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# Brady Lake voters pull plug on village

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By **Brian Albrecht, The Plain Dealer**

Struggling Portage village faces the end Brady Lake will vote whether to dissolve

They can start taking down the signs tomorrow. Voters in Brady Lake Village voted 106-88 to dissolve the 90-year-old village. (Marvin Fong / The Plain Dealer)

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Voters in tiny Brady Lake Village, population 518, in Portage County, decided Tuesday 106-88 to disincorporate, ending a 90-year history since the village was founded.

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The vote was the second time in four years that residents had cast their ballots on the issue of dissolving the village, named for famed 18th-century Indian fighter Captain Samuel Brady.

Hal Lehman, village mayor for the past 22 years, was not surprised. "I knew it would be a close vote," he said. "I'm not happy, but you know it's something we can't control."

Lehman said the village's legal counsel will contact the Ohio attorney general Wednesday to find out what happens now. Many residents have speculated that for former village could become part of the surrounding Franklin Township.

Lehman noted that he will help in whatever transition develops.

"I just hope the people who voted for and against this can get together as a community," he said. "I'm not sure that's going to happen, but the Lord will get us through."

Supporters of dissolving the village had cited deteriorating road conditions, high taxes, budget cuts and quality of services in recent years as reasons for their effort.

Brady Lake resident Joe Becker, who had worked on the 2013 campaign to dissolve the village, said the vote this time was "a little bittersweet. Nobody wants to see the community going away, but I'm happy that it's going to be a positive change."

Linda Rothaermel, who had been against the first disincorporation effort but backed this one, commented, "I'm just very happy it's over with, and excited for a new future, a better future.

"I know a lot of people felt frustrated and just needed something new," she added.

"Realistically we know this will not be an overnight fix, but we're willing to sacrifice now to benefit more in the future. I don't have any fears."

Bob Howard said he had a sense that Brady Lake would vote for the disincorporation. "I'm not surprised," he said. "I guess we'll see now how quickly the roads get repaired, and we become part of Franklin Township. if we do.

"It's a change that was going to come. I don't think the village is large enough to survive in this environment," he added. "I only objected to the way it was done. I was and am concerned that it was a bit reckless.

"But I hope I'm wrong, and that it goes well."

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