

Voters approve police merger

NEW HARTFORD — The village Police Department will become a new town-controlled department on Jan. 1, but the question of who will provide police protection to the Bon Aire area of New York Mills remains unanswered.

Village residents voted 210-83 yesterday to form the New Hartford Municipal Police Department next year. Mayor William Keiser III said he was satisfied with the voter turnout, although it was only about 16.2 percent of those eligible. He said he had expected only about 100 people, since there hadn't been much controversy.

The new town-run department will result in a tax savings of about \$20 per \$1,000 of assessed value for village residents, because the operating cost will be spread over the town's tax base of \$47 million rather than over the village's \$4.1 million tax base.

For town residents, the new department means the equivalent of a \$5 per \$1,000 tax rate increase, but any actual increase will be offset by Oneida County sales tax revenues to the town. Overall, the new department means 24-hour protection to all areas of the town.