

CHAPTER 7: Intergovernmental Cooperation

66.1001 (2)(g) Wis. Stat.:

Intergovernmental Cooperation element. A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps, and programs for joint planning and decision making with other jurisdictions, including school districts and adjacent local governmental units, for sighting and building public facilities and sharing public services. The element shall analyze the relationship of the local governmental unit to school districts and adjacent local governmental units and to the region, the state, and other governmental units. 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

In today's demanding political and fiscal environment, communities should work together where practical to ensure the most efficient delivery of services for their residents. The objective of this chapter is to identify, inventory, and analyze existing cooperative relationships the Village of Junction City has with other local units of government, and to identify any new relationships that could prove advantageous to the community. The chapter will also identify how to improve communication between these units of government, and how to possibly resolve any issues that create conflict. Cooperation improves lines of communication between different units of government, aids in the recognition and possible resolution of conflicts between jurisdictions, and allows future identification of mutual service needs and services.

Section 7.2 Inventory of Existing Intergovernmental Cooperative Relationships

A. Surrounding Communities

1. Portage County

Junction City is located within Portage County. The main cooperative service agreements that the Village has with the County are mutual aid agreements with the Portage County Sheriff's Department and Portage County Ambulance service. (See Utilities and Community Facilities chapter for full description). This is a long term agreement between the Village and these County service providers. Finally, the Village also participated with the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department in the Countywide Comprehensive Planning project that produced this planning document.

2. Towns and Adjacent Counties

Communities adjacent to the Village of Junction City include the Town of Carson to the west, south and east, and the Town of Eau Pleine to the north (see Map 1.1 in the Issues and Opportunities chapter). Currently, the Town of Eau Pleine does road maintenance on about 1/3 of a mile of Clover Road, a border road between the Village and the Town. In the past, the three communities have coordinated activities on individual issues or projects (i.e. USH 10 relocation), but at this time there are no official agreements or programs in place for joint planning or decision making.

The Wood County border is located five miles west of the Village of Junction City. Even though the Village does not share a border with the County, there are still cooperative efforts between the two governmental units and communities within Wood County. Currently, Junction City and Wood County have a mutual aid contract for rescue services. The Village has also worked with communities within Wood County. For example, when Junction City was installing their newest well in 2001, residents obtained water from the Village of Milladore, located just over the Wood County line, because of difficulty obtaining water.

B. School Districts

The Village of Junction City is located in the Stevens Point Area Public School District (see Map 4.3 in the Utilities & Community Facilities chapter). Kennedy Elementary School, part of the Stevens Point district, is the only school located within the Village. Junction City children attend junior high school and high school in Stevens Point. There is a good cooperative relationship between the Village and school district. The Village donates funds to the district for special projects, including: wrestling mats, graduation, holiday candy, Fire Prevention Week, and have donated \$5,000 each of the past two years to the Boys and Girls Club. The Village also provides funding for the after school basketball and volleyball coaches. In 2004, the Village made a donation to the school's computer lab fundraiser.

The Auburndale School District is located just west of the Village of Junction City, in Wood County. Residents of the Village and surrounding area currently have the opportunity to send their children to the Auburndale School District. There has been discussion by the Stevens Point school district in the past of closing the Kennedy Elementary School in Junction City, and it is felt that if or when this would happen, more children would attend schools in Auburndale.

C. Regional Governmental Units

Junction City is a participant in the League of Wisconsin Municipalities organization. This is a not-for-profit association of municipalities, established in 1898. The League acts as an information clearinghouse, lobbying organization and legal resource for Wisconsin municipalities. Its membership consists of 386 Villages and all of the 190 Cities in the State.

The Village is also within the ten-county region that makes up the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC), located in Wausau. The NCWRPC is a strictly advisory body that provides information regarding a variety of economic development and land use planning issues. At this time there are no official agreements or programs in place for joint planning or decision making. Portage County is a non-participating county in the Regional Planning Commission.

