

PRESS RELEASE

9-Member Committee Kicks Off Shared Services and Consolidation Study

Committee Members to Examine Future Options for Providing Government Services in Painted Post & Town of Erwin

Painted Post, NY – January 31 – A nine-member committee appointed by the Village of Painted Post and the Town of Erwin met on January 26 to kick off a study to evaluate the benefits and costs of pursuing shared services or consolidation between the Village and the Town.

Committee Chair Philip Roche said the meeting gave committee members their first opportunity to discuss the study process with the Center for Governmental Research (CGR). The firm was recently engaged by the Village to assist the committee with its work. Three Rivers Development is funding the \$58,000 study and the Town is collaborating in the study process.

In addition to Roche, committee members are Pat Alderson, Bill Hallinan, Mike McCaig, Joe Reilly, Charles (Chuck) Stebbins, Bill Wood, Village Deputy Mayor Bill Scheidweiler and Town Councilman Wes Strzegowski.

“Like so many other communities across New York State, Painted Post faces significant budget challenges and becoming informed about options to address them is the responsible thing to do,” said Roche. “CGR has extensive government service experience and will help us evaluate the opportunities available to us.”

The study committee will look at:

- Shared service opportunities – where Painted Post and Erwin governments remain as separate units but personnel, equipment and/or facilities are shared in ways that reduce tax burdens and create operating efficiencies.
- Functional consolidation opportunities – where the two governments remain as separate units, but one or more functions are combined under one government or the other, yielding cost and/or service efficiencies.
- Government consolidation – where the two governments effectively merge.

Shared services and functional consolidations can be considered without fundamentally altering Village government. Consolidating the two governments would require a public referendum.

Study Process

The study will be completed by fall 2011, and will be built around three key phases, with each phase resulting in a written report. The reports are:

What Exists Report -- describes the services the Village and Town deliver, how and at what cost they deliver them, and the fiscal and tax impact of providing the services.

Options Report – provides information on viable alternatives for reconfiguring government services so they are more efficient and effective.

Final Report with Implementation Plan – includes the Committee’s preferred alternative and an outline of the major steps needed to implement it.

Public Engagement

After each of the three reports is completed, the Committee will hold a public forum to solicit public feedback.

In addition, the Committee will launch a project website within a few weeks that will be a key vehicle in facilitating public engagement as the study process unfolds. The website will offer access to meeting schedules, minutes, reports and key data components as they become available. By going to the website, community members will also be able to email comments to the Committee. In addition, they will be able to sign up to receive email “alerts” when any significant new information is posted to the website.

“We want the study process to be an open one,” said Roche. “The public is welcome to attend and observe all Committee and Sub-Committee meetings. We are in the process of scheduling our next meeting and will announce the date in the near future.”

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About the Center for Governmental Research (CGR)

CGR is a 96-year-old nonprofit, nonpartisan, independent consulting organization with significant expertise conducting local government consolidation and shared service studies and developing implementation plans. CGR is headquartered in Rochester, NY.

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