

**INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL
COOPERATION
ELEMENT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This section takes a closer look at intergovernmental cooperation. It examines what the Town of Mifflin is doing today and what they may consider in the future. Intergovernmental cooperation is an effective way for local governments to respond to ever 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. Cooperation can also eliminate unnecessary duplication of services or purchasing of equipment.

**Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(g)*****(g) Intergovernmental cooperation element.***

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 element shall analyze the relationship of the local governmental unit to school districts and adjacent local governmental units, and to the region, the state and other governmental units. The element shall incorporate any plans or agreements to which the local governmental unit is a party under [s. 66.0301](#), [66.0307](#) or [66.0309](#). The element shall identify existing or potential conflicts between the local governmental unit and other governmental units that are specified in this paragraph and describe processes to resolve such conflicts.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION POLICIES

The following are the intergovernmental cooperation policies for the Town of Mifflin.

➤ **Maintain established intergovernmental relationships.**

The Town of Mifflin does share some services with other jurisdictions and this should be continued as long as they are beneficial.

➤ **Explore new opportunities to cooperate with other local units of government.**

As costs continue to rise for providing many facilities and services, the exploration of additional ways to cooperate may prove to be beneficial in order to contain costs.

➤ **Establish written intergovernmental cooperation agreements.**

Often time, intergovernmental cooperation agreements are established based on verbal agreements. It may prove to be beneficial to have all new agreements in writing to avoid disputes and misunderstandings. Changes in leadership can cause problems with agreements if the specifics have not been identified in writing.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS

A good working relationship between jurisdictions is important. Intergovernmental communication and cooperation with neighboring cities, towns, villages, and county, regional, and state entities can provide economic, environmental, and political advantages for a jurisdiction. Best of all, a positive intergovernmental relationship fosters and supports a sense of community and good fellowship between parties. Table G.1 shows Mifflin's rating of its intergovernmental relationships with various governmental units.

Table G.1: Town Of Mifflin Intergovernmental Relationship Ratings

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	NA
Adjacent jurisdictions (general)		X			
Adjacent jurisdictions (specific) – Linden, Livingston, Rewey, and Eden		X			
Wisconsin DNR					X
Wisconsin DOT		X			
Wisconsin DOC					X
UW Extension	X				
Iowa County (general)			X		
Iowa County (specific) – Highway			X		
– Zoning	X				
Local School District - Iowa-Grant			X		
Other					

EXISTING AREAS OF COOPERATION

- **Fire Protection and Rescue Services** – The Town of Mifflin has written agreements/contracts with the following fire departments to provide fire protection services to the Town of Mifflin: Mineral Point, Cobb/Eden, Livingston/Clifton, and Rewey. It has written agreements/contracts with the following communities to provide rescue services: City of Mineral Point and Village of Montfort.
- **Police Protection** – The Iowa County Sheriff's Department provides police protection to Mifflin Town.
- **School System** – The Town of Mifflin is part of the Iowa-Grant School District and the Mineral Point School District. The relationship the Town has with the school district is rated as fair.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFLICTS

No current conflicts exist although there is potential for future planning issues. The Town of Mifflin sees the need to partner with the county, identifying possible conflicts between local comprehensive plan and the master county plan. Prior to implementing either plan, responsibilities should be delineated and steps should be outlined to deal with future conflicts in an equitable manner.

OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONCERNS

No concerns are identified.

POSSIBLE FUTURE COOPERATION EFFORTS

As the list above indicates, Mifflin is already cooperating with other jurisdictions for services and facilities. The Town of Mifflin Planning Commission identified a possible future cooperation with adjacent towns or the county for joint highway maintenance/assistance for Mifflin's one-person highway maintenance staff.

COMMUNICATION WITH NEIGHBORS

Mifflin communicates with its neighboring jurisdictions through informal verbal communication. There is also ongoing communication with the county government both formally and informally in the area of emergency government and zoning. The township is in also communication with both the state and county government, receiving information in several areas that it then passes on to its residents by posting on township bulletin boards at the Town hall and the recycling center.

FORMAL AGREEMENTS WITH NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS

The Town of Mifflin maintains Fire and Rescue protection agreements with Mineral Point, Cobb, Linden, and Rewey Fire Departments. These are formal, written agreements and are renewed.

TECHNIQUES AND PROGRAMS FOR MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY COOPERATION

As Mifflin continues to grow, it may be necessary to consider some type of boundary agreements. More information on municipal boundary agreements is available from the Wisconsin Department for Housing and Intergovernmental Relations – Municipal Boundary Review.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS–MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY REVIEW (DHIR-MBR)

Municipal Boundary Review regulates the transition of unincorporated areas to city or village status through municipal annexation, incorporation, consolidation, or by joint city-village-town activities involving cooperative boundary plans and agreements. Such agreements may change territorial boundaries and may provide for the sharing of municipal services. Staff members are available upon request to meet with local officials and citizens to discuss annexation, incorporation, consolidation and cooperative boundary plans.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

**Office of Land Information Services
Municipal Boundary Review
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<http://www.doa.state.wi.us/dhir>