



Contracting the GIS Administrator: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

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Where are we?







Town Engineer History



own of onawanda





GIS History



- 1991 Automated Mapping, digitizing from lined maps to AutoCAD, Parcels, water, drainage and sanitary sewers
- •1996 1st Needs assessment, GIS Resource Group
- •2001 Deployed ArcIMS server, Wendel
- •2002 Subaddress application, Nusbaumer & Clarke, 1st in NYS, using Police "back-up" address, parcel address, water billing accounts and field verifications
- •2007 2nd Needs assessment, Bergmann
- •2010 Tree and Sign mapping ArcPad application, Bergmann
- •2012 Upgraded ArcIMS to ArcGIS 9 with Silverlight
- •2015 Upgraded to ArcGIS with Portal
- •2015 Geocove brought on for esri software support, water utilities map updates, etc.







<u>Client Perspective</u>

- •Hiring constraints
 - Civil service
 - Title
 - Residency
 - Timing
 - Right fit
- Diverse background
- Access to data and resources
- Access to specialized technical resources
- Training Expected / capabilities on new & current technologies
- •Consultants can ramp up for large projects





The Good



Client Perspective

- Grant Opportunities
- Hiring constraints
 - Civil service
 - Title
 - Residency
 - Timing
 - Right fit
- Diverse background
- Access to data and resources
- Attrition
- Access to specialized technical resources
- Training Expected / capabilities on new & current technologies
- Consultants can ramp up for large projects

Consultant Perspective

- Upper Management Support
- Budget
- Specific Project Ideas / goals
- Responsiveness
- Security





The Bad



Client Perspective

Disconnected from Town leadership

- Project managers are subject to change on short notice
- •GIS administrator is only as good as the information that they are given
 - If constraints restrict the ability to obtain information, then GIS capabilities are limited
- •Consultant relationship still needs to be managed
- •Limited budget assistance





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Consultant Perspective

- Micro Budgets
 - Only one project at a time
 - No attempt at enterprise implementation
- •No Long range plan
- Disconnected communication
- •No cross department participation
- •Trust Needed
- •Changing Targets
 - Pilot
 - Needs assessment





The Ugly



Client Perspective

- Consultants are subject to change
 - Award a contract as a professional service
- •Remote access to servers
- •Need to be responsive to Engineering and IT
- Politics
- •Familiarity with Town staff
- •Familiarity with Town procedures
- •Compliance
- •Ability to maintain/increase budget









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Consultant Perspective

- •No / little support from upper management
- Too many bosses
- •Changing winds
- Troubleshooting
- •Hardware/software changes and/or updates by others





Conclusion



