

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
ANN M. DORNER MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2010  
7:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.**

**POLICE CONSOLIDATION PROPOSALS**

**Supervisor Borgia opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming and participating in this process. Supervisor Borgia introduced all of the elected officials including members of the Town and Village Board who were in attendance this evening.**

**Supervisor at this time gave a brief overview of the proposals from the County of Westchester as well as the Village of Ossining. The question of how we got here was discussed. The Town of Ossining has a low crime rate. The three municipalities (Villages of Briarcliff Manor and Ossining and the Town of Ossining) were provided with a study done by the ICMA considering the consolidation of services. The ICMA report recommended the joining of all three departments. The Village of Briarcliff Manor withdrew their interest to consolidate with the Town and/or the Village of Ossining. The Town of Ossining was also negotiating a plan with the County of Westchester. The County of Westchester submitted a proposal as did the Village of Ossining. Both proposals are on the Town's website for review by the public.**

**Chief Mark Busche introduced members of the County Police; Town Police as well as members of the Village of Ossining Police Department.**

Supervisor Borgia stated that the Town Board would also be accepting comments at their next Legislative Meeting which will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2010, at the Birdsall Fagan Police Court Facility, 86-88 Spring Street, at 7:30 p.m. The Town Board will have discussion at their next Work Session which will take place on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 16 Croton Avenue in the third floor Conference Room at 7:30 p.m. At this time they are anticipating making a decision as to whether they will accept the County Proposal or the Village of Ossining Proposal. A vote will take place on Tuesday, September 28, 2010 with possible adoption of this resolution. The County proposal will accept 11 officers plus a School Resource Officer and the Village proposal will accept 10 officers plus a School Resource Officer. The County Proposal is a Precinct Model with the coverage of the Town the same in both proposals. The Village of Ossining's second proposal will take all of the officers except for the Chief.

The following Town Outside – Unincorporated Area Residents spoke at this time.

William Strub, 114 Old Albany post Road, stated that he read both proposals but not all of the changes. The County Plan is straight forward and with the Village's proposal there would be 6 officers not hired. Would there be cuts in Village patrols? Supervisor Borgia

responded that she has spoken to Cortlandt Supervisor Puglisi and they are very pleased with the County. The Town PBA believes this is the best plan.

John Longo, 9 Cooper Drive, stated that the Town Police Department is a highly professional department. He has read the proposals from the County and the Village and states that the County Proposal is the same whereas the Village of Ossining proposal has changed three times. He is not comfortable with all of these changes. Why is the Town entertaining the Village changes? The Town outside resident has a higher water rate than the Village does as well as higher commuter parking fees. All of the IMA's should be reviewed. He supports the County proposal and feels that the Town should move to the building at 507 North State Road. Village Manager Richard Leins stated that the Village proposal was the bare minimum and could incorporate more.

Mike Costello, 10 Ryder Avenue, thanked all of the Boards (Villages of Briarcliff Manor, Ossining, and the Town of Ossining) for taking on this challenge. All three are fine Police Departments. He felt that at this time there are 2, 3 or 4 different proposals on the table. There should be a vote in the unincorporated area for the residents to decide.

Stuart Kahan, 83 Ganung Drive, prefers consolidation. If the County will be operating out of the North State Road how much rent will they pay? How much revenue does ticket writing bring? Does the County get a percentage of that revenue? Will the Village or the County look for grant money? He is concerned of the seniority and he is also concerned regarding the Quality of Life issues. The Town has issues regarding Noise and wonders if the police will be educated in Noise Ordinance as it pertains to the Town of Ossining. This should be put up for a referendum. Supervisor Borgia stated that Cortlandt which is shared by State and County police. The money collected from tickets goes to the Town. The Town is looking into consolidation of Courts. Detective Jeffrey Weiss of the County Police stated that the County will be a contractor and will use 507 North State Road if that is part of the contract. Training of the officers will be done at the expense of the County. Fines are turned over to the municipalities with half going to the State and the other half going to the Town. Supervisor Borgia stated that 507 North State Road is a real property asset of the Town and the County will be working out of that building. Chief Busche stated that tickets and summons equate to approximately \$100,000 a year. The County receives many grants. Deployment will be with staggering patrols and there will never be a time that there will not be an officer in the Town of Ossining on patrol. Mayor Hanauer repeated that a contract is a contract and there will be negotiations regarding specifics. The Village's proposal did not change but was broadened. The ICMA report recommended that all three departments merge, however, Briarcliff was not interested in doing so. All officers will come in with the same rank and seniority.

