

CHAPTER 7 Intergovernmental Cooperation Element

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 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 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and First Responder services provided by the Amherst Area EMT 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 fire fighting 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 either district 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 Police and Ambulance

The Town relies on the Portage County Sheriffs 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.

3. Portage County Planning and Zoning Department

There are currently seven different sections operating under the Planning and Zoning Department; they include Planning, Zoning and Code Administration, Land Conservation, On-Site Waste, Groundwater Management, Justice, and Economic and Business Park Development.

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 Pine Grove currently does not participate in the Portage County Zoning program.

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

5. 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 1st to October 31st. 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?

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

A. Goal

1. Units of government work together to manage growth.

B. Objective

1. Maintain or improve present level of communication with surrounding units of government.

C. Policies

1. Continue participation with the Portage County Towns Association.
2. Continue shared agreements with adjacent units of government. Consider drafting written agreements regarding snow plowing and road maintenance.
3. Meet with adjacent government units to discuss potential conflicts or issues.