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Gaughan's presentation merits serious response

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While I may not agree with everything that Kevin Gaughan advocates, I was in total disbelief of the reaction Orchard Park Town Councilwoman Nan Ackerman had to his recent presentation. Her defensive reaction to Gaughan's proposal to downsize town and village boards lacked any vision for our future and reflected the legacy of failed leadership that has plagued Western New York.

It's incomprehensible for elected leaders to assert that our current failed local economy is not a result of high taxes and bloated government. Ackerman is either ignorant of the proper role of government or blind to the changes in the global economy and our need to adapt to them.

It's time for our politicians to get over the poor decisions of the past and get on with identifying what we can do now to take advantage of the resources and amenities we have. And that's what Gaughan's proposal challenges us to do: to make changes that will position our community to be competitive.

There are no silver-bullet solutions. But there are small, incremental changes we can do that will make a difference. And Gaughan's reasoned idea of reducing the number of politicians merits a more serious response than the shallow one Ackerman gave it.

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