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During my 27 years of public service I have been asked to undertake a variety of different assignments within the public safety sector. As Vice-President of the Acton Patrolman's Union I represent 24 men and women who are employed by a town named Acton.

A town by definition is a human settlement larger than a village but smaller than a city. The size for what constitutes a town varies considerably in different parts of the world. For example many small towns in the United States would and can be regarded as a village. What does it take to build a village? I've searched the internet and kept coming up with one common answer to this question it is People. The Town of Acton is built on people and continues to be built daily to better itself for the people who work and live here. Acton is ranked as #16 by Money Magazine as one of the top 100 places to live in the United States. I often thought what it takes to have community that makes this list I feel it takes cooperation by its community.

The town's unions were asked to be on a working group in an effort to come up with alternative cost saving health care options other than Chapter 69, I was asked to represent our union. On the first day of our meeting we all came into this room with what I felt were different ideas but knew we had to find a solution, a solution that we can all agree upon. The task would be a huge undertaking that none of us had ever been faced with before. As the weeks went by this group came together as a group, a group that builds a village daily.

During my 27 years of public service I have never seen all employee groups unified on one issue, this has a lot to say about the members of our village. I stand before you tonight and can say that I am proud to have served on this working group with people that I have known through the years as colleagues but now have no problems now calling upon any of them not just as a colleague but as a friend. I hear of work forces having "team building events" this working group in my estimation has built a team that can only compare to an Olympic team.

As a working group/team we bring to you this evening a brick. This brick we bring before you to hopefully accept as what we have formed as a unified group to add to the foundation that maintains Acton as one of the best places to live.

Letter from DET Christopher Prehl