Ellen Kahan, 83 Ganung Drive, stated that the perception was that we pay more to supporting the County.

Mindy Lamarre, 12 Haymont Terrace, stated that the Village wants to negotiate now. Please do not give our rights away.

Jerry Gershner, 42 Stonegate Road, stated that the Board of Education should be paying for the School Resource Officer rather than the Town because of the fact that the students at the Middle School come from the Village of Ossining, Town of Ossining, Town of New Castle and the Town of Yorktown. A number of these students are getting a free ride. The proposals should be re-submitted to the ICMA for further review. The Town Board should not be rushing this process. There is no need for 507 North State Road and it should be sold. Supervisor Borgia stated that the School Resource Officer covers the Town geographic area. 507 North State Road is a Town asset. We must do what is in the best interest of our employees and an opportunity to save money for our taxpayers. Chief Busche responded that the School Resource Officer was started as a grant for 3 years and he now teaches a DARE class at St. Augustine's. Chief Burton stated that he was the School Resource Officer followed by J. D. , Mike Fortini followed by Johnny G. Seniority is addressed in the PBA contract. The question asked of the Chief and Captain Craven was "how many do you need?" Eleven officers are needed (Town – 8 patrolman). The Village will take all brass, etc. The officers will be cross trained by each other. The Village Police Department is made up of 50% of our officers live in the Ossining School District and 70% graduated from Ossining High School. Village Manager Leins stated that this would be shifting the tax burden.

Sandra Dellano, 593 North State Road, stated that the Town Police Officers are fantastic and the Town should go with the County.

Peter Contraus, 10 Somerstown Road questioned whether the Town will have promotional opportunities. Will we also be able to utilize the County resources? John Hodges from the County Police stated that there would be relative seniority training process with standard orientation. Yes there are promotional opportunities and yes resources will be available. The eleven plus one will be absorbed into the vacancies available at this time. Chief Busche related that the County testing would no longer be a "local list".

PBA President Chris Perricone stated that it was troubling that Chief Busche would not be part of the package to the Village. He should not be penalized for coming forward with a plan. The Town officers are made up of 50% Ossining graduates with 40% living in the Town. Supervisor Borgia made the choice to make all of the information public in order to evaluate the good and the bad. Ultimately it will be the decision of the Town Board.

Donald Farrell, Village Detective and PBA President, stated that there are 55 highly trained officers in the Village of Ossining and was accredited by the State for the first time in 2004. We have 116 years of history under our belt.

Captain Scott Craven grew up in the Town Outside. He stated that there is a high level of service. Many of the Village officers are active in the Community whether it be coaching a team, volunteerism or any other Community related activities. The County is a large

professional organization. Chief Busche echoed Captain Craven's comments relating to the County.

Ken Donato former Town Chief stated that the reasons remain the same and felt that the original proposal never meant to eliminate careers. We were on the forefront to save money.

Michael Aurora, a Village resident, stated that the Town should contract with the Village.

Chris Perricone, Town of Ossining PBA President, is looking out for Town residents. The County benefits are not as good as the Town's.

Councilmember Tripodi thanked everyone for coming to give their comments. There was a meeting of the Town and Village Boards in which the Village stated that it was hurt – now I am hurt. Both could have been saving money by forming a taxing district with a formula of assessments such as the Ambulance District. We need to cut taxes.

Supervisor Borgia commended the two Boards, two police departments and former Chief Donato for all of their hard work. Both proposals have undergone a good evaluation process in the details. Change is always difficult to deal with.