

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**TOWN OF PORTLAND – VARIOUS FUNCTIONS**

Community Profiles

The Town of Portland and Village of Brocton are located in Chautauqua County in the Western region of New York State. Both the Town and Village are smaller than average in size. The Town receives slightly less than average revenues obtained from federal and state aid, whereas the Village receives slightly more. Both municipalities are losing population.

<b>2005</b>	<b>Town of Portland</b>	<b>NYS Town Average</b>	<b>Village of Brocton</b>	<b>NYS Village Average</b>
<b>Population</b>	5,502	9,326	1,547	3,385
<b>Revenue from State and Federal Aid</b>	12.8%	14.2%	12.5%	10.1%

Background

In 1992, at the request of the Brocton/Portland Development Corporation (an organization of local business leaders), the SUNY College at Fredonia Rural Services Institute began an analysis of municipal services in the Town of Portland and Village of Brocton. The overall purpose of the analysis was to identify opportunities for delivering current services in a more cost efficient manner without jeopardizing the effectiveness of these services. The report recommended that the municipalities consider consolidation as the primary strategy to improve public services in the most cost effective manner. As an alternative to consolidation, the report made specific suggestions for sharing services between the Town of Portland and Village of Brocton in the following functional areas:

- A. General Services: Joint municipal building, merger of dog control, and coordinated planning.
- B. Public Safety: Joint courts and coordination of police and fire services.
- C. Transportation: Consolidation of Highway Departments
- D. Community Services: Centralized administration of all utilities.

Funding

The Town of Portland applied for a Shared Municipal Services Incentive (SMSI) grant to assist in the planning and development of a shared highway maintenance facility. The grant was not approved.

Outcome

- A. General Services: Dog control departments were merged.
- B. Public Safety: Joint courts proposal not adopted.
- C. Transportation: Consolidation of Highway Departments grant not approved.
- D. Community Services: Joint fuel depot with school district.