some want two. I think that's a huge issue and if we know that is not going to change, we have to work to figure out how we are going to do it in a way, unfortunately with this tax cap thing, it doesn't affect how we can make financial decisions without hurting everyone. Unfortunately, there is very little thought gone in to it from a special district standpoint.

Mayor Randall: At least in our respective communities.

Supervisor Politi: I have the Park District which is basically financially in huge trouble because of the amounts of money it has to pay to ORDA which is fine, but it counts against all of us. To me, it's a special district, that's why it was formed. Water and sewer districts – if the Village Board decides they need to replace 2000 feet of sewer line, why does that count against everyone? That is crazy, because that's a benefit for everybody.

Dean Dietrich: It especially helps communities like ours that have been fairly efficient....

Supervisor Politi: Here's the problem, communities like ours which are old to put sewer lines in in 1900 or 1910 and have decaying lines can't improve their lines because we are handcuffed by the tax cap and if you go over the tax cap, it makes everyone out to be the enemy of the public.

Trustee Leon: You essentially have to ask the State or federal government to do what.....

Supervisor Politi: Exactly, they should have used a little more thought when they did it, but they did it so fast.

Dean Dietrich: and I hear what you are saying. What I just heard was is that one of the committees we should get up and running right away is to move forward with the question of dissolution. We can do that. The first step would be to get some professional help and some knowledge before we can move forward.

Supervisor Politi: That committee is not going anywhere with anything unless one of two things happen. Either there is a majority of the Village Board that is of the opinion that we do that or there is a petition by village tax payers to move it in that direction.

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There was a further group discussion about dissolution vs consolidation language.

Dean Dietrich: In order for either the Village Board members to make a reasonable decision, the facts have to be out there. That is one thing that we could do as a Development Board. We could say if you move this direction here is what will happen to jobs, taxes, and services. We could get that information and then what you do with it after that is up to you. Even if we get that information and people decide not to move on it, that is still a worthwhile objective and effort. I would think something like that requires more than our expertise or yours. CGR comes to mind. They do a lot of studies and there are grants out there for that.

Supervisor Politi: I think Peter is right on the one thing, if I am a Village Board Member, I certainly would like to know how the public feels, and yet I don't think you can have a referendum, you can't bring it to a vote. I just don't know if you can have a vote just to decide whether you are going to do it, but there has to be some way to find.

Trustee Holderied: There has to be public funding to do this consolidation. If we have the referendum from the public, it should be easier to get funding.

Mayor Randall: The school had a straw poll the other night. You don't pull the lever as you walk in.....

Dean Dietrich: They give you a piece of paper as you walk out and it's not an official vote either. If that is where you want to go first, that is where we will go. We serve at your pleasure.

Supervisor Politi: I think the public always has this problem – they don't understand the concept of two governments. If we can figure out a way that benefits everyone, it would be more efficient.

Mayor Randall: My reluctance to even talk about dissolution is how you can talk about it if you can't produce of expected outlines.

Councilman Miller: Like what the school does, if you have a Village election, you set up a table by the door and ask people if they are interested in dissolution of the Village government, yes or no? They don't even know what that means because they don't know the impact of that is. We have to do the research first and educate the public, and then ask the question.

Supervisor Politi: The people of the Town are going to end up paying more money. That is just the way it is, but it may lead to more efficiency. But they need to know and the Village taxpayer needs to know how it will affect them. The other things, like the size of the Board and who runs it, etc., will be easy to work out.

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Trustee Leon: It's the resident's choice to make.

Trustee Devlin: None of know how much more the Town would have to pay. This is the perfect example of the needs to get in to it and find the answers.

Supervisor Politi: The Town has to pay more because it will absorb the services, but the Village taxpayer would be paying less, for the same reason. However, I have no idea would it would be. I don't think it will be a lot.

Trustee Devlin: In Seneca Falls, the Town has the right to make districts, you can keep everything the way it is right now. Nothing would change. That's an example what happened there, it did not do them any good. All of this has to be looked at together, unless you have a plan, there is no way to know if you really want it or not.

