

## **SECTION 10:**

### **Element 7: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION**

On May 11, 2010 the Town of Sherry's governing body adopted Resolution No. 2010-1, entitled: *"Resolution of the Town of Sherry, imposing its authority to coordinate with, and insist on coordination by, federal and state, county, city and village agencies (collectively, "state," "state agencies," or "local government") with management, oversight or planning duties regarding land and/or natural resources within the jurisdiction of Sherry."* Coordination is *"the establishment of rank; equal, not subordinate"; which is the federal and state statutorily recognized process.*

Many cities, towns, villages, and counties began coordinating arrangements to lower costs and promote efficiency. Most arrangements involve only two governmental units, but there are also agreements among multiple units. Intergovernmental coordination may range from formal joint power agreements to unwritten understandings. Two communities may have an unwritten agreement about sharing road repair equipment, or a cluster of cities and towns may have a written agreement concerning snow removal, economic development, fire, or emergency medical services. The opportunities for intergovernmental coordination are endless.

#### **A. ASSESSMENT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

The policy of coordination requires that any governments or entities contemplating decisions that impact the health, safety, economy, and environment of the Town of Sherry, make initial and early notification to the Town to commence a dialogue wherein Sherry, with respect to decisions affecting its town, is an equally ranked entity, and not subordinate. This policy is consistent with Wisconsin Constitutional provisions, statutes and federal policies identified, but not limited to those within Resolution, dated May 11, 2010.

Intergovernmental coordination is an effective way for local governments to respond to changing and diverse needs by working together with their neighbors, while maintaining their own identity. If an agreement can be reached among two or more units of government, services can often be provided with substantial cost savings. Coordination can also eliminate unnecessary duplication of services or purchasing of equipment.

## **B. ADVANTAGES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION**

Intergovernmental coordination has many advantages associated with it including the following:

### **1. EFFICIENCY AND REDUCTION OF COSTS**

Coordinating services can potentially mean lower costs per unit or person. Although these are by no means the only reasons, efficiency and reduced costs are the most common reasons governments seek to coordinate.

### **2. LIMITED GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING**

Coordinating with neighboring governments often avoids the time-consuming, costly, and politically sensitive issues of government restructuring. For example, if a city and town can mutually coordinate, the town may avoid annexation of its land and the city may avoid incorporation efforts on the part of the town, which may hinder the city's development. Coordination also helps avoid the creation of special districts that take power and resources away from existing governments.

### **3. COORDINATION AND PLANNING**

Through coordination, governments can develop policies for the area, and work on common problems. Such coordination helps communities minimize conflicts when levels of services and enforcement are different among neighboring communities. For example, shared waste management policies can help avoid the situation in which one area's environment is contaminated by a neighboring jurisdiction with lax standards or limited services. Coordinating can also lead to joint planning for future services and the resources needed to provide them.

### **4. EXPANDED SERVICES**

Coordination may provide a local unit of government with services it would otherwise be without. Coordination can make services financially and logistically possible. The Town of Sherry encourages communication and coordination of their actions, and working with regional, state and federal jurisdictions, to help local communities address and resolve issues, which are regional in nature.

### **C. POINTS TO CONSIDER**

Certain items may come before the Town Board for which they and/or residents feel strongly against forming intergovernmental agreements. The following are a few examples of why an agreement may not be reached:

**Reaching and maintaining an agreement:** In general, reaching an agreement in cases in which politics and community sentiments differ can be difficult. For example, all parties may agree that police protection is necessary. However, they may disagree widely on how much protection is needed. An agreement may not be reached if one jurisdiction wants infrequent patrolling and the other wants an active and visible police force.

**Unequal partners:** If one party to an agreement is more powerful, it may influence the agreement's conditions. With service agreements, the more powerful party, or the party providing the service, may have little to lose if the agreement breaks down as it may already service itself at a reasonable rate. The weaker participants may not have other options and are open to possible exploitation.

**Local self-preservation and control:** Some jurisdictions may feel their identity and independence will be threatened by an intergovernmental agreement. In addition, and possibly more importantly, a jurisdiction may lose control over what takes place within their boundaries. Moreover, although governmental officials may lose control, they are still held responsible for the delivery of services.

The above points are often prevalent in cooperative relationships among all levels of government and their agencies but, coordination offers the potential solution.

### **D. SHERRY'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS**

Because the Town of Sherry is a community with a relatively small population base, there are few commercial and industrial businesses to add to the tax base; and, there are areas of public lands that do not contribute to the tax base. It is important that the Town coordinate essential services required by state law or needed by area residents. Sherry does partner on a number of services. Below is an overview of Sherry's existing intergovernmental relationships.

- The Town of Sherry and the Town of Milladore, operate a recycling and garbage drop-off site that is located in the Town of Sherry. This cooperative venture has been going on for several years.
- Contract with the Sherry Volunteer Fire Department assures the Town of Sherry residents with fire protection and first responder service.
- Contract with the City of Marshfield assures the Town of Sherry residents with ambulance service.
- Contract with the Wood County Humane Society assures the Town of Sherry residents with assistance with stray animals and other related services.
- The Town of Sherry leases a portion of Milladore's town garage, using the space for various pieces of equipment.
- The Towns of Sherry and Milladore have a cooperative agreement for plowing of snow on border roads.
- Contract with the Wood County Highway Department assures the Town of Sherry residents with highway maintenance including emergency snowplowing and other related services.
- Contract with the B.A. Paul's and Associates provides the Town of Sherry residents with real estate and personal property assessment and other related services.

