

Chapter 8

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

To ensure continuity and prevent potential conflicts between developments in the Town of Genesee and adjacent communities, good planning must incorporate a thorough inventory and analysis of adjacent land uses in adjoining communities.

The intergovernmental element is one of the nine elements of a comprehensive plan required by Section 66.1001 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Section 66.1001 (2) (g) of the Statutes requires a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps, and programs for joint planning and decision making with other jurisdictions, including school districts and adjacent local governmental units, for siting and building public facilities and sharing public services. The intergovernmental element shall analyze the relationship of the Town of Genesee to the school districts and other adjacent local governmental units, and to the region, the state and other governmental units. This element shall incorporate any plans or agreements to which the Town of Genesee is a party. This element shall identify existing or potential conflicts between the Town of Genesee and other governmental units that are specified in this paragraph and describe processes to resolve such conflicts.

Intergovernmental cooperation is any arrangement by which officials of two or more jurisdictions coordinate plans, policies and programs to address and resolve issues of mutual interest. It can be as simple as communicating and sharing information, or it can involve entering into formal intergovernmental agreements and sharing resources such as equipment, buildings, staff and revenue. It can also involve consolidating services and resources, jurisdictions or transferring territory. Many issues cross jurisdictional boundaries, which may affect more than one individual community. Working closely with other governmental agencies can help reduce unnecessary spending and increase communication between communities. Increased communication technologies and personal mobility mean that people, money and resources also move across jurisdictions as quickly and freely as air and water. Actions in one (1) community also affect other communities and those actions by the Town of Genesee impact neighboring communities.

The Town of Genesee shares borders with the City of Waukesha, Village of North Prairie, Village of Wales, Town of Delafield, Town of Mukwonago, Town of Ottawa and the Town of Waukesha. The Town is divided between three (3) school districts and two (2) fire districts. The Town has brokered agreements with several municipalities.

Village of North Prairie

The Village of North Prairie, which is located in the southwestern portion of the Town of Genesee, had a population of 1,855 in 2005. The Town of Genesee and the Village of North Prairie entered into a Municipal Boundary Agreement on June 14th, 1999, pursuant to Chapter 66.027 of the Wisconsin Statutes. This agreement allowed for a maximum external growth boundary for the Village, while preserving and protecting the Town of Genesee from future annexations. The Town and Village have worked together on planning their common boundaries to eliminate any potential conflicts.

Village of Wales

The Village of Wales is located in the north-central portion of the Town of Genesee and had a 2005 population of approximately 2,567. The Town of Genesee and the Village of Wales entered into a Municipal Boundary Agreement on September 8, 2000 to establish permanent common boundaries. This agreement was implemented pursuant to Chapter 66.027 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Both the Town of Genesee and the Village of Wales have a good relationship and work together on various issues.

Multi-Jurisdictional Agreement

In September of 1996, the Town of Genesee, the Village of North Prairie and the Town of Ottawa entered into an inter-municipal agreement regarding multi-jurisdictional land use planning. A Multi-Jurisdictional Land Use Plan was prepared jointly by all three (3) jurisdictions to provide for coordinated development between the Village of North Prairie, the Town of Genesee and the Town of Ottawa and to guide each community in making sound land use decisions. The plan defines planning areas and gives direction on how those areas should be developed in the future regardless if it is located within the Village or remains in one (1) of the two (2) Towns. A key component of the plan is the establishment of a Joint Planning Committee (equal representation from each community) to review and recommend to the body having jurisdiction on all land use applications, rezoning, conditional uses, planned unit developments and plats.

Town of Oconomowoc

The Town of Genesee and the Town of Oconomowoc have entered into an inter-municipal agreement, whereby they share the services of a full-time Administrator/Planner. Each municipality utilizes the administrator/planner for their needs on a 50/50 split. Since neither community needs a full-time administrator, this agreement has been extremely successful.

Stormwater Maintenance Agreement

In order to comply with NR 216 Wisconsin Administrative Code, The Town of Genesee and Waukesha County have entered into an Intergovernmental Stormwater Agreement for the planning and implementation of a program to regulate and the negative impacts of stormwater runoff. Waukesha County has agreed to enforce stormwater regulations in the

Town of Genesee as well as provide information and education programs on erosion control and stormwater management methodologies. The Town of Genesee is in compliance with NR 216 requirements.

