

# Community Facilities and Services



## GOALS:

- A. Provide high-quality municipal services in a cost-efficient and effective manner.**
- B. Enhance the access of Sodus residents to cultural resources in the community.**



### Residents Survey Highlights

**Town respondents queried about their satisfaction with various municipal services indicated the following:**

**Police Service**—31.7% were very satisfied and 38.4.0% were somewhat satisfied.

8.5% were very dissatisfied and 10.6% were somewhat dissatisfied.

**Fire Protection**—64.7% were very satisfied and 24.4% were somewhat satisfied..

Less than 3% expressed any dissatisfaction.

**Ambulance Service**—37.4% were very satisfied and 30.0% somewhat dissatisfied.

6.7% were very dissatisfied and 14.1% were somewhat dissatisfied.

## Existing Conditions

### MUNICIPAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES

**Municipal Offices** - Town and Village offices are collocated in the Sodus Municipal Building at 14-16 Mill Street in the Village of Sodus. The Village owns the two-story building, constructed in the mid 1970s and leases space to the Town. The offices of the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, Town Code Enforcement Officer, Town Assessor, and Town Receiver of Taxes as well as the Village Mayor and Village Clerk-Treasurer are located on the top floor. The bottom floor of the building houses the Town Court and the Village Police Department. The Sodus Fire Department also occupies space on both floors; fire apparatus is housed on the top floor and a firemen's meeting room is located on the bottom floor. The location of the Sodus municipal building and the other community facilities described in this chapter are depicted on Map 27: Community Facilities in Village of Sodus and Map 28: Community Facilities in Town of Sodus

Although the Town and Village are separate municipalities with distinct responsibilities, some governmental functions are performed by the Town on behalf of the Village. The Town Assessor is responsible for assessing all properties in the Town including properties in the Villages of Sodus and Sodus Point and for maintaining the tax rolls for each municipality. The Receiver of Taxes collects taxes for the Town of Sodus and Wayne County as well as for the Villages of Sodus and Sodus Point. In addition to enforcing zoning and building codes in the Town, the Town's Code Enforcement Officer Zoning also enforces the codes in the Villages through contractual agreements the Villages have with the Town.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### Police Service

Police service in the Village of Sodus is provided principally by the Village's police department. The police department is comprised of a full-time Police Chief and four part-time Police Officers including the Police Clerk who is also a sworn police officer. Police coverage is provided for approximately 100 hours per week. Coverage varies from day to day and week to week to avoid establishing a pattern.

At times when no Village police officers are on duty, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police provide police services in the Village. The Wayne County Sheriff's Department has use of a furnished office with telephone service within the Sodus Police Department headquarters. The Wayne County Sheriff's Department also maintains a substation within the Village of Sodus

Point.

The Sodus Police Department headquarters is open for walk-in business only when the Police Clerk is on duty. As the Police Clerk's work hours vary, the hours the Police Department headquarters is open to the public also varies. The building contains no holding cell; arrestees are transported to the Wayne County jail for holding and processing.

Police service in the Town of Sodus outside the Village is provided by the Wayne County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police. The State Police who patrol the Town of Sodus are stationed at the State Police Barracks along Route 104 a few miles west of the Town of Sodus in the Town of Williamson.

Centralized dispatching for all three police agencies is provided by the Wayne County 911 Emergency Communications Department. The "closest car" policy is used for dispatching Sheriff's deputies and state police to calls for service in order to maximize the efficient use of police personnel and resources and to minimize response time.

### **Fire and Ambulance Service**

Five fire departments provide fire protection in the Town of Sodus. These include the Alton, Sodus, Sodus Center, Sodus Point and Wallington Fire Departments. The fire service areas within the Town of Sodus are depicted in Map 29: Fire Service Areas.

In addition to fire protection, the Alton, Sodus Center, and Sodus Point Fire Departments provide basic-life-support (BLS) ambulance service. The Sodus and Wallington Fire Departments provide no ambulance service. The Sodus Town Ambulance Corps, an entity separate from the fire departments, provides advance-life-support (ALS) ambulance service in the Town. The emergency medical service (EMS) service areas are depicted on Map 30: Ambulance Service Areas.

