

Village of
Head-of-the-Harbor



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CHARLES M. LOHMANN
Police Chief

January 30, 2017

Senator John Flanagan
260 E Main St #203
Smithtown, NY 11787

Re: Governor Cuomo's Budget Proposal Requiring County Determined Consolidation Plans
for Services at the Town and Village Level

Dear Senator Flanagan:

I am dismayed about the Governor's proposal to hold hostage AIM appropriations unless each county creates a Plan recommending new consolidations and shared services among the units of local governments contained within the county. The Governor doesn't seem to be aware how local municipalities work together to reduce operating costs. He appears not to understand that local government leadership is directly connected and accountable to its residents. Our late night budget sessions, work sessions and discussions with neighboring municipalities are all geared to provide needed services in a cost effective manner. This difficult and hard work by local governments should be acknowledged and supported by the Governor. Local governments are not the cause of excessive property taxes.

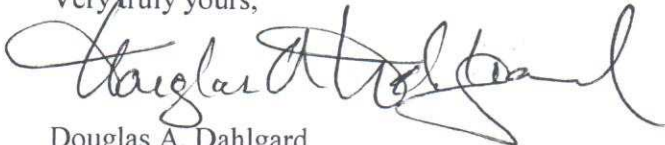
To demonstrate that local governments have implemented cost savings thru shared services here are some of the actual examples just from the Village of Head of the Harbor.

- Village Trustees and Board members serve **completely uncompensated**. That's about thirty residents volunteering their time for their village.
- Head of the Harbor **shares** a Treasurer on a part time basis **with the Village of Nissequoque**.
- Head of the Harbor **shares** a Building Inspector on a part time basis with the **Village of the Branch and with the Village of Nissequoque**.

- Head of the Harbor **shares** a Deputy Treasurer with **Nissequogue** and a Court Clerk with the **Village of Port Jefferson**.
- Head of the Harbor **utilizes** the services of the **Town of Smithtown** Tax Assessor, and has no assessor function of its own.
- Head of the Harbor has an agreement whereby the services of the **Smithtown Highway and Public Safety Departments** are used by the Village for various services saving personnel and equipment costs.
- The **Town of Smithtown** provides a fuel depot supplying the **Village of Head of the Harbor, Nissequogue, and Village of the Branch** with low cost gas and diesel fuel for trucks and police vehicles.
- Head of the Harbor does not have its own fire protection or ambulance capability and contracts with the **St. James Fire District for fire and EMT services**. St. James Fire District in turn performs mutual aid with several other area fire departments lowering equipment cost.
- Salt and Sand for winter use is purchased by Head of the Harbor from a centralized depot operated by the **Town of Smithtown**. The depot also services the **Village of Nissequogue and the Village of the Branch**.
- Head of the Harbor police, including the Chief of Police, work part time for the Village. Village police perform mutual aid to the **Nissequogue** police force.

Please express our disappointment to the Governor as to his proposal. It is so evident at the local level of government that we are doing our part to control costs. It is also evident that holding AIM funding hostage has the appearance by the Governor of diminishing the State Legislature's role. And that approach certainly doesn't help our efforts at the municipal level of government. Frankly, it would be more productive if the executive and legislative branches of our state government would work together, as we do at the local level.

Very truly yours,



Douglas A. Dahlgard
Mayor

CC: Mr. Peter Baynes, Executive Director NYCOM
Supervisor Vecchio, Town of Smithtown
Mayor Richard Smith, Village of Nissequogue
Mayor Mark Delaney, Village of the Branch