

Why Sewer District Consolidation is in the Best Interest of the Town of Ossining.

For the past few years, the Governor, NYS State Legislature, the State Comptroller's Office, newspapers, citizens groups, and constituents have been recommending the abolishment or reduction of the many layers of government, and the consolidation of levels services wherever possible. It's generally seen as a way to reduce costs and confusion, as it often times makes little or no sense to continue with the fragmented services and mini-governmental layers that currently exist.

As a way to help reduce the many layers within the Town Budget, the Town of Ossining is proposing the consolidation of its 11 small sewer districts and one sewer district extension into one Consolidated Sewer District, effective with the 2010 budget. This move will simplify and reduce the cost and burden of budgeting and accounting for the eleven sewer districts and one sewer district extension, similar to the way that the water districts consolidated in 1981. This proposal helps out each of the existing individual sewer districts, as the burden of all capital improvements will be shared by the Consolidated Sewer District. The Town Board believes that the consolidation of all sewer districts will benefit all residents and businesses within the proposed Consolidated Sewer District, and is a benefit to the Town as a whole.

Under the proposal, all assets and existing debt of the individual districts will be combined, except for the existing North State Road Sewer District debt service costs that pertain to the establishment of the original North State Road Sewer District. All future debt costs associated with the addition of new parcels or subdivisions into the proposed Consolidated Sewer District will be borne by those new residents or businesses.

At this time, there is no definitive 2010 budget for the proposed Consolidated Sewer District, as the 2010 budget has yet to be proposed. However, if the consolidation had already happened for the 2009 budget, the cost for the average homeowner, excluding those in the North State Road Sewer District, would be approximately \$121 for both the sewer unit charge (\$50) and real property tax (\$81). The accompanying chart shows the breakout.

The Town Board is interested in your thoughts on this proposal. Please contact Supervisor Catherine Borgia at 762-6001 or via email at cborgia@townofossining.com with any thoughts or questions.