

## CHAPTER 13 WORKING WITH SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES AND AGENCIES

### Introduction

It is often a challenge for a community to implement a comprehensive plan on its own. Many issues important to the Village of North Hudson go beyond the political boundary. Cooperation and communication can be mutually beneficial by creating mutual trust and respect, identifying cost savings, and identifying mutual issues that can be addressed together. This chapter allows the Village to examine existing relationships with neighboring communities and government agencies and identifies potential areas of cooperation in the future.

### Survey Results

The Village of North Hudson 2006 Community Survey asked residents to evaluate the Village's working relationship with the Hudson School District, City of Hudson, St. Croix County, neighboring towns, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Overall, between 60.4% and 70.1% of respondents indicated the working relationships were adequate in the individual areas. Between 15.2% and 23.3% indicated the working relationships should be increased in the individual areas.

Residents were also asked if crisis planning should be a priority. Almost 58% of respondents agreed to that statement while approximately 21% disagreed.

### Existing Agreements

Intergovernmental agreements can be as simple as sharing information to something more complex such as entering into contracts to provide services. The Village of North Hudson recognizes the benefits of working with the surrounding communities and government agencies and is currently engaged in the following agreements:

- ***Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IAC):*** The IAC consists of the Hudson School District, Town of Troy, Town of St. Joseph, Town of Hudson, City of Hudson, Village of North Hudson, and St. Croix County. The group meets quarterly at rotating locations. Some of the issues currently being discussed are overlapping development issues, shared services, property taxes, and the Stillwater Bridge. The IAC provides an atmosphere to present ideas for discussion and seek input from Committee members for finding solutions to problems.

- **Extraterritorial Zoning Committee (ETZ):** The Extraterritorial Zoning Committee is comprised of three members each from the Village of North Hudson, Town of Hudson, and Town of St. Joseph. The ETZ Committee's purpose is to create mutually agreed upon zoning classifications within an established 1½ mile boundary extending outward from the Village Limits. The ETZ Committee has not established zoning with the Towns.
- **Hudson Area Joint Library:** The Hudson Area Joint Library is in partnership with the City of Hudson, Village of North Hudson, and the Towns of Hudson and St. Joseph. The Village of North Hudson is represented by Jim O'Connor who is currently President of the Library Board. The Village pays a fee based on the equalized property values. In 2006, that fee is 0.19 cents per \$1000/equalized value.
- **The Lake Mallalieu Association:** The Village of North Hudson works with the Lake Mallalieu Association on water quantity and quality issues related to stormwater runoff. The Village, along with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, is also involved with shoreland issues that are brought to their attention.
- **Fire Department:** Fire protection is provided by the Hudson Fire Department. The Department also provides services to the Town of Hudson and the northern half of the Town of Troy. The cost of fire protection is based on the Village's population and the number of fire calls.

The Village has one representative on the Joint Fire Advisory Board. The Board addresses issues such as hiring and equipment purchases.

- **Police Department:** The Village of North Hudson Police Department is not entered into any formal mutual aid agreements with other government agencies. The Sheriff's Department is obligated under State law to respond if there is no local officer available. The Village Police Department can contact the State Patrol or Hudson Police Department if assistance is needed.

The Police Department also coordinates with the Federal government to stay current with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to maintain eligibility for Federal Grant Programs. NIMS is designed to aid in managing any type of incident with a coordinated effort from fire/rescue, police, and public schools.

- **Public Works:** Sanitary and water service is provided by the City of Hudson. The Village of North Hudson works with the City of Hudson to maintain the water and sanitary systems.

The City of Hudson maintains the wells and booster stations within the Village of North Hudson. The Village is responsible for the maintenance of the watermains and hydrants. The Village is responsible for four out of the five lift stations while the City of Hudson maintains the remaining one. All costs and repairs are paid for by the Village.

The Village of North Hudson also has a joint maintenance agreement with the Town of Hudson as part of an annexation agreement. The Village is responsible for maintenance on the north side of Krattley Lane N. while the Town maintains the southern half.

- **Emergency Medical Services:** St. Croix EMS and Rescue, located in the City of Hudson, provides emergency services to the Village of North Hudson. St. Croix EMS and Rescue is partially funded through City of North Hudson and St. Croix County taxpayers. Some costs are passed on to patients through user fees. The Village pays a per capita fee for the service. The fee is renegotiated yearly. The Village of North Hudson has one representative on the St. Croix EMS and Rescue Commission. Board members oversee the day to day operations of the department. St. Croix EMS and Rescue has a mutual aid agreement with Tri-County EMS. Tri-County EMS services of Polk, St. Croix, and Pierce Counties.
- **St. Croix County Emergency Management/Crisis Planning:** The St. Croix Emergency Management Department provides planning for all emergency situations. These situations can include:

- ✓ Tornado or earthquake destruction
- ✓ Gas main problem, explosion, fire
- ✓ Pandemic or bioterrorist disaster
- ✓ Electricity long-term shut down
- ✓ Water poisoning /cut-off
- ✓ Evacuation situation
- ✓ Train derailments
- ✓ Flooding / fires
- ✓ Others

A response to an emergency situation is initiated by a call to 911. Then, emergency responders are notified. Emergency responders are the local fire and police departments, emergency medical services, and the Village Public Works Department. Any mutual aid agreements would be utilized before the St. Croix Emergency Management would be contacted.