Fire and ambulance dispatching centralized in Wayne County and is performed by the Wayne County 911 Office. Each of the fire departments and ambulance squads have mutual aid agreements with the others. In some cases at certain times of the day, two or more departments may be dispatched simultaneously to ensure a timely response.

The Sodus and the Sodus Point Fire Departments are operated and funded by the Villages of Sodus and Sodus Point respectively. The Villages own the fire halls and purchase and own the fire apparatus and equipment. The Villages contract with the Sodus and Sodus



### **Residents Survey Highlights**

**Village respondents queried about their satisfaction with various municipal services indicated the following:**

**Police Service**—31.9% were very satisfied and 41.0% were somewhat satisfied.

10.0% were very dissatisfied and 15.7% somewhat dissatisfied.

**Fire Protection**—72.8% were very satisfied and 22.3% were somewhat satisfied.

Less than 2% expressed any dissatisfaction.

**Ambulance Service**—49.6% were very satisfied and 28.6% somewhat dissatisfied.

4.5% were very dissatisfied and 11.2% were somewhat dissatisfied.

Point Fire Companies which are membership organizations comprised of volunteers who serve as firefighters and, in some cases as EMT's who operate the equipment and actually provide the services. The Town of Sodus, in turn and for a fee, contacts with the Villages to provide fire and ambulance services in portions of the Town outside the Villages.

The Alton, Sodus Center and Wallington Fire Departments are each comprised of two separate entities, i.e., (1) a Fire Protection District and (2) a fire company. The Fire Protection District is a quasi-local government entity with an elected Board of Fire Commissioners with the authority to levy property taxes to raise funds to pay for the operation of a fire department. The Board of Fire Commissions contracts with fire companies which provide the volunteer firefighters and EMT's. The Town contacts with the Fire Protection Districts, for a fee, to provide fire and ambulance service. Each fire department and ambulance squad is described in greater detail below.

**Sodus Volunteer Fire Department** – The fire hall is located in the Sodus Municipal Building at 14-16 Mill Street in the Village. The fire apparatus are housed on the upper level of the building which contains five truck bays and the Fire Chief's office. The Sodus Fire Department's apparatus includes two fire engine pumper trucks, a tanker truck, a rescue truck, a brush-fire truck and a utility truck. A large meeting room is located on the lower floor and is used for training and fire company social events. Although the Village provides most of the funds for the operation of the fire department, the Sodus Fire Company raises and contributes funds toward the operation of the fire department. The Sodus Fire Company currently has approximately 30 active members.

Although the Sodus Fire Department does not provide ambulance service, it works closely with the Sodus Town Ambulance Corps when responding to calls for service that require both a fire department and ambulance response.

**Sodus Center Fire Department**—The Sodus Center fire hall is located on Main Street in the Hamlet of Sodus Center. The fire hall was constructed in 1970 with two additions constructed since that time. Plans have been made for the construction of a pavilion at the site also. The building contains a combination meeting/training room, a dining hall and kitchen, and office and storage space as well as four truck bays. The Department's apparatus is comprised of a pumper truck, a tanker truck, an aerial truck, a brushfire truck and an ambulance.

The Sodus Center Fire Department has 25 active members. Five of the members serve as emergency medical technicians (EMT) only. A

few of the fire fighters are also cross-trained as EMT's.

**Alton Volunteer Fire Department** – The Alton fire hall is located in the Hamlet of Alton. The fire hall contains a meeting room, an office for the fire chief, a kitchenette and six truck bays. The Department's apparatus includes: two fire engine pumper trucks, a combination pumper-tanker truck, a brush-fire truck, a rescue truck, an ambulance, and a rescue boat. The rescue boat is a new addition and the Department intends to begin to provide rescue and recovery services on Sodus Bay. The Alton Fire Company currently has approximately 33 active members.

**Wallington Volunteer Fire Department** – The Wallington fire hall is located on Ridge Road in the Hamlet of Wallington. The fire hall contains a large meeting room, a training room, kitchen, office space and four garage bays that house two fire engine pumper trucks, a combination tanker-pumper truck and a rescue truck. The fire hall was constructed in the mid 1970s and a small addition was constructed in 2004 to accommodate longer fire trucks. The Wallington Fire Company is comprised of approximately 50 active members.

