

Resident opposes N.H. police plan

NEW HARTFORD — A village resident said last night she will circulate petitions to bring the New Hartford Police Department reorganization proposal before residents for a vote if the village board approves the plan.

Lucy Martin of 11 Pearl St., said she does not favor the reorganization proposal because she feels police coverage in the area is adequate now and the change would cost residents more money than what they would receive in police services.

Martin was one of about 65 people who attended a public hearing last night on the proposal, which calls for the dissolution of the current police department and the creation of a New Hartford Municipal Police Department to be run by the town board.

Under the plan, one car would patrol each of three zones 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Those zones include:

■ The village of New Hartford; ■ The Sherman Hill, Chadwicks and Snowden

Hill Road area and Tibbetts Road south to the Paris town line;

■ The area north and east of Route 12, including the areas of Middle Settlement Road and Bon Aire.

A full-time patrol would be available to respond to problems in any zone and would cover the village of New Hartford and small sections of the other two areas.

Melvin Smith, chairman of the police commission that proposed the plan after a six-month study, said the new department would save village residents \$24 per \$1,000 of assessed value on their taxes, while the tax rate for remaining town residents would increase by \$5 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The village board could act on the proposal during its June 7 meeting, said village Mayor William Keiser III. If it is approved, residents will have 30 days to file petitions requesting a vote on the issue. If the village board votes against it, the matter ends there.