

HIGHLIGHTS OF LYNDON/LYNDONVILLE MERGER AGREEMENT, 2022

Current status

	Population	Area	Grand list
Village	1136	2.5 sq miles	694,359
Non village	4355	33.5 sq miles	3,053,835
Total town	5491	36 sq miles	3,747,744

Town of Lyndon charter: 1791

Village of Lyndonville charter: 1880

Expected results from merger:

More comprehensive management review and coordination, equalization of tax burden, service enhancements, operational savings.

Changes due to merger:

Will dissolve the Village of Lyndonville charter and create a new charter for the Town of Lyndon. T/L assumes all assets and liabilities of the Village.

Governance: Move from two boards (3 selectmen for the Town and 5 Trustees for the Village) to one governing board for the town with 5 members and one commission for the electric utility with 3 members. Water and wastewater management decisions will move from two boards to one (new selectboard).

Budgets: Move from three budgets (town wide, village, town highway) to one single budget for all functions.

Tax bases (and associated grand lists): Move from three to one.

Tax rates: Village taxpayers will see a \$0.41 decrease; non village taxpayers will see a \$0.095 increase. (Grand List for the Village only is about 1/5 of the non village, but their expenses are about 1/2). The merger charter includes a provision to transition these rates over three years.

No change due to merger:

Municipal services for combined town/village already exist for police, fire, library, cemetery, lists, planning, zoning.

Officers (clerk, treasurer, administrator) are the same person for the town and village although officially the offices are separate.

Fees for water, wastewater, electricity will not change because they are enterprise funds and financed by consumer fees; not property taxes.

Investigation, preparation, public agreement

Extensive investigation and analysis in 2005/2006. Merger proposal approved in 2006 by a vote of 927 to 838, then 3 months later overturned by a vote of 695 to 435. Renewed interest shown in 2021 and 2022 in public meetings. New investigation committee formed and adjustments were suggested to 2006 proposal. Several public hearings were held and voters approved the proposal in November, 2022 with a vote of 978 to 651.

mf, 04/01/23