## 1. NEIGHBORING TOWNS AND JURISDICTIONS

The Town of Sherry is located in Wood County, and is bordered by the Town of Arpin to the west, the Town of Carson, Portage County to the east, the Town of Sigel to the south and the town of Milladore borders Sherry to the north.

## 2. WOOD COUNTY

The Town of Sherry, located in Wood County, is included in, but not subordinate to, the Wood County plans. The Town of Sherry has developed its own coordinated land use plan. Wood County is unzoned. However, the Shoreland Protection Program is enforced in the shoreland areas of the Town. Wood County enforces the mining reclamation areas of the Town. The County Highway Department maintains and plows county highways within the Town.

## 3. REGIONAL PLANNING JURISDICTIONS

The Town of Sherry is located within, but not subordinate to, the North Wisconsin Central Regional Planning Commission's jurisdiction

(NCWRPC). The NCWRPC prepares and adopts advisory regional land use plans and maintains extensive databases on such issues as population and land use.

#### 4. STATE AND FEDERAL JURISDICTIONS

The Town will coordinate with all State and Federal agencies regarding industries, bridge and road development/maintenance; and forest access/management activities.

#### 5. SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Sherry is located in three public and/or parochial school districts: Auburndale, Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids. Each district has its own elementary school(s), junior or middle school and senior high school(s).

There are no private schools in the town.

MidState Technical College has campuses located in Marshfield, Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids and provides on-campus classes for adults in many technical areas. Off-campus outreach programs and continuing education classes are also provided through the college at various sites.

#### 6. FIRE, RESCUE, AND POLICE

The residents of Sherry are served by Sherry Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department which is networked into the Wood County Emergency Government system. Police service, 911 dispatch, ambulance/EMS dispatch, and the fire department dispatch are provided by the Wood County Sheriff's Department.

### **E. TAX POLICIES**

Local Control: mandates (funded or unfunded) increase the cost of local government, hence, the Town's tax burden. Rules and regulations mandated by other units of government that serve little or no benefit for the Town will be reviewed via the coordination process. The Town will work with all other units of government and their agencies via coordination.

Taxes: residents of the Town will support infrastructure vital to their needs. The Town will contribute via taxation to those services that are of

value to the residents. Currently, school aid formulas and declining enrollment serve to increase the tax burden on Town property taxpayers.

#### **F. EXISTING OR POTENTIAL CONFLICTS**

This section identifies known existing or potential conflicts between the Town and this Coordination Plan and the plans of adjacent towns, Wood County, and the State of Wisconsin. The Town cites the following as, but not limited to, being current issues in conflict with Sherry's Plan.

1. NR115 and NR151: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
2. Outdoor Wood Stoves or Boilers: EPA, Wood County
3. Proposed Cap-and-Trade: Federal Government
4. Land Acquisition: State of Wisconsin
5. Unfunded Mandates: State of Wisconsin

#### **G. PROCESS TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS**

In adopting Resolution No. 2010-1 of Coordination, the Town of Sherry recognizes the process for intergovernmental relations set forth in the Federal Land Policy Management Act and other statutes cited. Equitable coordination with all levels of government, whose actions may impact the Town, is truly the only process available to the Town to resolve existing and potential conflicts.

#### **H. GOALS, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES**

##### 1. GOALS

It is the goal of the Intergovernmental Coordination section to promote and protect individual allodial property rights as guaranteed by the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Wisconsin.

##### 2. OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of the Intergovernmental Coordination section to achieve the stated goals through local control by utilizing the coordination process at the town level.

a. additionally, an opportunity exists to coordinate with Wood County Planning & Zoning. This Coordination Plan is a testament to the preservation of local control.

### 3. POLICIES

Any consideration of programs that affect revenue or use of land shall be coordinated, with early notification being given before any meeting, government to government or public private partnership so as to afford the town their ability to address and/or afford notice to the public for public meetings concerning the subject.

It is the policy of the Town of Sherry to coordinate with all levels of government on issues of concern to our Town which may impact the economy, environment, safety, and health of the Town and its residents; to have a well-coordinated, working relationship with area communities to promote business opportunities in Sherry; and to explore opportunities to coordinate with other local units of government to utilize and/or share public services, staff, or equipment where appropriate.

The Town of Sherry will set policy while coordinating with the other units of government in and around Sherry in order to obtain the highest quality service for Town residents in the most cost-efficient manner. By coordinating with the other units of government, the Town will seek to lessen or eliminate the duplication of services, uncertain or overlapping areas of responsibility, and otherwise waste of tax dollars. The Town will also continue to encourage citizen involvement through the Public Participation process as outlined in the beginning of this Plan. When appropriate, intergovernmental agreements with other units of government should be created through written contracts/agreements.

Our policies will promote communication between the Town of Sherry and other units of government including adjoining towns, county, state and federal governments. Also, they will build a government-to-government-relationship with adjoining towns, county, state and federal governments utilizing coordination as outlined in this element. Any policies adopted by the Town or Town appointed committee must be consistent with the goals of this section and overall coordination plan.

All policies included in this plan are to be implemented as of the date of adoption.

This page is intentionally left blank.