

**TOWN OF LYNDON AND VILLAGE OF LYNDONVILLE
COMPARISON OF CURRENT TWO GOVERNMENTS
VS. ONE MERGED GOVERNMENT**

	Two Municipalities (now)	Merged Municipality (future)
Government(s) for Town of Lyndon, 36 square miles, population 5491	One government for entire town; additional government for Village of Lyndonville (within the town) 2.5 square miles, population 1136	One government for entire town
Name of municipalities	Town of Lyndon; Village of Lyndonville	Town of Lyndon
Post offices	Lyndonville, Lyndon Center, Lyndon Corner	Lyndonville, Lyndon Center, Lyndon Corner (this is a decision of USPS; not local governments)
Governing Boards	Town of Lyndon: Selectboard with 3 members; Village of Lyndonville: Board of Trustees with 5 members	Town of Lyndon: Selectboard with 5 members
Municipal Administrator	Village of Lyndonville hires one person to work part time. Town of Lyndon hires one person to work part time. Possibility exists for this role to be filled by two different persons.	One person spending full time for single municipality
Office of Treasurer	Village Treasurer elected by Village of Lyndonville; Town Treasurer elected by Town of Lyndon; possibility exists of two different persons being elected to these offices.	One person would be elected to the office of Treasurer.
Treasurer function; budget reconciliations, tax billing and collection	All standard accounting functions are performed for Village of Lyndonville. All standard accounting functions are performed for the Town of Lyndon.	All standard accounting functions would be performed for merged Town of Lyndon. Numerous cross billing functions will be eliminated.
Annual reports and audits	In house production of town report is \$1000; in house production of village report cost \$500. Town audit is \$4500. There is no audit of Village. Note: Annual audits are performed for the water and wastewater budgets, but expenses are covered by the enterprise funds.	A merged town report can be produced in house for \$1000 (\$500 savings). A merged town audit cost would remain at \$4500 Audits for enterprise funds are covered by user fees.
Office of Clerk	Village Clerk elected by Village of Lyndonville; Town Clerk elected by Town of Lyndon; possibility exists of two different persons being elected to these offices.	One person would be elected to the office of Clerk.

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Clerk function	All standard clerk functions are performed for Village of Lyndonville. All standard clerk functions are performed for the Town of Lyndon. In addition, land records are maintained for Town of Lyndon.	All standard clerk functions would be performed for the Town of Lyndon, including maintenance of land records.
Other elected officers	Village: Moderator, Town: Moderator, Listers, , Constables, Cobleigh Library Trustees, Sanborn School Fund Trustees, Justices of the Peace.	Town officers will remain. Village moderator will be eliminated.
Recall of Elected Officers	No provision in Village charter or state statute to allow recall of municipal officers.	Charter (Article III, 8) includes provision for recall of elected officers.
Administrative services (response to citizen or public inquiries, supervision of departments, project management)	Investigation needed to determine correct municipality and department; meetings with each department head in both Town and Village; project priorities may differ between Village and Town.	Much streamlined communications; fewer departmental meetings, fewer employees to supervise; clearer vision of project priorities.
Budgeting Process	No charter or state requirements regarding notice to the public or public participation (other than open meeting provisions).	Charter (Article VII) requires public meeting during budget preparation. Also requires notice before Town Meeting of revenues anticipated to be required from taxes and corresponding anticipated tax rate.
LED, Lyndonville Electric Department, ownership	Village of Lyndonville	Town of Lyndon
LED, Lyndonville Electric Department, governance	Board of Trustees of Village of Lyndonville	Ultimate governance by Selectboard of Town of Lyndon with more direct oversight from an appointed Board of Commissioners (3 members)
LED, Lyndonville Electric Department, operations	Professional management and staff defined by market needs	Professional management and staff defined by market needs
Water System	Owned by Village of Lyndonville; service area determined by Trustees and Village residents (voters) through budget process. Service area extends beyond the village. Account charges are determined by usage.	Owned by Town of Lyndon; service area determined by Selectboard and Town residents (voters) through budget process. Service area extends beyond the village. Account charges are determined by usage.

