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Nassau picks planners

By Ross Daly

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Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi announced Monday that the county selected two firms to develop plans to consolidate local government functions.

The contracts, worth a combined \$550,000, were awarded to Public Financial Management, which has an office in Bohemia, in partnership with The Center for Governmental Research and Hofstra University's Center for Suburban Studies, and Malcolm Pirnie, an environmental engineering and consulting firm with headquarters in White Plains.

The contracts are to develop detailed plans to consolidate government operations with the aim of reducing property taxes on Nassau County residents.

Public Financial Management's partnership will develop proposals in school business functions, libraries, parks and road maintenance. Malcolm Pirnie will develop the proposal for consolidation in the service areas of sanitation/solid waste disposal and water supply. Malcolm Pirnie is already performing the consolidation analysis of the 17 local sewer and sewage treatment districts for Nassau County, which Suozzi launched before the broader government consolidation effort.

"At the end of this process, we should be able to say, 'If we consolidate these entities, it will save you X dollars and your services will either remain as good as they are now or improve,'" Suozzi said in a statement.

Suozzi made the announcement at the Long Island meeting of the New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness.

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