



TOWN OF OSSINING

The Volunteer Spirited Town

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Questions and Answers Regarding Town of Ossining Policing Proposals

Q. How will each proposal impact my property taxes if I live in the Town-Outside? My police services?

A. Both proposals will save taxpayers in the Unincorporated part of the Town tax dollars. The county proposal provides the same officers working from the same building; the end-user experience will be virtually unchanged. The village proposal will provide police service from an integrated police force located on Spring Street. Both proposals assure the health, safety, and welfare of the Town-outside residents.

Q. How will each proposal impact my property taxes if I live in the Village of Ossining or Village of Briarcliff? My police services?

A. The County proposal will not have an impact on either your taxes or the way you receive police services in either village. If the Town merges with the Village of Ossining, the Town will pay the Village the cost of providing police services. Village residents' property taxes and police services will be unchanged.

Q. When I call for the police, from where will they be dispatched?

A. Under the County proposal, police come from road patrol, or from the police building on North State Road. Under the Village proposal, police come to calls from road patrol or from police building on Spring Street. The County proposal uses technology to share dispatching and other back-office functions.

Q. If we accept the Village's proposal, how will the Village police handle the Town-outside? Won't most Village police resources be focused mostly on the downtown area?

A. The Village proposal guarantees the same level of police service will be provided to Town-outside residents as is currently provided to Village residents.

Q. How will 911 emergency service calls be handled in each proposal?

A. 911 calls will be handled the exact same way they are now. In the County proposal, the police desk on North State Road will receive 911 calls dealing with **ambulance** and **fire**, they are identified by the 911 monitor/system, and they will then be transferred to the village of Ossining or Briarcliff Manor, which ever is appropriate. Under the Village proposal, the police desk on Spring Street will receive 911 calls and dispatch them in the same manner.

Q. Don't we have integrated police services with Westchester County already? How will the County proposal be different?

A. Yes, every municipality in Westchester has access to Westchester County police services when and if they need them. The County's proposal makes the efforts more seamless and the communication more efficient. There is also an opportunity for additional cost savings through merging back office functions.

Q. What will happen to the Police Headquarters on North State Road?

A. The County proposal says the county will use the Town's police building to house the Town of Ossining police "precinct" if the Town so desires. If the Town chooses the County proposal, we would ask them to work out of that building, so that the "end-user" experience for residents would be that same as current operations.

The village proposal does not make reference to the building.

Under both proposals, the building remains a real property asset of the Town of Ossining, available to use or lease for police and other municipal functions, or to dispose of as the Town sees fit.

Q. What would happen to the police department equipment with each proposal?

A. In both cases, a negotiated turnover of police assets would be arranged.

Q. What about if I have a complaint about the Police?

A. Under each proposal, your first area of complaint will be the police department supervisor. The next level of complaint will still be the Town Supervisor and Town Board. The Town will become the contractor of police services, quality guarantees are part of both proposals. Protocols for addressing problems are established.

Q. What if these proposals do not work out? Can the Town re-establish a police force after the IMA runs out?

A. Yes. The Town of Ossining loses none of its rights as a municipality under either proposal, including the right to a police department.

Q. What is the process for this decision?

A. The Town Board is currently doing a detailed financial and services analysis of both proposals, working closely with the Town police department.

We will have another Town Hall meeting on the options on **Monday September 13, at 7:30 pm at AMD Middle School**. Comments will also be heard at the board's **September 14 legislative session, 7:30 at the Courthouse on Spring Street**. Residents can also contact the Town Board by email (cborgia@townofossining.com; harter@townofossining.com; tawil@townofossining.com; tripodi@townofossining.com; wilcher@townofossining.com) or by phone at 762-6001.

The Town Board hopes to make a decision and pass a resolution by the end of September, so that the savings can be reflected in the 2011 Town Budget. The decision is subject to permissive referendum; voters in the Unincorporated part of the Town can call for a vote by petition process.

(rev. 9/7/10)