**Sodus Point Fire Department** – The Sodus Point fire hall is located at 8365 Bay Street in the Village of Sodus Point. The fire hall was constructed in the mid 1950s with a couple of additions constructed more recently. The fire hall contains meeting rooms, office and storage space and a fully equipped kitchen. The building contains seven truck bays that house: a fire engine pumper truck, a combination pumper-tanker truck, a rescue truck, a military surplus amphibious vehicle equipped with a 750 GPM pump and a smaller boat equipped with a 385 GPM pump. The amphibious vehicle and rescue boat are used on Lake Ontario for boat fires and for rescue and recovery operations. The fire company has approximately 30 active members.

**Sodus Town Ambulance Corps** – The building that serves as the Ambulance Corps headquarters is located on Ridge Road a short distance east of the Village of Sodus and originally was used for an auto parts store. In addition to the two garage bays that house two ambulances, the building contains a large training room, a lounge, a kitchen, and two offices. The Town of Sodus owns the building and the ambulances, but the Ambulance Corps owns the furniture and the equipment carried on the ambulances. The Sodus Town Ambulance Corps. has approximately 30 active members.

Sodus Town Ambulance Corps is the only EMS entity that provides advance life support (ALS) ambulance service within the Town of

Sodus. Although the Sodus Town Ambulance Corps' primary service area encompasses the western third of the Town, the Ambulance Corps provides backup ambulance service to the fire department providing ambulance service in the remainder of the Town when ALS level ambulance service is needed.

The Ambulance Corps is funded by the Town of Sodus. In October 2004, the Ambulance Corps implemented third-party billing for services which should greatly reduce the financial contributions needed from the Town.

**Northeast Wayne Advanced Life Support** –Northeast Wayne Advanced Life Support (NE Wayne ALS) is a volunteer organization that serves the northeast quadrant of Wayne County. The agency is separate from the Sodus Town Ambulance Corps and the Wayne County Advanced Life Support agency. NE Wayne ALS is comprised of only three members all with paramedic certification. Due to the small number of members, the agency provides coverage for only one shift per week. The agency operates one “fly” car, but no ambulance. The fly car is housed in the same building which in which Sodus Town Ambulance Corps, is headquartered. The agency raises its own funds through donations and third-party billing.

**Wayne County Advanced Life Support Service** – Wayne County ALS is an emergency medical service agency operated by Wayne County. The agency operates two fly cars, but no ambulance. One fly car is located in North Rose; the other in Marion. Wayne County ALS provides service Monday through Friday between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. utilizing paid paramedics. Limited service is offered outside these times with volunteers when available.

**Sodus Emergency Council Association** – The Sodus Emergency Council Association was formed circa 1980 by the fire departments that serve portions of the Town of Sodus and the Sodus Town Ambulance Corps. The Association was formed to improve communication, coordination and cooperation among the participating agencies. The Sodus Town Supervisor and the Wayne and County Fire Coordinator and Emergency Management Coordinator also participate in the monthly meetings. The members discuss topics of mutual interest and concern as well as plan for joint fire prevention programs and training drills.

### **TOWN COURT**

The Town courtroom and court offices are located on the lower level of the Sodus Municipal Building. The Town Court is comprised of two part-time Town Justices and a part-time Court Clerk who provide court services. Town Court sessions are held on Wednes-

day evenings. The Town Court's jurisdiction includes the Village of Sodus as a separate village court is not provided.

### **TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

The Town Highway Department is headquartered on Rotterdam Road in the Village of Sodus. The site contains two pole barns and a salt barn. A portion of the large pole barn consist of the original highway barn constructed in 1940. In the early 1970s, a portion of the original barn was razed and a new addition constructed. Another smaller pole barn was also constructed on the site at that time.

The larger pole barn which is heated contains the mechanics shop is also used for storing the department's trucks. Part of the smaller pole barn is used for Highway Department storage and part serves as the headquarters for the Town's Water Department. The portion used for the Water Department headquarters is heated. Both buildings are in good condition except for the concrete floors and drains in the larger pole barn which are being replaced. The salt barn was rehabilitated in 2003 with the installation of a new roof and the renailing of its wooden structure to extend the life of the building.

