

# LAKE PLACID VILLAGE COURT DISSOLUTION

## Points to Consider

**If the Village Court is dissolved the Justice System for the Town and Village will change:**

- From:
  - 2 People filling 4 Judicial positions (2 Town + 2 Village Justice positions)
  - 2 Court Clerks
  - 2 criminal court sessions with jurisdiction limited to Town cases
  - 2 criminal court sessions with jurisdiction limited to Village cases
  
- To:
  - 2 People filling 2 Judicial positions (2 Town Justice positions)
  - 2 Court Clerks
  - 4 criminal court sessions with jurisdiction over both Town and Village cases

**This will result in:**

- A reduction in government spending
  - Elimination of duplicate Justice Software Programs
  - Elimination of duplicate phone systems
  - Elimination of salary for duplicate positions
  - Estimated savings (according to the Village Treasurer) of \$43,000 per year
  
- A fairer tax system
  - Village residents support the Village Court then, because they are also residents of the Town, they support the Town Court. Town residents only support the Town Court. With a consolidated system each resident would pay their fair share of the single Town Court system
  - This fairer approach is already used for the shared services of Fire Districts and the Code Enforcement Office
  
- More efficient scheduling of cases
  - Shorter time periods between appropriate criminal court sessions will allow cases to move forward more quickly
  - No confusion over which Court to attend
  - Cases involving charges in both the Town and the Village are automatically consolidated

**The dissolution should occur at this time because:**

- The next opportunity for dissolution will not occur until 2021
- The Town and Village have been operating with 2 individuals holding a total of 4 Justice positions for one year without complications. This move will simply create a situation where 2 people hold 2 positions.
- A system with two town justices is used virtually everywhere else in the State of New York
- Other state aid funds (AIM program) are tied to municipalities consolidating services