

# Lodi, Ovid Courts Consolidated

By Aneta Glover | Posted: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:55 pm

As the time approached for the Public Hearing regarding the consolidation of the Town of Ovid and the Town of Lodi courts, attendance looked a little slim. However, at the magic hour of 7 p.m., Supervisor Walt Prouty opened the public hearing with the "Salute to the Flag" and a good grouping of citizens.

The reason for the hearing was presented: to discuss consolidating the Town of Ovid and Town of Lodi courts and be presided over by one judge. Ovid court has presided over by Judge Lou VanCleaf, following the unexpected death of the Honorable Judge Wayne Ewing. Angela Champion serves as Clerk of the Court by appointment of the Honorable Judge VanCleaf. This team also serves the Town of Lodi.

By two minutes into the hearing it was obvious that no further discussion was forthcoming or needed. Town attorney Steven Getman advised town supervisor, Walt Prouty, "You should enter the report of the survey (which studied the proposed consolidation) into your record (by reading) and close the public hearing"... He further suggested that Prouty open the Special Meeting of the Ovid Town Board, make a motion to accept the report as presented at the public hearing, entertain a motion to accept/vote on the report, and propose a resolution to recommend consolidation of the two courts presided over by one judge.

Joe Borst made the motion "to acknowledge that the survey pertaining to the Ovid/Lodi consolidation of courts has been read; it will be kept on file to be looked at a future date as needed". The Board made quick work of signing the necessary documents for distribution. Prouty heartily thanked everyone for their work on this project, especially Steve Getman for getting every one through this process. VanCleaf and Davidson voiced their agreement.

The Public Hearing for presentation of the "Consolidation Survey and Resolution to Consolidate Ovid and Lodi Courts" was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

The board next signed the last page of the resolution (to recommend consolidation of the Ovid and Lodi courts). They had the signatures certified with a raised stamp and sent to State Senator Mike Nozzolio and State Assemblyman Brian Kolb to be presented to the Legislature and to the governor for final approval. There being no further business, a motion to adjourn (Hubbard/Borst) carried unanimously.

At 8 p.m. the Town of Lodi held a Public Hearing on the "Resolution to Consolidate Court Services" with the Town of Ovid at the Lodi Town Hall. Following considerable discussion, the Public Hearing was closed; the Special Meeting for the Town of Lodi was opened.

A lively discussion followed. In due course, a call for the motion was given. The motion to accept the Resolution to Consolidate was approved by the TOL board with one "no" vote.

Certified copies of the Resolution to Consolidate by both Boards will be sent to the local representatives to be presented to each house for approval and on to the Legislature and final approval from the

Governor. Although there is only one other judge in New York State who presides over courts for multiple (3) towns, all concerned are relatively certain that final approval will be forthcoming--and soon.

When the approval of the certified resolution comes back to the Towns, further decisions will then need to be made. In the meantime, Ovid court will continue at the Ovid Town Office Building until further notice. Lodi court will continue at the Lodi Office Building.