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## COUNTY

# Bridgewater village residents vote for dissolution

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The Village of Bridgewater is no more.

Forty-eight residents turned out to cast ballots on the fate of their village.

The tally was 40 to 8 that the village should dissolve, Mayor Gary Comstock said Tuesday evening, just after the vote was counted.

“It has been a pleasure serving as mayor,” he said. “But the job is to do the responsible thing, and this is the responsible thing to do at this point. We have to change with the times and do what’s best for the taxpayers.”

The 470-person village, with its 249 registered voters, had been struggling to find people willing to participate in its government. That, in combination with financial challenges and dwindling population, led village leaders to push for dissolution.

Comstock and the other village officials will serve in their positions until the end of 2014.

They will create a budget that will run from the beginning of their budget year on June 1 to the end of 2014. That means village taxpayers will pay taxes for those seven months, Comstock said.

In the meantime, village officials will begin the process of dissolution, such as laying the groundwork for the legal transfer of all village property over to the town of Bridgewater, he said.

“Having two levels of government in a community this small can’t succeed,” he said. “I think it’s the right move.”

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