

A Vision for One Batavia

First Community Forum

OVERVIEW

June 18, 2009

Tonight's Objective

- Summarize Study Committee's findings to date
- Provide a structured forum to:
 - Ask questions about the concept
 - Make suggestions to put into the final plan

Topics To Be Discussed

- Concept of 3 Tier Government
- Services – what and by whom
- Financial Impact – costs and taxes
- Governance – size and type of representation
- Form – a single government – town or city?

Four Fundamental Questions Addressed

1. Do we have options?
2. Why change what we have?
3. What would the change mean for me?
4. What would the change mean for our community's future?

Do we have options?

- Yes, there are two options
 - Continue as separate governments
 - Consolidate the two governments

Why change?

- A consolidated government will reduce costs
 - Costs will be reduced through efficiencies
 - New state revenues or cost shifts will reduce demand on local property taxes
- Delivery of services will be enhanced
- Important positive spillover effects from pursuing government consolidation

What would the change mean?

- Current City and Town property tax burdens would stay the same
- No shift of City debt or other costs to Town
- \$943,000 additional funds (from savings and revenues) would be available
- Single elected government instead of two

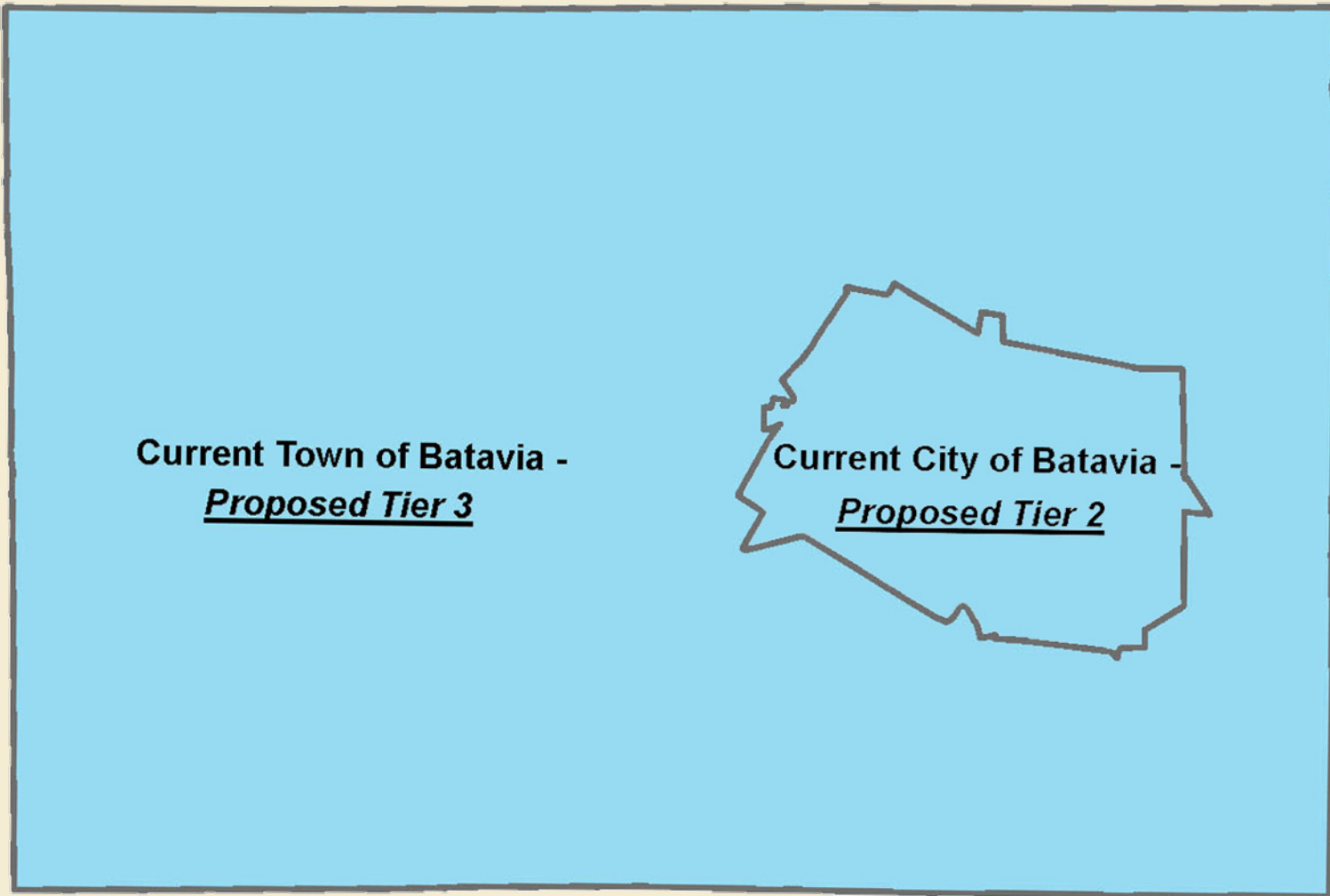
What would the change mean for the future?

