

## **Chapter 7, Intergovernmental Cooperation**

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### **Section 1--Introduction**

The Town of Liberty Grove's relationship with neighboring communities and school districts impacts planning, the provision of services, and the siting of public facilities.

### **Section 2—Goals, Policies, and Procedures**

**Goal:** The goal of intergovernmental cooperation: promote cooperation between the Town and any other governmental unit or agency making decisions that impact the Town.

### **Policies and Procedures**

1. It is the policy of the Town to work with neighboring communities to discuss any unique natural features and other land uses or services that span municipal boundaries.

Procedurally, the Town may execute this policy by the following:

- a. By working with neighboring communities to identify shared natural features such as wetland recharge areas and natural habitat areas;
  - b. By co-planning with neighboring municipalities to ensure compatible land use along shared borders;
  - c. By encouraging the exchange of municipal board minutes and encouraging leaders of neighboring communities to meet at least semi-annually to discuss issues of common concern;
  - d. By working with neighboring municipalities to identify and develop advantageous transportation corridors.
2. It is the policy of the Town to explore the possibility of sharing municipal services, facilities, and programs with neighboring municipalities.

Procedurally, the Town may execute this policy by the following:

- a. By exploring the possibility of jointly developing services including, but not limited to fire protection, police protection, ambulance and first responder services, public transportation, joint sanitary and water districts, and snow removal.
- b. By exploring the possibility of jointly developing facilities including, but not limited to utilities, joint sanitary and water treatment plants, parks and recreational facilities, marina and boat launches, airports, libraries, shared municipal buildings, animal shelters, and high speed Internet.
- c. By exploring the possibility of jointly developing programs including, but not limited to waste and recycling, health and human services, building inspections, beach maintenance and beach water quality testing, household water testing, cooperative efforts to spur legislative change, child care programs, and cultural programs.

3. It is the policy of the Town to work with surrounding municipalities to address possible boundary issues to minimize conflict.

Procedurally, the Town may execute this policy by the following:

- a. By encouraging open communication with neighboring towns and villages to facilitate the creation of co-planning areas along municipal borders;
  - b. By encouraging the development of border agreements with neighboring villages if and when annexation issues arise.
4. Seek an equitable return of tax revenue and services to Liberty Grove by developing effective communication between Town, County, and State regarding tax revenue generated to Liberty Grove, including, but not limited to :
    1. Shared Revenue
    2. General Transportation Aid
    3. County Services
    4. DNR Payment in lieu of Tax
    5. Fire Dues Distribution
    6. Forest Crop Payment
    7. Payment of municipal services

### **Section 3--Existing Activities**

#### **Adjacent Governmental Units**

The Town of Liberty Grove shares borders with five other municipalities: Town of Baileys Harbor, Town of Gibraltar, Town of Washington, Village of Sister Bay, and the Village of Ephraim.

These communities cooperate among themselves as well as with the County of Door in matters involving police protection, fire protection, and emergency rescue and ambulance services. The Town encourages cooperative and positive relationships with these governmental units.

### **Public Facilities**

The Town shares several facilities with neighboring communities, including, but not limited to, the Sister Bay/Liberty Grove Fire Department [SBLGFD] with facilities located both in the Village and in the Town.

### **Public Services**

The Town maintains intergovernmental agreements with neighboring municipalities and the County. One such agreement underlies the operation of the SBLGFD, in which the Town contributes two-thirds of the annual budget for equipment and expenses. Another such agreement provides ambulance services through the Emergency Services of Door County serving most of the municipalities in Northern Door County. A third intergovernmental agreement involves the Sister Bay branch of the Door County Library, where the facility is located in the Village of Sister Bay and jointly owned and maintained through the Sister Bay/Liberty Grove Library Commission. A fourth such agreement involves the Door County Coastal Byways. The Door County Sheriff's Department enforces the law in the Town. Finally, the Town and the Village of Sister Bay have an agreement regarding

the Wastewater Treatment plant. Located in Sister Bay, the plant, of which the Town owns a percentage, serves both the Village and the Town.

### **School District**

The Gibraltar Area School District is among the taxing jurisdictions that directly affect the Town.

### **County**

Door County has some jurisdiction within the Town. Specifically, the County has jurisdiction over zoning (except for zoning map district changes over which the Town has veto power), and over private on-site wastewater treatment systems. As a result of the County having some jurisdiction over the Town, both entities must continue to maintain open communication with each other in order to build a good working relationship.

### **Region and State**

Located in the northeast region of the State of Wisconsin, the Town must maintain cooperative relationships with both regional and state agencies. See Policy 4 above in this chapter.

## **Section 4--Inventory of Plans and Agreements**

State statutes allow municipalities to enter into agreements regarding the location of municipal boundaries, and the Town encourages cooperative efforts for agreeable intergovernmental boundary plans.

## **Section 5--Extra-Territorial Subdivision Regulation**

State statutes allow an incorporated village or city to extend extra-territorial plat review over surrounding unincorporated areas. The extra-territorial area extends for 1.5 miles for villages and cities under 10,000 people; for cities over 10,000 in population the area extends to 3 miles. In the Town of Liberty Grove, the villages of Sister Bay and of Ephraim have extra-territorial jurisdiction within the Town. Both villages currently have populations of less than 10,000 and have a right to exercise extra-territorial plat review jurisdictions and, thereby, influence the division of land within 1.5 miles of their respective borders with the Town.

## **Section 6--Extra-Territorial Zoning**

State statutes allow an unincorporated village or city to extend extra-territorial zoning over surrounding areas. The extra-territorial area extends for 1.5 miles for villages and cities under 10,000 people. For cities over 10,000 people the area extends to 3 miles. However, the entire jurisdiction does not need to be included in the zoning. Extra-territorial zoning requires a joint effort between a town and the city or village to develop a plan for the area to be zoned. The extra-territorial zoning is then established according to the development plan. Special attention should be paid to areas of overlapping intergovernmental interests.

## **Section 7--Inventory of Existing or Potential Conflicts**

Referring back to the 2003 Comprehensive Plan, we note that although we have made progress in a certain number of these

areas, many of the issues raised at that time still challenge the Town as follows:

1. Sharing/duplication of services, including younger workers
2. Lack of attainable housing
3. Ground and surface water quality protection
4. Northeast Wisconsin Technical College tax levy
5. Lack of communication between local units of government
6. Economic development
7. County land use decision-making vs. local control
8. Common goals for conservation areas across political boundaries
9. Annexation
10. Taxes

See also Appendix E in 2003 Comprehensive Plan.

### **Section 8--Proposed Conflict Resolution Process**

The Town of Liberty Grove encourages open communication and cooperative dispute resolution among all units of government at all levels.



# Chapter 7, Maps, Tables and Charts

