

CHAPTER 7 Intergovernmental Cooperation Element

The Intergovernmental Cooperation chapter identifies opportunities for establishing or maintaining cooperation between units of government. Cooperation improves lines of communication between different units of government, aids in the recognition and possible resolution of conflicts between jurisdictions, and allows for the identification of mutual service needs and improvements. The intent of this chapter is to identify, inventory, and analyze existing and potential cooperative relationships, to provide an understanding of how municipalities currently work together and how these relationships can be enhanced.

Section 7.1 Inventory and Analysis Intergovernmental Relationships

A. Adjacent Units of Government

The Town of Alban shares borders with the Portage County Towns of Sharon to the east and New Hope to the south, as well as Marathon County Town of Franzen to the north and Waupaca County Town of Harrison to the east. The Village of Rosholt is located in the central portion of Alban.

The Town of Alban has agreements with the Rosholt Fire District for provision of fire, rescue, and first responder services. The fire station for the Rosholt Fire District is located in the Town of Alban west of the Village of Rosholt on State Highway 66. In addition, the Town has Mutual Aid Agreements for fire protection with all surrounding Portage County Towns, and adjoining Towns located in Marathon County and Waupaca County.

The Town of Alban has agreements with surrounding communities for aid in snow removal and road maintenance on local roads that are located along the Town boundaries. These roads are: Wilderness Road and South Collins Road, shared with the Town of Sharon; Linden Road, shared with the Town of New Hope; and Lost Road, shared with the Town of Franzen in Marathon County.

B. School Districts

The Town of Alban is served by the Rosholt School District. The primary form of interaction with this entity is through the payment of property taxes which, in part, help to fund the district. The Town has little participation with issues pertaining to administration or siting of new facilities. The Rosholt School District owns their own busses to service the students of the district.

C. Portage County

1. Portage County Solid Waste

The Town, along with the Village of Rosholt, contracts with Wittenberg Disposal from Wittenberg Wisconsin for handling solid waste and recycling materials.

2. Portage County Highway Department

The Highway Department of Portage County maintains and plows County Roads in Alban. The Highway Department also administers the dispersal of funds for local road projects as part of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Local Roads Improvement Program.

3. Portage County Sheriff and Ambulance

The Town relies on the Portage County Sheriff Department to provide protective services through periodic patrols and an “on-call” basis. The Stevens Point Fire Department operates the Ambulance Service for Portage County. See Utilities and Community Facilities Chapter for detailed information.

4. Portage County Planning and Zoning Department

There are currently three different sections operating under the Planning and Zoning Department; the Planning and Groundwater Management Section, the Code Administration Section, and the Land Conservation section.

The Planning and Groundwater Management Section includes staff and resources to assist local communities in the preparation or amending of various plan documents including a comprehensive plan. Staff can also assist in water quality testing associated with siting new developments.

The Code Administration Section staff is responsible for administering the County’s Zoning, Wellhead Protection, Tower, Subdivision, Floodplain Zoning, Shoreland Zoning, Non-metallic Mining Reclamation, and Private Sewage System Ordinances. The Town of Alban participates in the Portage County Zoning program.

The Land Conservation Section staff works with individuals to design and implement conservation practices. Assistance is given to Towns upon request.

5. Portage County Parks Department

The Portage County Parks in Alban, including Peterson Park, Lake Helen Park, and Collins Park, are open all year; however, they are only maintained by the County Parks Department from May 1st to October 31st. The Town interacts with the Parks Department on an as needed basis as issues arise.

D. State of Wisconsin

The two primary State agencies that the Town of Alban interacts with are the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). The DNR is responsible for natural resource protection, compliance monitoring, and law enforcement. WisDOT is responsible for the planning and development of road networks and associated infrastructure and is the lead agency for the Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP). Town road improvement projects must be submitted as part of a two year improvement plan.

Section 7.2 Identification of Existing or Potential Issues and Conflicts with Other Governmental Units

The Town of Alban Plan Commission does not presently identify any specific conflicts with other governmental units.

Section 7.3 Issues/Conclusions Regarding Intergovernmental Relations

The Town would like to continue its intergovernmental agreements with surrounding communities and meet with them on a periodic basis to review how relationships and services can be improved.

Section 7.4 Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 1: Share services with other units of government whenever possible.

Objective 1.1: Continue shared agreements with adjacent units of government.

Objective 1.2: Local units of government work together to maintain appropriate public access to natural resources.

Objective 1.3: Communicate with surrounding municipalities for discussion of Land Use and other related issues.

Policy 1.3 (a): Continue to meet with other government units as needed.

Policy 1.3 (b): Continue participation with the Portage County Towns Association.

Policy 1.3 (c): Explore additional opportunities for intergovernmental agreements.