- Sends powerful message within the community and beyond
 - The community is progressive and willing to pursue a more efficient consolidated government
 - Economic development tool – attractive to potential investors
 - Long term benefits from making infrastructure and service function investments as an integrated system

Tiered Service Zone Concept

- 3 cities in New York use a zone concept
- Service zones allow taxes to fairly represent levels of service provided
- Tier 1 – common services shared across the existing City and Town
- Tier 2 – higher intensity services – current City
- Tier 3 – lower intensity services – current Town

Entire Area -
Proposed Tier 1



Current Town of Batavia -
Proposed Tier 3

Current City of Batavia -
Proposed Tier 2

Services in Tier 1

- Single elected body for the area
- Central administrative functions
 - Professional Management
 - Central Finance, Accounting, Purchasing, Legal
- Central planning and zoning functions
- Central DPW functions – roads, streetlights, snowplowing, parks maintenance, water and sewer operations and maintenance, etc.

Services in Tier 2

- Current city police maintained
- Current city fire department maintained
- Current city refuse collection maintained
- Current special activities and tier specific water and sewer services capital improvements
- City specific zoning and ordinances retained

Services in Tier 3

- Current county sheriff patrol coverage maintained
- Current volunteer fire departments maintained
- Current private refuse collection maintained
- Current special activities and water and sewer district specific capital improvements
- Town specific zoning and ordinances retained

Financial Impact of Tiers

- Existing Debt – kept separate in each tier. No comingling of existing debt
- Existing Fund Balances – kept separate in each tier. No comingling of fund balances
- Costs for services unique to each tier paid for by taxpayers only in those tiers
- Tier 1 costs would be shared by all taxpayers

Annual Cost Saving Projection

- Net efficiencies and cost reductions from consolidating = \$245,000 per year at start-up, likely more in future years
- Net additional revenues, primarily State consolidation incentive funding = \$820,000 per year, ongoing
- After adjusting to balance revenues between tiers, net savings = \$943,000 per year, likely increasing in future years

Property Tax Bill Projection

- The SUM of the Tier 1 and the Tier 2 or Tier 3 property taxes would be the same as or lower than current City or Town tax bills.
- This also takes into account that current property taxes for Town operations are \$0, and county tax bills are lower by \$250,000 in total
- IF the \$943,000 in consolidation savings were used to reduce property taxes, this would reduce taxes \$1.10/\$1,000 assessed value across all tiers per year

Governance Options

- If Town – would become a first class town
 - 4 or 6 person council plus a Supervisor
 - Could be wards or town-wide elections, but not both
 - Could have a Town Manager in addition to Supervisor
- If City – multiple options for size, type of council
- Boards and commissions would be merged

Representation Options if a City

- Council – Manager Form
 - 14 cities in NY. Council + Mayor sizes: 5-11
- Mayor – Council Form
 - Strong or weak mayor form
 - 45 cities in NY. Council + Mayor sizes: 5-12
- Commissioner Form
 - 3 cities in NY. Outdated and little used form

Forum Information

- Feedback/Comment Form available tonight, on-line or upon request (City Hall or Town Hall)
- On-line comments can be made on web site
- Check for web site updates at:
www.cgr.org/bataviaconsolidationplan/
- Next Public Forum - June 30 at High School