If an emergency exhausts local and county resources, the State of Wisconsin becomes involved.

A Public Information Officer is in charge of disseminating information to the public. All information that is released must be approved by the Incident Commander.

The Village's primary responsibility, in a non-emergency situation, is to develop a Municipal Emergency Management Plan, participate in County developed exercises and training, and to participate in joint meetings and programs. Each municipality in St. Croix County, signed an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the County. One part of the agreement is adopting the County EM Director as their Municipal Director. The Village Board has approved a Village of North Hudson Emergency Management Plan.

- **St. Croix County Emergency Communications Center 911:** The Village of North Hudson uses St. Croix County's 911 services. Information is received in the Center via telephone, radio communications, and the nationwide law enforcement teletype network. The information is then processed and the appropriate services are dispatched.
- **Lower St. Croix River Partnership Team:** The St. Croix Waterway District includes communities located on the St. Croix River from the City of St. Croix Falls to the City of Prescott. The Village of North Hudson has one representative and one alternate in this organization. The District meets quarterly and addresses issues involving the St. Croix River and Interstate issues between Minnesota and Wisconsin.
- **Hudson School District:** The Village of North Hudson is in the Hudson School District (HSD). The HSD meets with the Councils and Boards of all communities within the District to discuss school space issues and future needs. The Village of North Hudson also hosts community forums. The community forums allow residents to ask questions and discuss planning issues with HSD representatives related to the North Hudson Elementary School.

### **Potential Areas of Cooperation and Mutual Planning**

In the future, opportunities may arise to work with surrounding communities and government agencies to solve problems that do not exist now. Below are potential areas of cooperation and mutual planning the Village may want to pursue.

- Continue to explore sharing services with the City of Hudson.

- Commission a study with the City of Hudson to determine the process and associated costs of consolidating the Village of North Hudson with the City of Hudson.
- Work with the WDNR, neighboring communities, and government agencies to protect the area water resources.
- Coordinate with St. Croix County, the City of Hudson, and neighboring towns to establish a bike trail network.
- Work with developers and Habitat for Humanity to explore ways to provide affordable housing.
- Coordinate with Federal and State governments, St. Croix County, local emergency services, and neighboring communities to conduct crisis planning for situations such as a pandemic outbreak, chemical spills, train derailments, etc.
- Coordinate with the State Historical Society and the Village of North Hudson Historical Preservation Committee to promote the Chicago-St. Paul / Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad Car Shop Historic District.
- Work with the Hudson School District to identify lands available for possible school expansion in the Village.
- Conduct a Stormwater Management Master Plan with neighboring communities and agencies.
- Work with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and neighboring Towns to preserve a potential State Highway 35 bypass corridor.
- Work with the St. Croix River Association to protect area watersheds.

### **Existing Conflicts**

Currently, the Village does not have any conflicts with the State, St. Croix County, neighboring communities, or government agencies.

### **Conflict Resolution**

When conflicts arise, it is important to address them in a manner that produces mutual understanding of the issues and creates an atmosphere under which the conflicts can be resolved successfully. The Village should hold joint meetings with neighboring governments and agencies to resolve future conflicts. Initial guidance may come from the Village's Plan Commission or Village Board.

## **Working with Surrounding Communities and Agencies Goals, Objectives and Implementation Options**

**Goal 1:** Establish and maintain mutually beneficial intergovernmental relations with the City of Hudson, neighboring towns, Hudson School District, and government agencies.

### **Objectives**

1. Provide quality emergency services.
2. Provide adequate and reliable public facilities and utilities to Village residents.
3. Reduce costs for services to taxpayers.
4. Represent the Village of North Hudson in regional planning efforts.

### **Potential Options for Achieving Goal 1**

1. Continue to explore sharing services with the City of Hudson.
2. Support and participate in St. Croix County Emergency Management efforts.
3. Establish Joint Committees to focus on specific/common issues.
4. Continue to coordinate with Federal and State governments, St. Croix County, local emergency services, and neighboring communities to conduct crisis planning for situations such as a pandemic outbreak, chemical spills, train derailments, etc.
5. Continue to host community forums with the Hudson School District to keep informed on issues and long range plans for the Village of Hudson Elementary School.