

[https://www.pressrepublican.com/news/port-henry-residents-give-dissolution-the-go-ahead/article\\_305cd9a0-6420-11e6-ac78-6732b1d37f64.html](https://www.pressrepublican.com/news/port-henry-residents-give-dissolution-the-go-ahead/article_305cd9a0-6420-11e6-ac78-6732b1d37f64.html)

## Port Henry residents give dissolution the go-ahead

By DENISE RAYMO and SUZANNE MOORE Press-Republican

Aug 16, 2016



PORT HENRY — A public referendum that approved the Port Henry dissolution plan has sealed the fate of the village.

The tally Tuesday night was 208 to 188, which means the municipality will turn over its operations and assets to the Town of Moriah and no longer exist after March 31, 2017.

Village Trustee James Curran had favored the move but all the same called Tuesday's decision "bittersweet."

But, he said, "I'm good with it. I respect everyone's vote."

### SECOND REFERENDUM

It has been a long, tough battle that began with a citizen-initiated petition calling for dissolution that was presented to the Village Board of Trustees for consideration last June.

A referendum held in October proved in favor of dissolution and resulted in the village generating a report on specifics on how dissolution would be carried out and the estimated costs and savings of doing so.

A public hearing in April approved the plan, but a subsequent petition drive forced the public referendum held Tuesday.

### TAXATION

The dissolution plan, as drafted and initially approved by the Village Board, states Port Henry property taxes will decrease 36.2 percent while taxes in Moriah, outside the village boundaries, will see taxes go up 34.2 percent.

But Moriah Town Supervisor Thomas Scozzafava said that increase was calculated on faulty figures, as the report did not use actual expenditures. He assured constituents that taxes would not go up because of the town's assumption of village governance.

## FIRE PROTECTION

With dissolution, all village government will be abolished, and the services and employees will mostly be incorporated into existing town operations.

The dissolution plan states the three fire departments that serve sections of Port Henry would merge into a fire district with fire commissioners appointed to govern it.

But Scozzafava said only the Port Henry Volunteer Fire Department will see technical tweaking, with the two protection districts it serves under contract to the town blended into one Port Henry Fire District.

There would be no change to the Moriah or Mineville-Witherbee fire departments, he said.

## 'COME TOGETHER'

The community was sharply divided over the dissolution issue, Curran said, "but now it's time for everybody to come together" for the sake of the town and what will become the Moriah hamlet of Port Henry.

"The people made their choice."

Email Denise Raymo:

[draymo@pressrepublican.com](mailto:draymo@pressrepublican.com)

Twitter: @DeniseRaymo



## TRENDING VIDEO

Press Republican Events

See All Events

Add your event

Tue, Mar 01


Wed, Mar 02

Wed, Mar 09

Fri, Mar 11

Sat, Mar 12



|   |     |     |  |     |     |     |  |     |     |   |     |     |                                    |  |
|---|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Champlain Valley Toastmasters Club</b><br>Plattsburgh Public Library           |     |     | <b>SUNY Plattsburgh: 3/2 4:00 PM Plattsburgh...</b><br>Plattsburgh, NY |     |     |     | <b>SUNY Plattsburgh: 3/9 3:00 PM Plattsburgh...</b><br>Plattsburgh, NY |     |     | <b>SUNY Plattsburgh: 3/11 Plattsburgh State...</b><br>Plattsburgh, NY |     |     | <b>SUNY P Plattsbi</b><br>Plattsbu |  |
|  | TUE | WED | THU  | FRI | SAT | SUN | MON  | TUE | WED | THU   | FRI | SAT | SUN                                |  |
|   | 1   | 2   | 3  | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7  | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13                                 |  |