

Intergovernmental Cooperation

Major Findings

- ❑ Much of the Town of Friendship is within the Village of North Fond du Lac's growth area. The Village's Comprehensive Plan is showing large amounts of town land within their land use planning jurisdiction.
- ❑ The Town has a good working relationship with the State and County regarding road projects.
- ❑ North Fond du Lac annexations have resulted in a loss of tax base and has caused irregular borders.

General Recommendations

- ❑ The Town of Friendship will submit their amended Land Use Plan (once the Comprehensive Plan is adopted by ordinance) to Fond du Lac County for inclusion into the County Land Use Plan.

Goal and Objectives

Goal

- ❑ To foster mutually beneficial and friendly working relationships with the surrounding units of government.

Objectives

1. **Boundary Agreements** The Town of Friendship will work towards a general understanding of a common long term boundary with the Village of North Fond du Lac and the City of Fond du Lac so that the three communities can make plans how to serve their areas over a long period of time.
2. **Border and Service Discussions** Discuss boundary issues with the Village of North Fond du Lac to bring consistency between plans, sewer service to town lands without annexation, and the maintenance of roadways.
3. **Intergovernmental Coordination** Coordinate the implementation of Friendship's Comprehensive Plan with surrounding towns, the Village of North Fond du Lac, and Fond du La County.
4. **Emergency Response** Continue to coordinate emergency response services with local fire departments and the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Department.
5. **Cooperative Sharing** Review, as part of the Town's annual budgeting process, any opportunities to provide efficient and economical public facilities and services through cooperation with other units of government.

Background Information

Guidelines for Intergovernmental Cooperation

- ❑ Wisconsin State Statutes provide guidelines for intergovernmental cooperation and boundary agreements between municipalities. This statute enables 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 and Villages

- ❑ The Town of Friendship shares common boundaries with the Town of Black Wolf in Winnebago County, the Village of North Fond du Lac, and the Towns of Fond du Lac and Eldorado in Fond du Lac County.

School Districts

- ❑ The North Fond du Lac Area School District covers the entire Town of Friendship. All children are bussed to North Fond du Lac school facilities.
- ❑ The Town of Friendship is projected to have only minimal housing development in future years, and will, therefore, have minimal impact on the school district's enrollment numbers.

Fond du Lac County

- ❑ Fond du Lac County engages in a significant amount of activities within the Town of Friendship. Police and other protection services are provided by the Sheriff's Department to all residents and businesses. The Town and County actively cooperate in the area of county highway maintenance and improvement projects.
- ❑ The County Planning Department has several areas of jurisdiction that impact activity in the Town of Friendship. These include the administration and enforcement of shoreland-floodplain and sanitary permits, and the enforcement of sanitary ordinances.
- ❑ The Health and Human Services Department performs various activities and social service programs for eligible town residents.
- ❑ The Fond du Lac County Land and Water Conservation Department assists individuals and groups with improving, conserving, and sustaining natural resources through the administration of a number of conservation programs, including:
 - Priority Watershed Program
 - Farmland Preservation
 - Land and Water Resource Management Grant
 - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
 - Manure Storage Ordinance
 - Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Ordinance

Emergency Response

- ❑ The Town of Friendship is served by Fond du Lac County Emergency response dispatch, County Sheriff's Department, and shared ambulance service. Fire service is provided by joint response from the Van Dyne, Village of North Fond du Lac, and Eldorado Fire Departments. This relationship, which is a prime example of intergovernmental cooperation, is anticipated to continue into the future.

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

- ❑ The town has had discussions with ECWRPC, and occasionally attends programs sponsored by ECWRPC.

State of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

- ❑ The Town of Friendship is within the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Northeast Regional office headquartered in Green Bay. The WDOT communicates on occasion with the Town of Friendship if improvements are planned on USH 45.

Department of Natural Resources

- ❑ The Town is aware of WDNR rules and regulations, and has discussions with this agency as issues arise.

Conflicts and Opportunities

- ❑ A concern the Town of Friendship has with the Village of North Fond du Lac is that annexations have depleted the town's land area and tax base. The Land Use Chapter of this Plan includes a discussion on the "Conflict Between Adjacent Land Uses".
- ❑ When any significant conflicts occur in the Town of Friendship, initial attempts to address it will involve written and face-to-face communication. If initial attempts are not successful, the Town will consider other methods including mediation, arbitration and other dispute resolution techniques as described in Wisconsin State Statutes 802.12.
- ❑ Town of Friendship officials will need to proactively engage in discussions with other government officials to promote good land use planning for everyone involved.
- ❑ The Town of Friendship will be open and receptive to meeting with Village of North Fond du Lac officials to discuss boundary issues.