Mayor Randall: This is a great topic. Whether we use the word dissolution, consolidation or shared, all of it comes out of the same type of approach which is to look and see where there are economies that scale and if so, how do you bring them to the table.

Trustee Holderied: Annexation might be a better idea because the Village owns most of the infrastructure. Maybe it would be easier going that way. Except for the Saranac Lake problem.

Mayor Randall: But again, the idea is, are there benefits in creating one. Emotionally, I would like to see all of Lake Placid as one unit.

Councilman Rand: Does North Elba become Lake Placid? So it will say welcome to Lake Placid over in Saranac Lake?

Discussion took place among everyone.

Mayor Randall: I would personally like to see us look at the opportunities to put the two governments together in an administrative way because we do duplicate each other in a lot of ways.

Trustee Holderied: Often times we do not know what the other one is doing.

Group discussion took place.

Dean Dietrich: I don't think you are comfortable moving now, but you can move on this document separately, separate meetings as long as it's passed both ways.

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Supervisor Politi: We will discuss it on Tuesday in two weeks but unless you guys think otherwise, I cannot envision the Town Board saying that....

Councilman Miller: There are certain things in here, I know, that if it came before the Board, as an example, about trees and trying to eliminate diseased trees and maybe setting up a commission to decide what you can and cannot cut down and if that has to do with private property, well that is something that I would shy away from. But, if I am voting for this as an exploratory document to say that will be brought before your board at a later date and then the Board can either vote aye and nay, then I am comfortable say that this is a wonderful documents for us to work with.

Dean Dietrich: And your later example is exactly what the document says – to explore the things....

Supervisor Politi: I think Bob and Tim would say the same thing. We'd like to do this but what is the right language because we do not want to have a situation either.

Dean Dietrich: We did a couple of things in terms of laying the ground work for that. One of the Cornell kids that was here did 20 different communities in terms of language that deals with vegetative maintenance. You can make homeowners, for instance, shovel their sidewalks, or cut the vegetation to keep the stop signs visual, so you can do those kind of things and you can also have a process where you declare a tree diseased like you declare a building derelict.

Group discussion took place....

Mayor Randall: Bob, you are correct, there are items in the document that are beyond the reach of government without legislation. Again, Roby, you commented earlier that our rolls here are largely legislative. I have been thinking recently about our intersections and some kind of standards for corners and signs so that they are not in tree branches and no vision when you are trying to enter a side street.

Dean Dietrich: One other thing I can give you to consider is Tim Smith who is working on this as an in-service, has drafted two documents, both of these are short Environmental Assessment Forms – one names the Village as the lead agency and one names the Town. It does not matter which way you decide to go, but one has to be the lead agency for SEQR. This is the form required. The language you would need before you pass this as a document is “The proposed comprehensive plan amendment is an unlisted action under part 617 of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Regulations implementing the SEQR Act and you further note that the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan amendments to not result in any significant adverse impacts on the environment, it is therefore a negative impact for purposes of SEQR”. So, that line in the resolution is necessary in terms of the SEQR.

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Ted Morgan: So the Village is thinking the same as the Town - that you don't see any major problems and you are probably going to be moving forward?

Mayor Randall: Speaking for the Board, I would say that we will probably have some further discussions. We have a meeting coming up and I would think that the decision come subsequent to that. Obviously this has got to be reviewed.

Councilman Rand: The language that the Village adopts it under should be same as the Town.

Mayor Randall: The earliest the Board could look at it is at our meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

Dean Dietrich: There is nothing to stop us from moving forward. We have the Development Commission and I think what I heard here is that that group should move forward looking at gaining knowledge about dissolution or consolidation. We should also move forward on the rental permit system. So we will take that as a direction. By the end of the summer, we will be able to give you reports on the progress of both of those.

There being no further business before the Village or Town Boards, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Clark, Clerk  
Village of Lake Placid