

# Intergovernmental Cooperation

## Major Finding

- ❑ The City of Sheboygan Falls communicates regularly with County, State and federal agencies to coordinate road projects, land development, emergency, and human resource services.

## Recommendation

- ❑ The City of Sheboygan Falls needs to communicate with surrounding communities to coordinate the implementation of each other's plan and address common boundary issues.

## Goal and Objectives

### Goal

- ❑ Continue fostering a mutually beneficial and friendly working relationship with surrounding towns, Sheboygan County, the State of Wisconsin, and federal agencies.

### Objectives

1. **Emergency Services:** Coordinate emergency response services with the City's Fire and Police Departments, Sheboygan County 911 dispatch, and County Sheriff's Department.
2. **Town Coordination:** Meet as needed with surrounding towns to discuss coordination of land use within the City's extraterritorial planning jurisdiction area.
3. **Village Coordination:** Meet as needed with the Village of Kohler to identify any adjacent land use issues that need to be addressed between the two public entities.
4. **Shared Services and Equipment:** Review as part of the City's annual budgeting process the opportunities to provide efficient and economical public facilities and services through cooperation with other units of government (sharing equipment, for example).

## Background Information

### Guidelines for Intergovernmental Cooperation

- ❑ Wisconsin State Statutes provide guidelines for intergovernmental cooperation and boundary agreements between municipalities. These statutes enable adjoining communities to enter into agreements that will benefit all.
- ❑ Mutual aid agreements are a type of intergovernmental cooperation. For example, fire departments use this method to extend fire protection from one municipality to another. The biggest advantage is that each fire department can share equipment and manpower in times of major fires that would otherwise limit resources or response times.

- ❑ Boundary agreements are typically found in urbanizing areas where there is a desire on the part of adjacent municipalities to agree on where each municipality will provide services. These agreements contribute to better planning and the efficient and economical provision of municipal services.

## **Governmental Jurisdictions**

### **Towns, Village and City**

- ❑ Sheboygan Falls shares common boundaries with the Village of Kohler and the Towns of Wilson, Lima, and Sheboygan Falls.

### **School Districts**

- ❑ The Sheboygan Falls School District covers the entire City of Sheboygan Falls.
- ❑ The potential impact of planned and future growth and development in Sheboygan Falls could affect school district enrollments. If a major housing project is proposed, the City of Sheboygan Falls will make an effort to notify the Sheboygan Falls School District.
- ❑ City communication with the District occurs informally as the need arises.

### **Sheboygan County**

- ❑ The major areas of cooperation with Sheboygan County are law enforcement, judicial matters, incarceration when needed, and the reconstruction of county trunk roads within city limits. When County road projects occur in or near Sheboygan Falls, the City and County will coordinate the work.
- ❑ The Health and Human Services Department provides various social service programs for eligible city residents.

### **Emergency Response**

- ❑ The City of Sheboygan Falls is served by County Emergency response dispatch, City Police and Fire Departments, and Orange Cross Ambulance.

### **Regional**

- ❑ The City of Sheboygan Falls is part of the Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission. The City actively engages with the Commission in discussing and planning activities for projects.
- ❑ The City of Sheboygan Falls is a member of the Eastern Shores Library System, which provides bookmobile and other services to city residents.

### **State and Federal**

#### ***Wisconsin Department of Transportation***

- ❑ Sheboygan Falls is within the WDOT's Northeast Region. The City actively engages with the WDOT in the discussion and planning for projects.

#### ***Department of Natural Resources***

- ❑ The City is aware of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources rules and regulations, and has discussions with this agency on a periodic basis.

#### ***State Professional Associations***

- ❑ City of Sheboygan Falls staff members participate in numerous professional organizations, which provides them with an opportunity to meet with the staff from municipalities across the state.

## Opportunities and Conflicts

- ❑ City of Sheboygan Falls officials will need to proactively engage in discussions with other government officials to promote good land use planning for everyone involved.
- ❑ Potential land use conflicts may occur either within the city limits or on land within surrounding communities that border the city.
- ❑ When any significant conflict occurs, initial attempts to address it will involve written and face-to-face communication. If initial attempts are not successful, the City will consider other methods, including mediation, arbitration, and other dispute resolution techniques as described in Wisconsin State Statutes 802.12.
- ❑ The City of Sheboygan Falls will be open and receptive to meeting with abutting communities to discuss any conflicts which may arise.