

FACT SHEET

For the public hearing on the possible acquisition of the Hornby Congregational Church – Monday September 8 @ 6pm

The Hornby Congregational Church is shutting its doors and has offered the building to the Town of Hornby for use by the Hornby Historical Society.

The church is owned by itself, meaning no other organization nor group of people own the church. The church members have hired a lawyer to help with the legal paperwork of disposing/selling of the church. NYS has strict rules on disposal or sales of churches. The attorney general will have to approve of the sale or disposal of this church, and any resulting proceeds.

If the Town does not accept the church, the church will be sold to the highest bidder, and the proceeds distributed to a 501(c)(3) organization/church that NYS has approved. If this occurs, the town residents would not have a say as to how the church would be used, other than through the currently existing zoning law.

The Town already owns the museum that the historical society uses.

The Hornby Congregational Church is located across from the museum. The historical society uses the Hornby Congregational Church for parking, bathrooms, events, and water for the maintenance

work done on the museum, and has also used the back room of the church for years for their farming displays.

The current arrangement that the historical society has with the Town regarding the museum is that the Town owns the museum building, and the Hornby Historical Society owns the contents. The Town pays for insurance on the museum and lawn cutting of the museum grounds, and half of the maintenance costs necessary on the museum. The historical society pays for the other half of the maintenance costs and the electric. The maintenance is almost totally done by the Steuben County Mobile Work Crew, which eliminates the cost of the labor to maintain or fix things.

If the Town were to acquire the church, the historical society would need the Town to pay for the insurance, lawn cutting and half of the maintenance costs. The church would not have property or school taxes payable on it – it would be exempt. The Town would own the building, and the historical society would own the contents.

If the church is no longer available for the historical society to use, the historical society would have to come up with another way to store/display their farming items, and a place to park cars that visit the museum, etc.