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Wastewater	Owned by Town of Lyndon; service area determined by Selectboard and Town voters through budget process. Service area extends beyond the village. Account charges are determined by usage.	Owned by Town of Lyndon; service area determined by Selectboard and Town voters through budget process. Service area extends beyond the village. Account charges are determined by usage.
Maintenance of roads and streets; water; wastewater	Village department has 4 full time, 1 winter seasonal and 1 summer seasonal employees who work on village streets, water, and wastewater projects. They have an open position for a working foreman. Town department has 6 full time and 1 winter seasonal employee who work on town highways..	One single department with current employees plus filled vacancy including a working Superintendent. Possibility of employees specializing in certain tasks rather than all "generalists". Greater flexibility in scheduling construction jobs, assigning personnel to tasks, and providing for vacation coverage. Possible reduction in overtime.
Fire Department	Volunteer firemen (who are paid when they work) with part time paid Chief. Entire town is covered. Entire town pays for equipment and service.	Volunteer firemen (who are paid when they work) with part time paid Chief. Entire town is covered. Entire town pays for equipment and service.
Police Department	1 Chief and 2 officers; 120 hours coverage; Complete town is covered; approximately 31% of hours are spent in responding to calls in the Village. Any increase in hours of service is dependent on budget approval by Town of Lyndon	1 Chief and 2 officers; 120 hours coverage; Police department responds to calls from the entire Town.. Any increase in hours of service is dependent on budget approval by Town of Lyndon
Ordinances	Town ordinances for entire town; village ordinances for village limits	Same ordinances will be in effect with authorization in the same jurisdiction as originally enacted
Parks and recreation	Some parks (Bandstand Park, Memorial Park) are owned and controlled by Village. Other parks and recreational facilities are owned jointly by town/village or just town, or a private organization (Powers Park, LOC, Chester Arena). The organized activities (baseball program, swim program, hockey, etc.) are funded by users with some support from Town of Lyndon general fund.	All parks currently publicly owned would be controlled by town-wide government. Organized activities would continue to be funded by users with some support from Town of Lyndon general fund.

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Planning/zoning	Current activities are authorized by Town.. Volunteer boards with two employee paid by Town.	Current activities are authorized by Town.. Volunteer boards with two employee paid by Town
Library	Operations are overseen by a Board of Trustees; funding comes from Town of Lyndon, grants, and some contributions from neighboring towns. .	Operations are overseen by a Board of Trustees; funding comes from Town of Lyndon, grants, and some contributions from neighboring towns. Proposed Charter Article III allows for one trustee to be a non resident.
Property Assessment	No separate Board of Listers exists for the Village of Lyndonville. Town of Lyndon listers cover all properties.	Town of Lyndon listers cover all properties.
Cemetery	Town of Lyndon function.	Cooperation with former Village department might lead to greater sharing of mowing equipment.
Grand Lists, 2022	Town of Lyndon: \$3,747,744 (\$374,774,400 property value) Minus Village Lyndonville:\$694,359 (\$69,435,900 property value) Equals Town Highway: \$3,053,835 (\$305,338,500 property value)	Town of Lyndon \$3,747,744 (\$374,744,400 property value).
Tax Rates, based on 2022 budgets	<p>ALL property owners pay Town of Lyndon tax rate of \$0.4613 in order to raise \$1,728,834.</p> <p>Village property owners also pay Village tax rate of \$0.8391 in order to raise \$582.637 Total municipal rate for Village tax payer is \$1.3004.</p> <p>Non village tax payers also pay Highway tax rate of \$0.3320 in order to raise \$1.013,724.. Total municipal rate for non village tax payer is \$0.7933.</p>	<p>Merged budget will require \$3,327,680 in taxes, resulting in a uniform tax rate of \$0.8879.</p> <p>For village tax payers this would be a decrease of \$0.4125/\$100 valuation (-\$825 on assessment of \$200,000)</p> <p>For non village taxpayers this would be an increase of \$0.0946/\$100 valuation (+\$189 on assessment of \$200,000).</p> <p>Using a special services district we could transition the tax rates over two years. This would mean non village payers would pay 0.8258, 0.8524, and 0.8879 in the third year. . Village payers would pay 1.1613, 1.0441,and 0.8879 in the third year.</p>

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Cost of water service	According to household usage	According to household usage
Cost of waste water service	According to household usage	According to household usage
Cost of electric service	According to household usage	According to household usage

09/09/22

Sources:

Town and Village reports, 2021 with projected 2022 budgets

Final 2022 tax rate calculations

Merger Investigation Committee, September 12, 2022

MPC status quo vs merged 2022.doc