A third Highway Department building is located on Van Syck Road at the site of the former Town landfill. The concrete block building is unheated and is used exclusively for storage. The Town ceased using the landfill in the early to mid 1980s. The landfill was closed in accord with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation regulations in the early 1990s. Monitoring wells were installed at the time of the closure and the Town continues to monitor the quality of the groundwater.

The Town Highway Department is responsible for maintaining, repairing and reconstructing Town roads and for maintaining roadside drainage ditches and culverts. During the winter months, the Highway Department has responsibility to plow, salt and sand Town roads, and through an intermunicipal agreement, County roads. Bridge maintenance, repair and replacement are the responsibility of the Wayne County Highway Department.

The Sodus Highway Department is party to the Wayne County highway department intermunicipal agreement. Under this intermunicipal agreement, each Town highway department and the Wayne County Highway Department agree to assist each other as necessary by providing equipment and manpower to the others at no charge. Each municipality that receives assistance is responsible for indemnifying the municipalities that provide the assistance against liability claims.

### **VILLAGE STREETS AND WATER DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENTS**

The Village's Streets Department is headquartered on Gaylord Street in the Village. The site contains four structures which include: the main barn (steel construction), a slightly smaller pole barn, a small, old wood frame building and a salt storage building. The main barn was constructed circa 1960, the pole barn and salt building were constructed in the mid 1980s and the small, wood frame building is of substantially older construction. All the buildings are in reasonably good condition, except for the older wood frame structure which may be razed in the near future.

The main barn, which is heated, contains the Streets Department and Water Distribution Department offices, and is also used for the storage of the Village's trucks and other motorized equipment. The pole barn is used for storing other Streets and Water Distribution Department equipment as well as police cars. Although the older, wood frame building is used for storage the contents are comprised of obsolete parts and scrap.

The Streets Department is responsible for maintaining, repairing approximately seven miles of Village streets and for snow removal from Village streets and sidewalks. Property owners, however, are responsible for repairing and replacing the sidewalks. Cleaning and repairing storm sewers, sanitary sewers and watermains is another responsibility of the Department working in conjunction with the Water Distribution Department.

The Streets Department has an established equipment replacement schedule. Vehicles are replaced every 8 to 12 years, depending on the type of vehicle.

### **MUNICIPAL UTILITIES**

**Municipal Water Service** – The Village of Sodus owns and operates a water filtration plant. The plant is located along Maple Road Extension a short distance north of Lake Road. The Village's water pumping station located along the shore of Lake Ontario at the northern end of Maple Road Extension draws water from Lake Ontario. The Village provides municipal water service throughout the Village.

The Town of Sodus provides water service in portions of the Town with water it purchases from the Village. Property owners in areas of the Town not provided with municipal water service must rely on private wells for their water supply. More detailed information about the Village's and Town's water infrastructure and water services is provided in the Transportation and Infrastructure chapter.

**Municipal Sanitary Sewer Service** – The Village’s wastewater treatment plant is located Mud Lane north a short distance north of the Village. The Village contracts with Severn Trent Environmental Services, a private company, to operate the plant. Although municipal sanitary sewer service is provided throughout the Village, some properties have not tied into the sewer and continue to utilize private septic systems. More detailed information about the Village’s sanitary sewage collection system and wastewater treatment plant is provided in the Transportation and Infrastructure chapter.

Property owners in the Town outside the Village must rely exclusively on private- on-site septic systems. No municipal sanitary sewer service is provided anywhere outside the Village.

### **CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

**Sodus Free Library** – The library is located at 17 Maple Street in the Village of Sodus. The library is organized as a not-for-profit corporation with a board of trustees that governs its operation. The library has a paid staff and is open seven days a week year round except for holidays.

In addition to its books and periodicals, the library boasts a collection of audio books, audio cassettes, videos, compact discs (CD’s), digital video discs (DVD’s). As the Sodus Free Library is a member of the Pioneer Library System, a consortium of libraries in Ontario, Livingston, Wayne and Wyoming Counties, materials contained in the collection of the other member libraries is accessible to Sodus residents through the interlibrary loan program.

