

Madam Mayor and Trustees,

Thank you for allowing us time to speak tonight.

From the NY Department of State's 2012 publication, and I quote, "Democracy, like a precious jewel, shines most brilliantly in the light of an open government."

Clearly, our village is very serious about having a conversation. So much so, that in just a few months, villagers will be casting their vote on whether to dissolve the village government and unify our community or keep the status quo. We implore this board to take action by hiring the Center for Governmental Research to provide us with independent, invaluable information, helping village electors make an informed decision. This study, meant to be a pre-vote study of current government efficiencies, analysis of costs, and the impact of the dissolution vote is not meant to be the final dissolution plan.

During the last dissolution discussion, CGR presented Brockport electors with unbiased, well researched information. Since CGR had "no skin in the game" we felt the information was presented fairly and without bias. Mr. Zettek worked to put the concepts into layman's terms.

More recently, the Village of Macedon Board hired CGR to develop a high level analysis of fiscal and service impacts of their potential unification with the town. It took approximately three weeks to complete at a cost of \$5000. While no study, no matter how much time or money is invested, can possibly illuminate every potential issue of a dissolution, this study is a first step, meant to facilitate a conversation amongst residents and between our governments as well.

To help fund this study, we were told by NY State that the village would qualify for a state grant covering 90% of the cost. For example, a \$7500 study would result in a \$750 final cost to the village. As electors, we feel this cost is an important investment in all of us as we try to determine whether we want to unify under one local government or remain a divided community. Regarding our community, since the petitions were certified, have any of you reached out to the Town to discuss what would be in the best interest of the community?

We believe that every elector participating in the referendum should be well-informed. All we ask is that our Village Government be open and invite CGR to conduct the study that will place unbiased information into everyone's hands.

Tonight, please join in the conversation that your electorate is already having. Once again we are formally petitioning you, to take your first step and vote to approve the CGR study.

Again, just to clear up an apparent misunderstanding, we are asking for a pre-vote study regarding current government efficiencies, costs, and the impact of the dissolution vote. We are not asking for the final plan.

Please, let the bright light of information and democracy shine on every Brockport resident.

Thank you for your time.