

TOWN OF OAKFIELD

SPECIAL MEETING REGARDING COURT CONSOLIDATION

JULY 15, 2008

Supervisor Dodd called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Supervisor Dodd, Councilman Veazey, Councilman Day, Justice Graham, Deputy Clerk Denny, Town Clerk Haacke

Others: Judge Douglas Marky, 8th Judicial District, Justice Doug King of Elba, Elba Supervisor Lucien Kauffman, A.J. Wormuth, Elba Town Council, Attorney Kevin Earl, Batavia Supervisor Greg Post, Patti Michalak, Batavia Town Board, Dennis M. Rida, Town of Batavia, Sue Conrad, Batavia Daily News.

Once everyone introduced themselves, Supervisor Dodd began the meeting by reiterating why everyone was here, and to discuss the possible consolidation of the three Courts.

Judge Marky of the 8th Judicial District stated that he is willing to help with any need. Judge Marky distributed a handout outlining the process. He also advised that the Boards meet with the Towns of Shelby and Ridgeway, since they recently consolidated. This is a way to make the Towns more efficient, and there are grants available.

Attorney Kevin Earl (attorney for all 3 towns) also stated that he has been researching the consolidation laws and a review of 106A & 106B states that only two towns may consolidate. If we went forward with a three town consolidation, we would be forging the way for others to follow suit. The Legislature would have to pass this change.

Batavia's Supervisor Post stated that he could not support a consolidation if it meant staffing cut backs. Batavia is already backlogged, and it will only increase in the next few years. Supervisor Post went on to say that his vision is that of a Shared Resource Facility in a central location. That way each Town would maintain their two judges.

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Towns of Oakfield, Elba, Batavia Court Consolidation

Supervisor Dodd agreed that the Shared Resource Facility would make more sense. This way the Resources Center would be fully staffed with at least one full time Court Clerk if people had questions.

Justice Graham stated that since New York State is encouraging the Consolidation of courts, getting the Legislature to pass the Share Facilities shouldn't be too difficult.

Justice King of Elba liked that fact that each town would maintain two justices.

The consensus of the meeting was to move forward with the Shared Facilities idea, instead of Consolidation.

It was determined that each Supervisor would present a resolution, which Attorney Kevin Earl would draft to their Boards. Once each Town had their meeting and all were in agreement, a smaller working group from each Town would then be put into place. Batavia Town Supervisor suggested that a consulting firm be brought to help with grant writing and other financial aspects.

A brief question and answer session was held.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Haacke
Town Clerk