The Sodus Free Library also has personal computers, photocopies and facsimile machines that are made available to patrons. The personal computers may be used for word processing and spreadsheet applications as well as for accessing the Internet at no charge. Small fees are charged for making photocopies and transmitting or receiving facsimile transmissions to cover costs. The Sodus Free Library also sponsors several programs. The programs include a weekly story hour for children, a “book-sandwiched in” program in the spring and fall during the lunch hour, a children’s summer reading program, and Internet classes .

In 2003, the Sodus Free Library distinguished itself by being ranked third out of 1,587 public libraries that serve communities with populations between 1,000 and 2,500. The rating was conducted by Henen’s American Public Library Rating Service.

**Sodus Central School District** – The Sodus Central School District is the public school system that serves nearly the entire Town of Sodus and a very small portion of the Town of Arcadia. The School District operates five schools all of which are in or adjacent to the Village of Sodus. The Sodus primary elementary school is located on Route 88 immediately south of the Village. The intermediate elementary school, the middle school and the high school are collocated between Mill Street Extension and Robinson Road in buildings that share a common foyer. In door and outdoor athletic facilities are also this location.

The School District finished a \$29 million capital project in 2004 which included the construction of a swimming pool, a new gymnasium and additional classrooms at the high school and bus fueling facility. A proposal by the School District to constructed a new bus garage/maintenance shop, a building to house Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) classes and an all-weather track was defeated in the late 1990s through a voter referendum. Apart from the bus garage/maintenance shop, the School District building facilities are in good condition and meet current and projected needs. The School District's annual operating budget exceeds \$16 million.

The Sodus Central School District student enrollment has steadily declined during the past few years. A total of 1,417 students were enrolled at the beginning of the 2004-2005 academic year, down from the 1,602 students enrolled in the fall of 2000. School District officials anticipate enrollment will remain relatively steady during the next few years.

### **OTHER GOVERNMENTAL FACILITIES**

Although portions of the Town of Sodus falls within five U.S. Post Service zip code delivery areas, there are just three post offices physically located within the Town. The Sodus Post Office is located on Main Street in the Village of Sodus. The Alton Post office is located on Ridge Road in the Hamlet of Alton. The Sodus Point Post Office is located on Bay Street in the Village Sodus Point. All three Post Offices provide window and postal box service. Only the Sodus and Sodus Point Post Offices provide delivery service.

## Issues and Opportunities

The following issues and opportunities relating to community services and facilities have been identified:

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT/STREET DEPARTMENT ISSUES**

**Salt Storage Building Limitations** - The Town's salt storage building does not have sufficient capacity to hold the volume of salt the Highway Department needs to be able to store. Excess salt is stored outdoors which is not an acceptable practice. Exposure to rain and snow dissolves the salt resulting in loss of the material as well as environmental degradation. The Town has explored the possibility of constructing a new salt storage building on an undeveloped portion of the same parcel, but has discovered it is within a wetland. Due to the shape of the parcel and the location of existing buildings, the only apparent solution identified, to date, requires the demolition of the existing salt storage building and the construction of a new storage facility along the length of the side of the Highway Department pole barn.

**Replacement of Town Highway Equipment** - Until recently, the Town Highway Department has had no equipment replacement schedule to plan for the periodic replacement of worn out highway equipment. Much of the Town's highway equipment is nearly 30 years old and has out lived its useful life. Old equipment is often unreliable and subject to frequent failure and breakdowns. Repairing worn out equipment is often expensive and not cost effective as repairs do not necessarily extend the life of the equipment nor increase its reliability.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**Loitering in Downtown Sodus** - Loitering in the downtown business district of the Village of Sodus especially by youth is viewed as problematic. Many residents who responded to the Sodus Comprehensive Plan community survey cited loitering in the downtown as a major concern. (See survey results elsewhere in this chapter.)

