

Clay may abolish its police department

by Tom Leo

Posted by [dpadovan](#) March 24, 2008 13:58PM

Clay, NY - The town of Clay is looking to consolidate its police department with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office -- a move officials say could save town taxpayers about \$1 million a year.

The plan being proposed calls for the sheriff's office to provide two patrol cars in Clay, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Clay Supervisor Jim Rowley said.

Financially, the Clay Police Department's 2008 operating budget is \$2.4 million, including retirement and medical benefits, Rowley said. The contract with the county would cost about \$1.4 million annually.

All 16 full-time officers in Clay would be offered comparable jobs with the county, Rowley said. For instance, a sergeant in Clay would become a sergeant with the county.

Commissioner of Public Safety Owen P. Honors is due to retire soon and has told Rowley he will retire if the proposal goes through.

Town residents will get a chance to have their say on the matter. Rowley said the town will conduct a public vote, most likely in June. If town residents approve the plan, the Clay Police Department would be abolished.

Staff writers Tom Leo and John Mariani are reporting on the news and will have a full report on Tuesday in The Post-Standard.

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Comments

fleetwood64 says...

I grew up in Clay and now live in New Jersey. You think you have duplicated services in Central New York? In New Jersey we have 547 municipal governments, which means 547 police departments, 547 DPWS, etc and so on. Some of the police departments patrol towns less than 2 square miles, and the average cops' salary around here for a 5 year veteran on the force is around \$95K, sometimes more with OT.

To top it off, we have County Sheriffs as well, patrolling the same roads as the municipal cops! Of course we also have NJ State Troopers to keep everyone else in line.

And the rampant corruption beginning at the town levels keeps everything status quo even when towns have tried to merge their services. It is totally unreal.

Posted on 03/24/08 at 10:19PM

SYR1977 says...

Those of you interested in government consolidation check out: www.syracuse2020.org/
We can do it here if we truly want it! I know I do.

Posted on 03/24/08 at 10:35PM