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## NEWS

# Barneveld village votes to dissolve

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**BARNEVELD** — Voters in the village of Barneveld voted overwhelmingly in favor Tuesday to dissolve their village — though it could be months before the breakup occurs.

Out of the 66 ballots cast in Tuesday's referendum, 54 votes were in favor of dissolving the 224-year-old village, according to Village Clerk Stanley Harris. A petition to get the dissolution underway was filed in April; from here, Harris said he will certify the vote and send the results to the New York state Department of State.

Barneveld — which recorded an estimated population of 281 in 2016, according to the latest federal Census Bureau data available — resides within the town of Trenton. Had the village voted against the move, another petition toward dissolving the village would have had to wait four years.

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Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente said Tuesday that dissolution is not about taking away a village's "identity" or services.

"It's how it is done better and more efficient and at a lower cost, and I think the dissolution will show that," he said.

Harris said the village's goal is to dissolve by the end of the calendar year with aims to coincide with Trenton's budget cycle.

Once the vote is certified, Harris said village officials will begin work on a dissolution plan to make arrangements for village assets, such as office supplies and any cash accounts. Options for jettisoning those items, he said, could include selling them to the town.

Notably, Harris said the plan will outline how Trenton would absorb the village's water treatment plant and associated water system assets as well as the fates of the village's two paid employees, both of whom work part time. Trenton Supervisor Joseph Smith said in April that the process would involve the town picking up another water district.

The village has a maximum of a 180 days to create a dissolution plan, Harris said. A public hearing will occur at some point after the document is published. After that, the Village Board will consider the public comments and make any modifications to the plan prior to adopting it with a proposed dissolution date.

If a petition is not then brought forth against breaking up the village, Barneveld will dissolve as scheduled.

*Follow @OD\_Mason on Twitter or call him at 315-792-5074. Reporter Alex Gerould contributed to this story.*