The extent to which loitering contributes to crime is not easily determined. Loitering, especially by boisterous and/or ill mannered adolescent boys and young men contributes appreciably to a perception that downtown Sodus is unsafe. Such a perception may and probably deter some residents, especially women and older persons who may feel more vulnerable, from going into the downtown business district out of fear of being victimized by loiterers.

Three factors contribute to loitering in downtown Sodus. One factor is the presence of residential apartments above the storefronts. As the apartments in downtown Sodus lack yards, residents have little option but to loiter at street level in front of the stores if they want to be outdoors during times of fair weather. As long as rental apartments are available in downtown Sodus loitering is apt to continue to be problematic. A second factor is a lack of parental supervision. Although many parents closely supervise their children and prohibit them to loiter, other parents provide little if any supervision. Unsupervised adolescents are prone to loitering and causing trouble or getting involved in unlawful activities. A third factor is the lack of a youth center or similar type of facility where adolescents can go to recreate and socialize with other adolescents.

**Difficulty Responding to Fire and Ambulance Calls** – Some of the fire departments and ambulance squads have difficulty, from time to time, responding to fire and ambulance calls. The difficulty stems from limited numbers of active members.

During the past couple of decades, training requirements for fire fighters and especially for emergency medical technicians have become much more stringent. The amount of time and effort required for training has become onerous and the attrition rate has accelerated. Fire departments are finding it increasingly more difficult to retain and recruit new members. Exacerbating the problem is the large proportion of volunteers who work out of and, therefore, unavailable to respond to fire or ambulance calls when at work.

Mutual aid agreements have been used to lessen the severity of the problem. Under such agreements, the participating fire departments and/or ambulance squads are simultaneously dispatched when a call for service is received in one or another's service area. This pooling of volunteer personnel that results through mutual aid has improved the ability and rate of response, but has not entirely eliminated the problem. In view of this difficulty, some consolidation of the fire departments and ambulance squads may be appropriate.

**Sodus Emergency Council Association** – The formation of the Sodus Emergency Council Association in the early 1980s has improved the interagency communication, coordination and cooperation. The result has been a sharing of duties such as joint fire prevention programs and the automatic mutual aid agreements, sharing of some equipment, and periodic joint training. The existence and successful history of the Sodus Emergency Council Association provides solid groundwork for continued efforts to identify and implement joint measures that will increase the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the fire departments and ambulance squads.

**Closure of Myers Community Hospital** - The closure of Myers Community Hospital in 2003 has adversely affected healthcare and ambulance service in the Sodus community. Prior to 2003, most ambulance transports were to Myers Community Hospital which provided emergency room services. Due to the convenient location of the hospital, ambulance transport times were of short duration. Now the closest hospital is the Newark Hospital in the Village of Newark. The next closest hospitals are the Clifton Springs Hospital in the Village of Clifton Springs (Ontario County) and Rochester General Hospital in the City of Rochester. Ambulance transports now take substantially more time to complete; 1 to 1-1/2 hours if the transport is to Newark Hospital and 2-1/2 to 3 hours if the transport is to Clifton Springs Hospital or to Rochester General.

The increased transport time results in ambulances being out of service and unavailable to respond to other ambulance calls for longer periods of time. The longer transport times place an additional burden on the volunteers who have limited time available for volunteer duties.

**Availability of Water for Fire Fighting**— The lack of municipal water service in some areas of the Town constrains the ability of the fire departments that serve these areas to extinguish fires. Water for fighting fires in areas without municipal water must be transported to the scene by fire engines and tanker trucks. Setting up relays to transport the water requires considerable time and reduces fire department effectiveness.

Even in some areas that have municipal water service, the fire flows are less than optimal. This is due principally to the fact that

**Parking Issues Involving the Sodus Fire Department** - Many members of the Sodus Fire Department prefer to park on Mill Street near the fire hall garage bays when responding to fire calls even though a large municipal off-street parking lot behind the Sodus Municipal Building is available. This practice annoys Mill Street merchants who prefer to keep the parking spaces available for customer parking. It appears the reason fire fighters prefer to park on Mill Street is to reduce their response time.



### Residents Survey Highlights

Respondents were queried about whether agreed or disagreed with the Town and Village considering a merger of the two municipalities. The follow summarizes the responses

#### **Among Town respondents:**

- 30.1% strongly agreed and 29.2% somewhat agreed.
- 12.2% strongly disagreed and 7.6% somewhat agreed.
- 20.9% expressed no opinion for or against the concept.

