

I am not able to be at the meeting Monday, Feb. 22nd but have been able to read the request to address the Village Board by Mr. King. If I were able to attend, I would not support any recommendation to employ CGR or any other company for a quick study of the value of dissolving the Village.

Looking at where CGR has been involved with dissolution of villages studies, I note that the initial study has a cost of \$5,000. Should the vote be to dissolve, a firm would charge \$50,000 for a study, which would still be conjecture and not able to be factual: it would be based on several "what ifs" and be of most value to the company presenting the report. I wonder if a potential \$50,000 study influences the \$5,000 study and is why the potential (and not guaranteed) bonus of State monies is used to make the dissolution always positive. Looking at such studies on their web site, I did not find where they had not proposed consolidation. I wonder why.

Should a vote be to dissolve the Village, the Village Board will take the responsibility to create a plan for the Town of Sweden to take over the complete governing of the Village. This will be voted on by the residents of the village but will only be of value to the Town if they decide to follow the plan. History in such situations indicates they will not accept the plan and will make their own plan.

The issue comes down to taxes, only taxes. The cost of water from Monroe County Water Authority will increase for most households. The sewer fee will be replaced with a tax district to pay-off the bond and pay for the maintenance of the system. Both systems need care and resolution of problems: residents will pay for these costs.

Street maintenance must continue as will sidewalk repair, sidewalk plowing, leaf pickup. This cost will be borne by the residents. As will street lighting, snow plowing, street maintenance, etc., etc.

The Police Department can be dissolved like the Village, but who will give the fastest response in Monroe County? Who will monitor the bars, the young people populating our streets at night, the drunk drivers on our streets? The Sherriff's Department can only respond with the "closest car"...perhaps many, many minutes away. The police cannot become a tax district without NYS Legislation approval, highly unlikely.

So, reduced taxes will come at the expense of reduced services. And new tax districts.

We don't need a study to determine that. The residents of the Village understand this. They don't need a \$5,000 study (with the promise of a \$50,000 study) to make their decision.

My answer to the request for a study is no...hell no!

Respectfully submitted,

John LaPierre,

Trustee
