

What's important to you today?



THE BUFFALO NEWS

PRINT THIS

Click to Print

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

TOWN OF TONAWANDA

Gaughan urges more cuts on board

By Janice L. Habuda NEWS STAFF REPORTER
Updated: 06/18/08 6:38 AM

While praising the Tonawanda Town Board for already downsizing its membership, Kevin Gaughan is urging lawmakers to take it further and reduce their ranks by another two through attrition.

Gaughan's appearance before the Town Board this week marked the 40th stop in a visit to all 45 elected governments in Erie County.

The municipal reformer's quest to shrink government, which totaled 439 elected representatives countywide in a study he prepared, began last fall and has achieved modest success.

His study reflects the size of the old Town Board.

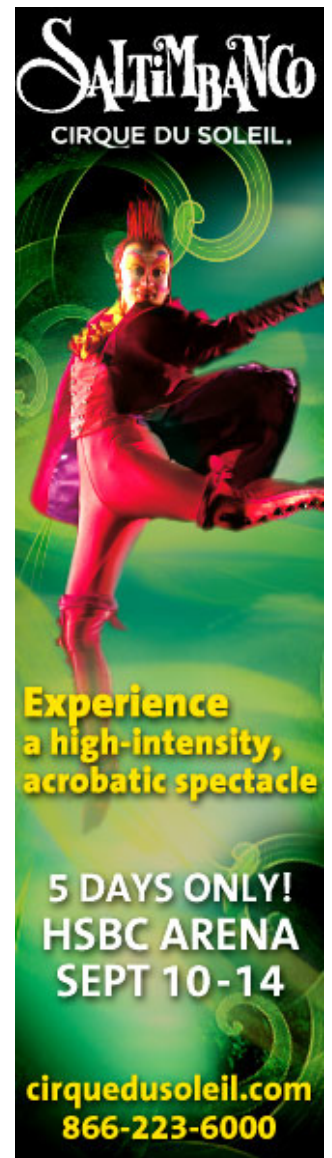
"This Town Board led the way in downsizing recently," Gaughan acknowledged during Monday's board meeting.

In 2006, residents voted overwhelmingly in favor of reducing the board from six members to four. The savings to taxpayers included the \$19,467 annual pay each had received.

"We were hoping to set a trail for some other municipalities to follow," said Councilman Daniel J. Crangle, who also cited the voluntary giveback of health care benefits and passage of a local law that limits board members and the supervisor to three four-year terms.

"I think the effort is there," Crangle added. "This Town Board is looking in the right direction."

Though Crangle had described those efforts as "baby steps," Councilman John A. Bargnesi Jr. characterized them as more significant.



“I think they were giant steps,” he said. Giving the same examples as his colleague, Bargnesi said: “By no means are they baby steps.”

But Gaughan is pushing for more.

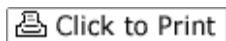
“Whether they are baby steps or large steps . . . I think we can all agree it’s still not enough,” Gaughan said.

He suggests that each government body scale back to three representatives: a mayor or town supervisor leading and two trustees or board members.

jhabuda@buffnews.com

Find this article at:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/cityregion/northernsuburbs/story/372852.html>



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

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