#### **Among Village respondents:**

- 41.0% strongly agreed and 27.3% somewhat agreed
- 10.6% strongly disagreed and 7.5% somewhat disagreed.
- 13.7% expressed no opinion for or against the concept.

## Tools and Techniques

### INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION

New York State law enables municipal governments to work together through intermunicipal agreements to take advantage of economies of scale, to reduce or eliminate duplication and to utilize surplus facilities. There are two forms of intermunicipal agreements, i.e., a service agreement and a joint agreement. Under a service agreement, one municipality agrees to provide services to another municipality. Under a joint agreement the municipalities share the responsibility for providing a particular service or for constructing and operating a facility. Intermunicipal agreements enable municipalities to more efficiently provide services or operate facilities without an actual consolidation of the two municipalities.

### MUNICIPAL CONSOLIDATION

A towns and village have the ability to consolidate into a single municipal entity. A merger essentially involves the dissolution of the village. Although on the surface, a consolidation may appear advantageous, there are some disadvantages. For example the amount of federal and State aid the town would receive after the consolidation occurred would be less than the sum of the aid the town and village were receiving prior to consolidation.

Consolidation does not spread the cost of paying off village debt or funding village services town-wide. The properties located in former village are still responsible for the debt liability of the dissolved village; taxes to payoff the village's debt many be levied only against the properties that were within the former village. When a village dissolves, the town must continue to provide the services the village was providing to the residents within the former village. The taxes to fund such "village" services are levied only on the properties in the area encompassed by the former village.

Municipal consolidation is a complex undertaking that necessitates a through analysis. The advantages and disadvantages need be identified as do the impacts on residents and properties owners.

### JOINT PURCHASING

Joint purchasing offers potential savings from discounted prices most vendors offer for volume purchases. Municipalities, school districts, fire departments and ambulance squads can realize substantial savings by working together to coordinate their purchases.

**MEASURES TO REDUCE LOITERING AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PROBLEMS**

**Curfew** – The Sodus Village Board enacted a local law in November 2004 to establish a curfew in an effort to reduce the problems and concerns caused by youth loitering in the Village. The curfew applies to minors (under age 18) and prohibits them from loitering on public and private property after 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and after 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings. The local law contains exemptions for minors who are accompanied by an adult or who attending or participating in an event or activity sponsored by a school, community, religious or cultural organization. Youth with jobs are also exempted during work hours when traveling to and from their jobs.

The effectiveness of this measure has not yet been determined. Curfew regulations are frequently challenged in court on the basis of their constitutionality and are often overturned by the courts. As the curfew regulations apply only to minors, it will have no impact on adult loitering.



## **Recommended Actions**

### **TOWN AND VILLAGE MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

1. Establish and maintain a Town Highway Department equipment replacement schedule and continue maintaining the Village Streets Department equipment replacement schedule.
2. Pursue increased intermunicipal cooperation between and among the Town and Village of Sodus and the Sodus Central School District. Opportunities for increased cooperation include:
  - a. The consolidation of the Village Street Department with the Town Highway Department whereby the Town Highway Department assumes responsibility for maintaining and plowing Village Streets through an intermunicipal service agreement.
  - b. The joint development and maintenance of a maintenance garage by the Town and Village of Sodus and the Sodus Central School District
  - c. Joint purchasing of equipment, supplies and materials.
3. Construct a new and larger Town Highway salt storage facility, as funding permits.
4. Continue to maintain in good condition the cemeteries for which the Town is responsible.

### **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

5. Encourage residents to join and volunteer their time and labor to the various fire departments and the ambulance / fly car squads that serve the Town and Village.
6. Encourage fire departments and ambulance squads to jointly purchase fire apparatus, ambulances, and other equipment in order to obtain volume pricing discounts.
7. Encourage increased sharing of equipment among the fire departments and ambulance squads that serve Sodus to reduce the duplicate purchases of equipment.
8. Encourage the consolidation of fire departments and ambulance squads.