Fire Protection/Emergency Medical Services

The Town of Genesee contracts with the Village of North Prairie for fire protection and first responders for the southern half of the Town of Genesee. The contract is negotiated on a yearly basis. The Town of Genesee and the Village of Wales entered into a mutual agreement to form the Wales/Genesee Fire Department. This fire district covers the north half of the Town of Genesee. The Town of Genesee allocates approximately 63 percent of the overall fire district budget. The Wales/Genesee Fire Board manages the fire district budget, which is approved by both the Town and Village, and is comprised of members from both the Village of Wales and the Town of Genesee. Eventually discussions will take place on the need or desire to have only one (1) fire district serve the entire Town. If this takes place, it may be necessary for the Town to find a location for a sub-station. This substation, if strategically placed, will increase response times and potentially save lives.

Waukesha County Development Plan

The Town of Genesee signed a cooperative agreement with Waukesha County in 2003 to participate with twenty-six (26) other municipalities to update the Waukesha County Development Plan. Representatives from these communities formed an advisory committee to review and edit the proposed plan documents. Sub-committees were formed throughout the process on each element of combination of elements to provide expertise on individual Elements that make up the majority of the Development Plan. This effort allowed the Town of Genesee to voice concerns regarding the development of the plan and to work with neighboring communities on common issues.

Waukesha County Dispatch

The Town of Genesee participates in the Waukesha County Dispatch Service for fire protection and emergency medical technicians services.

School District

The Town of Genesee is comprised of three (3) school districts. The School districts include Kettle Moraine, Mukwonago and Waukesha. Most of the Town is located within the Kettle Moraine School District, which encompasses the northwest quadrant of the Town of Genesee and continues through the center of the Town. The Waukesha School District is the second largest, in terms of area and covers the eastern portion of the Town. The Mukwonago School District makes up the southwest corner of the Town. Magee Elementary School is the only public school is located in the Town of Genesee and St. Paul Catholic School is the only private school.

Library System

The Town of Genesee participates in the Waukesha County Federated Library System, which started in the early 1980's. This System allows residents to use any library in the system. Most residents use the City of Waukesha or Village of Mukwonago Library.

Potential Future Conflicts

The Town of Genesee has strengthened its borders through municipal boundary agreements with the Village of Wales and the Village of North Prairie. Those agreements have permanent fixed boundaries. If the Villages decide to grow beyond the territory agreed to potential conflicts may occur. Both Villages occupy area within the Town of Genesee and actions taken by those communities directly and indirectly affect the Town of Genesee. The Town has also worked with Waukesha County in providing services to its residents at a significant cost savings.

The Town is concerned with the potential annexation possibilities of the City of Waukesha. The City of Waukesha is adjacent to the Town of Genesee in the far northeast corner of the Town. As the City grows and expands its boundaries, it is possible that portions of the Town could be annexed to the City. Although the likelihood of this occurring is minimal, political decisions don't always exercise common sense. Any annexations by the City of Waukesha could be quite contentious. The Town should consider negotiating a boundary agreement with the City to establish ultimate municipal boundaries and resolve any potential land use conflicts that may impact the high quality natural resources of the Town. The Town should also discuss possible sewer and water extensions into the Town.

As the Town of Genesee continues to grow, residents expect more and more services. These services include providing less government review of local decisions. Residents over the past several years have voiced concern regarding duplication of services. At some point in the near future, the Town may opt to provide their own services and withdraw from County Zoning. This would allow the Town to make decisions, as they deem necessary rather than having Waukesha County review and critique decisions made by the Town. The residents of the Town of Genesee would have the ability to control their own growth and the changes that result from that growth.

The Town needs to work with the State of Wisconsin to resolve and complete the S.T.H. 83 project that provides residents in the Town easy access to the interstate highways and to restaurants and shopping. Any proposed relocation of S.T.H. 83 should be closely monitored and highly scrutinized to ensure the best interests of the residents are considered. Future improvements to S.T.H. 59 should also be closely monitored.

The Town should continue to maintain friendly relationships with the adjoining Towns of Delafield, Mukwonago, Ottawa and Waukesha. Working closely with these Towns, helps to ensure "Town Form of Government" continues. As Villages and Cities feel growth pressures, the Towns need to remain unified to repel development pressures and control growth.