



Wawayanda Water Consolidation

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Save Wawayanda Inc

Wawayanda Residents First. Every Decision.

What “water consolidation” means in Wawayanda

- The Town of Wawayanda currently **owns and operates five separate water districts**, most of them very small and each with its own rates, budgets, and capital needs. Four districts rely on small well systems, while Water District #1 purchases water from the City of Middletown .
- The proposal under discussion is **administrative consolidation**:
- One unified water district
- A common budget and rate structure
- Shared capital improvement planning
- This has been formally presented by Delaware Engineering to the Town Board in January 2026 and is the subject of multiple public meeting

What matters most in deciding if it's “a good idea”

Consolidation tends to work best **when all of the following are true:**

1. **Transparent rate modeling**

Residents can clearly see who pays more, who pays less, and why .

2. **Capital needs are openly disclosed**

Especially expected costs for wells, treatment, storage tanks, and interconnections .

3. **Strong governance safeguards**

Comptroller audits show that weak financial controls not district size alone are a major risk in water systems.

4. **Clear opt-out or phased implementation options**

Some NY towns successfully consolidate administratively first, then infrastructure later

Arguments against consolidation



**SOME RESIDENTS WILL
LIKELY PAY MORE**



NOT ALL DISTRICTS ARE
IN THE SAME
CONDITION. RESIDENTS
IN **NEWER OR MORE
EFFICIENT
SYSTEMS** MAY END UP
SUBSIDIZING:



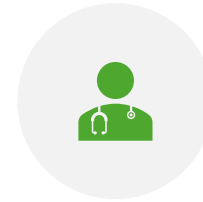
OLDER WELLS



DEFERRED
MAINTENANCE

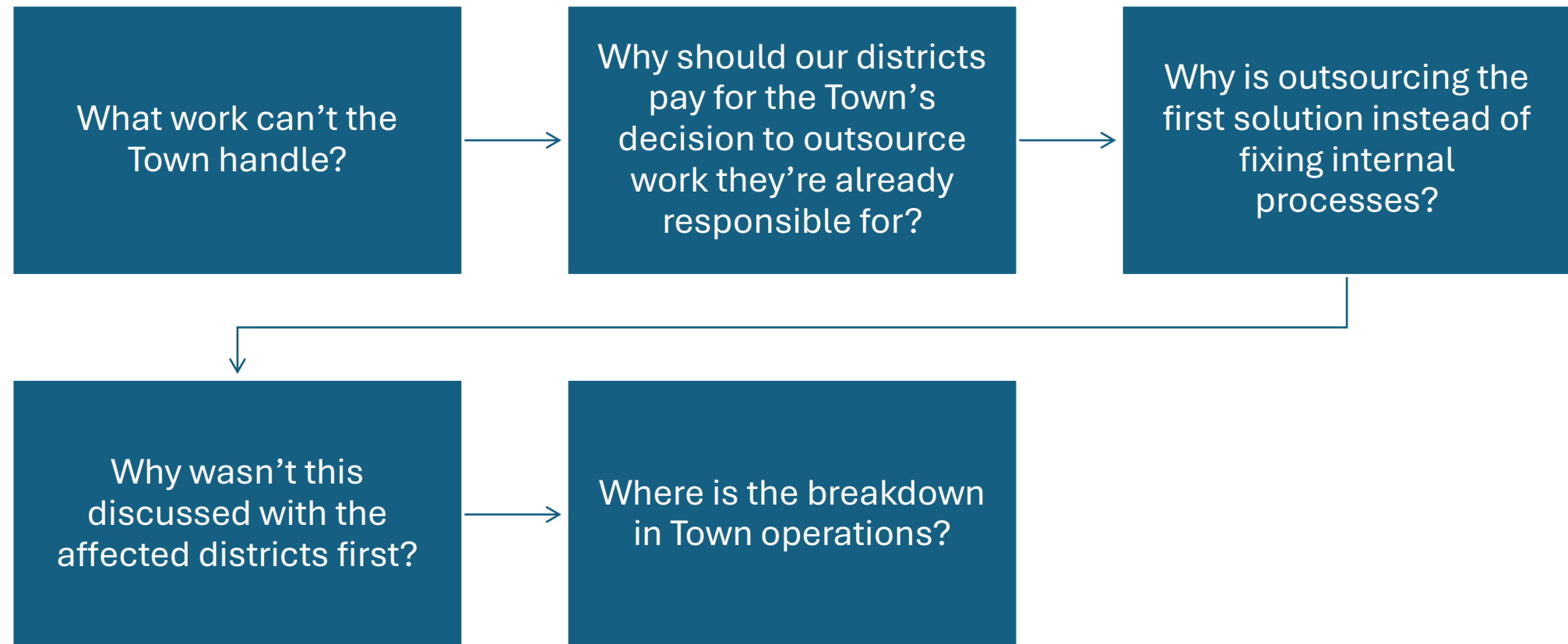


DISTRICTS WITH
CHRONIC WATER
QUALITY OR SUPPLY
ISSUES





THIS CONCERN IS
COMMON IN NY
CONSOLIDATION
EFFORTS AND HAS BEEN
FLAGGED IN
COMPTROLLER
RESEARCH ON SPECIAL
DISTRICTS

Before asking the water districts to pay for private management, residents deserve answers



Bottom line



- Water consolidation in Wawayanda is neither automatically good nor bad.
-  It can improve financial resilience, regulatory compliance, and long-term planning.
-  It can also shift costs in ways some residents reasonably oppose.
- The proposal is technically sound, but its fairness depends entirely on final rate design, capital planning, and accountability not the concept itself.

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