D. State Agencies

State agencies that have an on-going relationship with the Village of Junction City include:

1. Department of Transportation (WisDOT)

The Wisconsin DOT maintains the US Hwy 10 corridor (Main Street) in terms of road maintenance and snow plowing. There is also interaction between the Village and WisDOT through on-going discussions regarding the location of the new US Hwy 10, proposed for construction along the northern edge of the Village. Please refer to the Transportation chapter for further information.

2. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

The DNR has interacted with Junction City in the past, and this relationship continues today. The land for the Village Park was bought through a WDNR grant in 1991. The Village currently uses their fire equipment when needed. A WDNR Smoky the Bear sign, warning people of the daily fire hazard in the area, is located in front of the Village Hall. There is also interaction between the Village and WDNR for wastewater and municipal permitting in the Village, training sessions, and informational talks at the school.

3. Army Reserve

There is an Army Reserve Center located on the northwestern edge of the Village, on County Road G. There is cooperation between the Village and Army Reserve Center in several ways. Volunteers and vehicles from the Army Reserve assist the Village in their annual Ice Cutting event. The Village occasionally uses the Center for meetings, and parking lot and fire hydrants for Village fire training.

E. National Agencies

National agencies that have a relationship with the Village of Junction City include:

1. Army Corps of Engineers

The Village and the Army Corps of Engineers have worked together in to past.

Section 7.3 Analysis of Future Cooperative Relationships

A. Surrounding Communities

1. Portage County

The Village anticipates that they will continue their mutual aid agreements with the Portage County Sheriff's Department and Ambulance Service throughout the planning period.

2. Adjacent Communities

The Village foresees possible cooperative efforts between the Village and surrounding Towns regarding land use.

B. School Districts

There has been discussion by the Stevens Point Areas Public School District in the past of closing the Kennedy Elementary school in Junction City. It is felt that if or when this would happen, more children would attend schools in Auburndale.

C. Regional Governmental Units

Junction City anticipates continuing their participation in the League of Wisconsin Municipalities.

D. State Agencies

1. Department of Transportation (WisDOT)

The Village of Junction City and WisDOT will continue to coordinate regarding road maintenance and plowing of US Highway 10 (Main Street) and the relocation of USH 10.

2. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)

The Village and WDNR will continue cooperative efforts regarding recycling, garbage collection, and water and sewer operations.

3. Army Reserve Center

It is anticipated that the Army Reserve Center will remain located within the Village. The future relationship between the Village and Reserve Center is foreseen to continue being mutually beneficial.

E. National Agencies

1. Army Corps of Engineers

The Village foresees continuing working with the Army Corps of Engineers with special projects in the Village.

Section 7.4 Existing/Potential Conflicts between the Village, other Governmental Units

A. Existing Issues

1. The railroad splits the Village into four sections, cutting off access to emergency services and surrounding roadways.
2. Lack of snow removal on USH 10 (Main Street) by the Department of Transportation.
3. The Army Reserve Center does not pay their special assessments, leaving them for the Village to pay.
4. Impacts of the new USH 10 route that potentially will be constructed just along the Village's northern border.

B. Potential Issues

1. The potential closure of Kennedy Elementary school resulting from a decrease in student population over the past few years; where to send those children and how they will be transported to other schools. The Village would like to keep Kennedy School open.

C. Possible Methods for Issue Resolution

1. More open communication with the Stevens Point School District.
2. Contact the Wisconsin DOT regarding the placement of the new USH 10 route and snow removal.

Section 7.5 Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives, and Policies

Goal: Encourage cooperation with surrounding municipalities and other units of government to coordinate services and respond to issues of mutual concern.

Objective 1: Maintain an open line of communication with the Stevens Point School District regarding plans for the Kennedy Elementary School.

Objective 2: Maintain existing intergovernmental cooperation with surrounding municipalities and local units of government.

Policy 1: Coordinate with the Department of Transportation for more efficient snow removal along USH 10.

Policy 2: Continue discussions with the Department of Transportation regarding the rerouting of USH 10.

Policy 3: Assess different ways to route emergency vehicles around the railroad tracks. Work with Canadian National Railroad to determine these routes.