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Sewer costs fan drive to dissolve village of Barneveld

Officials, residents say anticipated approval by voters may reduce tax burden, help stimulate economy



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VILLAGE LIMITS — Voters prepare for today's referendum in Barneveld. Barneveld residents will have their say on the proposal until 9 p.m. tonight. Voting is at the village



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Posted Tuesday, June 6, 2017 4:00 pm

Mac Bullock, Sentinel Intern

BARNEVELD — Voters in the village of Barneveld expect today's referendum to officially dissolve the local government into the town of Trenton. The dissolution, driven largely by calls for a new sewer system, is also expected by locals to stimulate the area's economy.

Village Mayor Rob Hollenbeck, who has come out in favor of dissolution, stressed the redundancy of the village administration in the run-up to the vote. "There's really just no reason for the village government. There's no need for it," he said.

Hollenbeck confirmed with Trenton officials that the village's sewer replacement plan would be carried out by the town government if the referendum passes.

"We've got a sewer plan, and we've applied for grants, and the town will take it over after the vote."

Former Village Mayor William Hinge said he has heard from voters on both sides of the dissolution issue, and that a vote to dissolve the village "wouldn't be a bad thing." "We would still have our identity; we would still be Barneveld," Hinge said.

"The town would be good to us."

Hinge also believes that the village's sewer system will be the deciding factor in today's election. "The big problem for here is sewage."

Jodi Hudon of Hudon's Sled Salvage, the town of Trenton's largest employer, believes that the new sewage system that will likely follow dissolution could stimulate the local economy. "That's what would bring more business into Trenton. That is the big issue," Hudon said on Monday. "This is the gateway to the Adirondacks. They really need to have more going on here."

Hudon also said she believes the sewer replacement would create opportunity for businesses seeking to start in or expand to the Trenton area.

Kurt Harvey of Mapledale, which is also within the Town of Trenton, agrees that dissolution and the sewer replacement is necessary for the area to thrive.





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The referendum follows a petition to dissolve the village after a decrease in the tax levy cap shrank the village's operating budget greatly. The budget reduction, in addition to the need for a new sewage system, led to calls for dissolution into the surrounding town of Trenton.

Voting will take place from noon until 9 p.m. today in the village offices at 8520 Old Poland Road. It will take a simple majority to approve the proposal.

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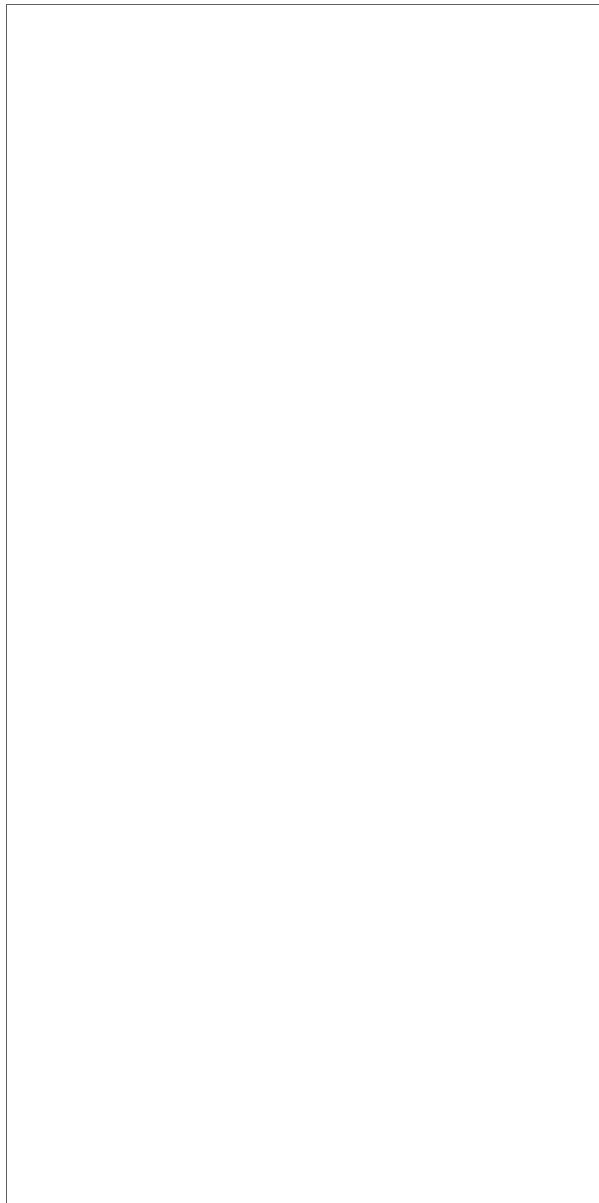


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