

## **CHAPTER 7 Intergovernmental Cooperation Element**

66.1001 (2)(g) Wisconsin Statutes:

***Intergovernmental Cooperation Element.*** A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps, and programs for joint planning and decision making with other jurisdictions, including school districts, drainage districts, and adjacent local governmental units, for siting and building public facilities and sharing public services. The element shall analyze the relationship of the local governmental unit to school districts, drainage districts, and adjacent local governmental units, and to the region, the state and other governmental units. The element shall consider, to the greatest extent possible, the maps and plans of any military base or installation, with at least 200 assigned military personnel or that contains at least 2,000 acres, with which the local governmental unit shares common territory. The element shall incorporate any plans or agreements to which the local governmental unit is a party under s. 66.0301, 66.0307 or 66.0309. The element shall identify existing or potential conflicts between the local governmental unit and other governmental units that are specified in this paragraph and describe processes to resolve such conflicts.

### **Section 7.1 Introduction**

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.

### **Section 7.2 Inventory and Analysis of Intergovernmental Relationships**

Inventory and examination of existing municipal relations allows for the understanding of how municipalities currently work together and how these relationships can be enhanced. As the Town of New Hope develops over the next 20 years it is important for them to continue to work with surrounding municipalities, school districts, and other governmental units.

#### **A. Adjacent Units of Government**

The Town of New Hope shares borders with the Portage County Towns of Alban, Amherst, Stockton, and Sharon, and the Village of Nelsonville, located immediately south of the Town. New Hope also shares borders with the Waupaca County Town of Iola.

##### **1. Adjacent Communities**

The Town of New Hope has agreements with surrounding communities for aid in snow removal on local roads that are located along the Town boundaries.

Other agreements include First Responder services provided by the Amherst Fire District and Rosholt Area First Responders. First Responders are local residents who volunteer to be the first to respond to accidents and medical emergencies within the area. First Responders are dispatched by the Portage County 911 system, respond in their personal vehicles and attempt

to stabilize patients before EMTs and/or Ambulances arrive. Supplies and equipment used by local EMT's and First Responders are kept at the Amherst and Rosholt Fire Stations.

The Town also has Mutual Aid Agreements regarding firefighting with surrounding communities.

## B. School Districts

The Town of New Hope is served by three school districts: Rosholt, Tomorrow River, and Iola-Scandinavia School districts. The primary form of interaction with these entities is through the payment of property taxes which, in part, help to fund the districts. The Town has little participation with the districts in issues pertaining to administration or siting of new facilities.

## C. Portage County

### 1. Portage County Highway Department

The Highway Department of Portage County maintains and plows State Highways and County Roads in New Hope. This Department also administers the application process for local road projects as part of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Local Roads Improvement Program.

### 2. Portage County Sheriff and Ambulance

The Town relies on the Portage County Sheriff's Office to provide protective services through periodic patrols and an "on-call" basis. Portage County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provides County-wide ambulance services through contracts with the Stevens Point Fire Department and Amherst Fire District. See Utilities and Community Facilities Chapter for detailed information.

### 3. Portage County Planning and Zoning Department

There are currently seven different sections operating under the Planning and Zoning Department; they include Planning, Zoning, Land and Water Conservation, On-Site Waste, Water Resources, Geographic Information Systems, and Economic Development.

The Planning Section includes staff and resources to assist local communities in the preparation or amending of various plan documents including a comprehensive plan.

The Zoning 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 Land and Water Conservation Section focuses on protection and improvement of the County's land and water resources by implementing a variety of County, State, and Federal programs. Staff works with individuals to design and implement conservation practices. Assistance may be given to Towns upon request.

On-Site Waste Section Staff are responsible for administering the County's Private Sewage System Ordinance and On-Site Sewage Program, including issuing sanitary permits for approved septic systems, and enforcement of County Ordinances and State Codes related to Private On-site Waste Treatment Systems (POWTS).

The Water Resources Section coordinates, organizes, and evaluates all Portage County water resource data for the Planning and Zoning Department, with a primary focus on groundwater.

This includes providing information to communities, the public and elected officials on groundwater management, protection, groundwater issues and on methods to resolve water resource issues or problems in Portage County. This Section is also responsible for carrying out initiatives to implement the County's Groundwater Management Plan and associated programs.

Staff of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Section develop and maintain the Planning and Zoning Department's GIS. This Section has daily interaction with residents, municipal officials throughout the County, State agencies, and other Portage County staff to provide information on parcels of land, and produce maps for individual requests and ongoing projects.

The Economic Development Section manages the Portage County Business Park. Staff maintains a strong relationship with the Portage County Economic Development Committee and City of Stevens Point Community Development and Engineering Departments in order to streamline projects.

#### 4. Portage County Parks Department

The Portage County Parks, including Sunset Lake Park and Rinehart Lake boat landing, are open all year; however, they are only maintained by the Department from May 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>. The Town interacts with the Parks Department on an as needed basis as issues arise.

#### D. State of Wisconsin

The primary State agencies that the Town of New Hope 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 7.3 Identification of Existing or Potential Issues and Conflicts with Other Governmental Units**

The Town Plan Commission identified the following issues or conflicts that needed further attention:

- How will the loss of funding due to decreased state shared revenue impact the Town's ability to provide services?
- How can the Town coordinate with neighboring communities and Portage County to protect groundwater quality and quantity?

### **Section 7.4 Issues/Conclusions Regarding Intergovernmental Relations and Possible Methods of Conflict Resolution**

The Town felt that intergovernmental relations were, for the most part, satisfactory. General methods of conflict resolution that the Town may explore include negotiation, compromise, or third-party mediation. 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 7.5 Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives and Policies**

### **Goal 1: Units of government work together to manage growth.**

**Objective 1.1:** Maintain or improve present level of communication with surrounding units of government.

**Policy 1.1.a:** Continue participation with the Portage County Towns Association.

**Policy 1.1.b:** Continue shared agreements with adjacent units of government. Consider drafting written agreements regarding snow plowing and road maintenance.

**Policy 1.1.c:** Meet with adjacent government units to discuss potential conflicts or issues.