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Fort Shawnee officially dissolves this weekend

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The hours are ticking away for the village of Fort Shawnee. The official time of dissolution-- midnight Friday going into Saturday-- was announced during a Thursday afternoon news conference.

Nineteen part time employees were given termination notices Wednesday and will be out of a job on Friday evening.

Fort Shawnee has struggled with financial problems for the last several years. In November residents voted to dissolve, and return services to Shawnee Township. Officials originally said the process could take months, but the state auditor's office, who is working on the process with the township and Fort Shawnee, is moving quickly.

Shawnee Township will take over all services on Saturday morning. Mayor Pete Mariotti says village ordinances will become null and void and township ordinances will take effect over the weekend.

Even though services and assets will be transferred, final audits and paperwork must still be completed. There is no set timeline for that, but auditor's officials told the mayor and township trustees their goal is to be finished by year's end.

Most village signs have already been removed. Officials are now trying to figure out what to do with them, and how to best preserve the memory of the Fort while also moving forward.

Many Fort Shawnee residents were frustrated by the village's contract for garbage services. That contract will become void like all other village ordinances. Residents will then be able to pursue whatever garbage hauler they would like.

Shawnee Township is looking into possibly hiring for extra police service and road crews. However, Fort Shawnee village employees must apply like any other applicant.