



Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008
Millennium Airport Hotel Buffalo
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Angola, East Aurora reject downsizing

By Karen Robinson NEWS STAFF REPORTER

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It appears that two more villages will be going in the “no” column for Kevin Gaughan.

Officials in East Aurora and Angola this week both indicated that they probably would not support Gaughan’s call to downsize as part of his effort to cut the cost of government in Western New York.

“I’d prefer the voters get a diverse representation and decrease the \$5,000 trustee pay to \$3,000 and save the money,” East Aurora Trustee Peter Mercurio said of that seven-member board.

Angola Mayor Hub Frawley said his village already strives to save money. He referred to merged services with the Town of Evans, including the police, building and economic development departments, as well as nearly \$4.5 million in grant money brought in by the village. He also said cutting the Village Board by two members would save only about \$5,000; salary for board members is \$2,700 and has been since 1982.

“For what we get paid, the citizens make one-hundredfold,” he said.

Gaugahn spoke this week in Angola and a few weeks ago in East Aurora. He plans to meet with elected officials across the region to make his pitch for smaller government.

He has already had some success. Lancaster village officials have said they plan to eliminate two trustee seats by attrition. But for the most part, elected officials have been resistant.

In East Aurora, some of the six board trustees, led by Mayor David J. DiPietro, had publicly appeared to embrace Gaughan’s efforts to get the village to cut the size of its board by two members.

Trustee Mercurio was referring to the salary of \$5,000 per trustee that will kick in this June, after the board last year approved a local law upping it from the current \$3,000 — the level it has been for several years.



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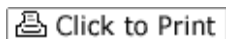
“None of us are doing it for the money. I appreciate the diversity you get” with a larger board, Trustee Libby Weberg said.

Village Administrator Kimberly LaMarche was clearly aggravated by the board’s aboutface during Monday’s meeting.

[Includes reporting by SouthtownsCorrespondent Steven Brachmann. krobinson@buffnews.com](#)

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