



Village of Hermon considers dissolution

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BY SARAH HARRIS (AMERICAN HOMEFRONT REPORTER AND PRODUCER) (/NEWS/REPORTERS/37/SARAH-HARRIS),
IN HERMON, NY



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Hermon, NY, seen from above by Google Earth. Image: maps.google.com

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Mar 07, 2014 — Gov. Andrew Cuomo is encouraging smaller local governments to consolidate. And the St. Lawrence County village of Hermon may take him up on it. About 400 people live in the village, which is within the town of Hermon (pop. Around 1,100). The tiny village is beginning the process of deciding whether it makes sense to dissolve.

Hermon village mayor Cathy Race says Hermon's not like the larger village of Canton (pop. About 6,500), "where there's lots of stores and everything. We have Woody's and we have the Skunk's Nest and we have Community Bank and the library and that's about all we have."

She says the village doesn't have debt. And it doesn't offer many services. But it does have a lot of expensive projects on the horizon: "We have to upgrade our sewer system, we have a lot of roads that need work and sidewalks and we have a

bridge that needs to be replaced. It just wouldn't be feasible or affordable for the residents."

So the village is applying for a grant from the state to conduct a feasibility study on whether it makes financial sense to dissolve. They'll get help from the Development Authority of the North Country.

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**of Hermon considers
dissolution)**

If Hermon does dissolve, the village tax will disappear. And the town of Hermon will take over services.

Hermon isn't the first St. Lawrence county town to consider dissolving itself. The village of Edwards dissolved in 2011, for example, and other villages have decided against it.

Race says if they get the grant, the study will take about year. The findings would be presented to residents, who would then vote on the future of their village.

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**onpoint080** • 8 years ago

Ooh - comments about where people choose to live? Maybe they don't want to be in a crowded, increasingly un-rural village or town like Canton, Potsdam or Ogdensburg? The economic issue of village dissolution is certainly applicable, but where one chooses to live is not, in my opinion. It is sad that many of the old buildings have been destroyed, but let's not, at least, disparage the Hermon Heritage which has quite the praiseworthy history. Newspapers, businesses, places of worship, music and education, doctors, not to mention farming, belongs to it. Let's instead, try to find a way to rebuild and reconnect the people who live there with their village's past for future generations who are interested in history.

By the way, Hermon has an excellent physician today, Dr. Berk and his Health Center.

^ | ▾ • Share ›

**Michael Greer** • 8 years ago

The village government may indeed be useless, but that's not for me to decide. I think the more important question is, why do folks continue to live in these little places. They almost all work somewhere else. They all commute to their jobs somewhere else across the county. What's the draw? Why persist in a place where there are no services, no conveniences, no shopping, little culture, and no jobs??

^ | ▾ • Share ›

**Don Martin** • 8 years ago

Why waste the money on a study, the village is useless, just dissolve.

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