



THE BUFFALO NEWS

PRINT THIS

Click to Print

[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

02/03/09 07:08 AM

CONSOLIDATION

Akron board seeks court merger with Newstead

By Laura E. Winchester
SUBURBAN CORRESPONDENT

The Akron Village Board on Monday agreed that it would like to meet with the Newstead Town Board and the two town justices to discuss aspects of consolidating the village court system with the town's.

The board set aside time at its regular meeting for public input on the possibility of eliminating the village justice in favor of combining court services with the town.

Only Town Justice Richard Campbell and resident Douglas Ceisner offered comments, and both were in favor.

Village Justice Dennis Freeman is also a town justice. And Campbell, town justice for about 22 years, fills in at Village Court, which is held twice a month, in Freeman's absence. Town Court convenes every Wednesday. The village and town justices are elected.

The village can vote to abolish its justice post, but that action can take effect only after the expiration of the incumbent's term. The four-year village post is up for election March 18. With only a six-week time frame, it is unlikely the board would take action at this point, meaning the earliest consolidation could take effect is four years from now.

A permissive referendum would have to be held only if 20 percent of registered voters petitioned the board for one, said Village Attorney Daniel Shonn.

Mayor Carl Patterson and village trustees said perhaps the village would consider moving its court sessions to Town Hall, which is in the village, as a first step. No discussions have yet been held with the town on that idea.

Campbell, who broached the idea of merging the court systems a year ago, said there is a "need to consolidate.

BuffaloJobFinder.com
in partnership with
YAHOO! hotjobs
CareerFest

**Attention
Employers!
Find the best
new employees
at The Buffalo News
Career Fest**

**Tuesday,
Feb. 17
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Millennium
Airport Hotel
Next to
Walden Galleria**

CLICK HERE
**to
participate**

The cost of running court is going up and will become astronomical within the next few years.” He cited the recent state requirement to install a metal detector, for example.

Shonn said that court costs are not quite revenue-expense neutral, but “it is going to get more expensive,” leaving the village with few options on ways to increase revenues.

Ceisner said with taxes going up it is important for the two municipalities to “consider merging everything.” He advocated forming a committee to take a hard look at merging the court systems, which he said is “a great idea.”

Campbell expressed disappointment in the lack of public participation at the meeting. “I wish more people would come to the meetings. This is grass roots,” he said.

In other action, the board authorized the issuance of bond anticipation notes, if necessary, for the acquisition of 22 acres of vacant land on Clarence Center Road as the site of a joint public works complex with the town. Both municipalities are awaiting engineering reports before deciding whether to exercise an option on buying the site from Loraine Cowan for a maximum of \$200,000. Shonn said the deadline for action is April 1.

The board appointed Barbara Young, Barbara Kelley, Jane Peterson and Hylene Shearman as election inspectors for the March 18 village election at a rate of \$8.25 an hour.

Find this article at:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/cityregion/northernsuburbs/story/568113.html>



[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.