

**GOAL: To create a newly incorporated community using the existing Town of New Paltz boundaries**

- The former Town and Village would function together as a single unit of government, a town-wide village with shared boundaries.
- Fully consolidating the Town and Village of New Paltz per [Village Law Article 2-200.2](#) and the "New NY Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act" in Article 17-A of the General Municipal Law, would result in a new coterminous municipality with a common history, economy, and vision for the future. One person would serve as both town supervisor and village mayor, and a single board of trustees would serve the entire community.
- The new coterminous municipality would function primarily as one body, but it will be required to continue to perform at least some of the functions of both bodies, as this would not be a dissolution.

**"BOARD-INITIATED CONSOLIDATION" involves approval of both the existing village and town governing boards, plus the approval of all the voters at a referendum (proposed for the November 2024 general election).**

**WHAT CHANGES (addressed in the Implementation Plan)**

*Combined offices will empower and support existing staff:*

- Building Department, Code Enforcement, Permitting
- Planning and Zoning Administration
- Buildings and Grounds
- Highway and Paving
- Water and Sewer
- Finance and Bookkeeping
- Clerks' Office

**WHAT STAYS THE SAME**

*No material changes to these already shared major functions:*

- Assessor
- Fire Department

- Police Department
- Justice Court
- Town Water and Sewer districts (accounting/debt service)

**OPPORTUNITIES**

- To maintain a central location for government operations, with space to host public gatherings and public meetings that is accessible via most methods of transportation, at the intersection of the core business district, SUNY campus, and a residential zone.
- To collaborate amongst elected officials and staff to identify savings for New Paltz's taxpayers and water & sewer ratepayers.
- To develop a truly forward looking communitywide comprehensive master plan that includes planning as it relates to zoning and design review, the management of finite resources like housing, water, sewer, and parking; as well as unified hazard mitigation protocols.
- To priority-rank capital projects and equipment purchases.
- To create maintenance and inspection schedules for commercial fire inspections, grease trap inspections, and rental properties.
- To improve and consolidate community messaging and public hearing noticing using newspapers, social media, and a single municipal website.
- To more effectively leverage our role as a SUNY host community which supports the region's only public residential university.
- To better support our nationally ranked K-12 school district which currently has 3 of 4 buildings in the Town, 3 of 4 buildings on Village water, and 1 of 4 buildings on Village sewer.
- To coordinate Main St decorations with downtown businesses.

**EFFICIENCY STUDY & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

- Apply to NYS for up to \$100,000 combined to the Local Government Efficiency Citizens Re-Organization Empowerment Grant (CREG) Program to 1) assist in

updating NP's government Efficiency Study from 2011 (Fairweather Report) and 2) develop an Implementation Plan, if the referendum is successful.

**ASSISTANCE from NYS CITIZENS EMPOWERMENT ACT**

- Town & Village combined tax levies of ~\$12m > \$6.7m so NP would be eligible for max CEA tax credit of \$1m per <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/STF/54>.
- Up to thirty percent (30%) of the annual CEA tax credit may be used for general municipal purposes which could include updating the Plattekill Avenue offices and former fire station, to locate staff at a single address to save the expense of renting offices for Clearwater Rd. This became an opportunity after both the new fire station and police station, with a new court, were recently constructed.
- The remaining seventy percent (70%) of such aid shall be used for local taxpayer relief.

**INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS & EXAMPLES**

- To help with the transition, current elected officials for Town and Village stay in office for at least 1 year if the referendum is successful and then a whole new single board of trustees with a mayor would need to be elected to serve the entire community at the next election.
- Integration of Town and Village services and laws would be allotted up to 2 years from the start of the Implementation Plan.
- NYS Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) will continue to be received per existing town and village allocations.
- NYS Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) continues as the two most important inputs for this allocation are local highway inventory mileage and motor vehicle registrations.
- The creation of a coterminous town-village will not affect the existence or boundaries of any school district, or change the levy or collection of taxes for any school district.
- Other coterminous town-villages in NYS include Mount Kisco, Harrison, Scarsdale, Green Island, and East Rochester.

**Sources:**

<https://dos.ny.gov/2020-2022-local-government-efficiency-citizens-re-organization-empowerment-grant-creg-program>  
<https://dos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/01/consolidation-and-dissolution-procedures-summary.pdf>

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/GMU/A17-A>  
<https://dos.ny.gov/legal-memorandum-lq06-coterminous-town-village>