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## Village residents vote to dissolve Limestone

By Patrick Connolly  
Special to the Olean Times Herald  
Oct 14, 2009

**LIMESTONE** - The village of Limestone will soon be under the governmental control of the town of Carrollton, as village residents voted Tuesday to go ahead with the dissolution plan.

From 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., officials held the special election, which had been postponed from its original date of Sept. 26, at the village office.

Out of 97 voters, 71 voted in favor of the dissolution, said Limestone Mayor Jim Stoddard. He said 229 registered voters reside in the village.

"The numbers speak for themselves," Mayor Stoddard said. "We didn't want it to be decided on by 20 or 30 voters."

The majority vote means that officials will go ahead with the dissolution, ceasing the existence of the village after Dec. 31, 2010.

In the meantime, Mayor Stoddard said officials will seek guidance from consultants and lawyers to file the paperwork.

"The village board is going to do everything we can as we turn responsibility over to the town," Mayor Stoddard said, adding that the village will make a six-month budget in the next fiscal year due to the dissolution.

A majority "no" vote on Tuesday would have meant that officials would be forced to vote on the dissolution plan again.



“It’s a big relief to finally have it all done,” Mayor Stoddard said. “Now we know what direction we need to go.”

In late August, officials released a 27-page draft of the plan, which described its advantages and disadvantages.

The advantages included a 4 percent decrease in taxes for village of Limestone residents after dissolution, and a nearly 46 percent decrease in taxes for town of Carrollton residents, based on tax rates for a \$100,000 home.

The village of Limestone mayor and trustees positions would be eliminated, but a full-time maintenance worker, a part-time village clerk and a part-time youth recreation supervisor would be employed.

Also, the town would receive \$750,000 in state aid as part of the dissolution.

The disadvantages included less support for water and sewer systems, a loss of zoning and a loss of municipal identity.

In the summer of 2008, the idea for the plan started when 187 residents signed a petition in favor the village’s dissolution. Since then, officials have been holding both official and unofficial meetings and creating the plan.

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Mayor Stoddard thanked Chris Mackowski, chairman of the planning board; Rosemary Fowler, Limestone clerk; Sandy McAndrew, Carrollton clerk; and Dave Frederick, Carrollton clerk for all their work leading up to the vote.



“It’s been a big undertaking for everybody that’s been involved,” Mayor Stoddard said.

