

7.1 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Fire Protection and Ambulance Service

The Theresa Community Fire Department operates with support from both the Town and Village of Theresa. Fire fighting equipment for the Town of Theresa and the Village of Theresa is located in a building along CTH DD within the village limits of the Village of Theresa on land that is owned by the Town of Theresa. The building is owned jointly by the Town and the Village.

The Ambulance Service charges a fee for its services. Ambulance replacement costs are covered by the Town of Theresa, the Village of Theresa, and the Village of Lomira.

Public Library

The Town and the Village also cooperate on another service and that is the Theresa Public Library.

City or Village Extraterritorial Zoning Jurisdiction

The Wisconsin Statutes allow for "extraterritorial zoning jurisdictions" by governing bodies of any city that has created a city plan commission. Villages are included in this section as well. The Statutes state that "Extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction means the unincorporated area within three miles of the corporate limits of a first, second, or third class city, or 1½ miles of a fourth class city or village." The City of Mayville is a Third Class City and has jurisdiction over the unincorporated area within 3 miles of the city limits. The Village of Theresa is an incorporated village and the area over which it may exercise extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction is therefore 1½ miles from its corporate boundary. A rough estimate of the extent of their potential extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction in the Town of Theresa is shown on Map 7-1 and Map 7-2.

Annexation

A city or village may annex land in a town. The process can begin by a petition of landowners in an area contiguous to a city or village. The city or village must act to accept or reject a petition. Otherwise, it is required to bear the costs of a referendum. Acceptance of a petition can take the form of an annexation ordinance. The town does not participate in this decision, nor in the review of the annexation, which is done through a determination of "the public interest" by the Department of Administration. "Public interest" is determined by considering "whether governmental services, including zoning, to be supplied to the territory could clearly be better supplied by the town or by some other village or city whose boundaries are contiguous to the territory proposed for annexation. . ." The town may appeal this action through litigation. There is no requirement for planning prior to the annexation, and no requirement for participation of the town in the annexation process. The process is incremental. There are no provisions for sharing of services in the annexed area, or in contiguous areas of the town.

Cooperative Planning

The Town of Theresa has the opportunity to pursue planning with the Village of Theresa

and/or the City of Mayville through Statute s. 66.0307 (2), which authorizes municipalities to engage in cooperative planning:

Any combination of municipalities may determine the boundary lines between themselves under a cooperative plan that is approved by the department under this section . . . No boundary of a municipality may be changed or maintained under this section unless the municipality is a party to the cooperative agreement.

The "cooperative plan" or "cooperative boundary agreement" looks like a comprehensive plan, but in addition the cooperative plan:

- pays special attention to the "boundary" between two or more municipalities;
- fixes a boundary between the town and city or village and freezes it for a period of not less than 10 years; no annexation is permitted beyond the agreed boundary during that time;
- requires the participation of those municipalities in the planning exercise, and
- requires the approval of the state through the Municipal Boundary Review, Department of Revenue.
- The county has no legal role in Cooperative Planning under Section 66.0307. The county may assist the process informally, acting to facilitate or lend technical assistance to the process.

Cooperative Boundary Agreements achieved through this process have a number of advantages over the traditional incremental annexation process. First of all, it involves both the town and the city or village and requires a comprehensive plan for the area around a city. The agreement can also specify sharing of revenue from the area, as well as provision of services, such as water and sewer. There is an advantage for the town in that it will achieve some certainty with regard to estimates of its revenue and cost of services; the city or village will gain in that it will achieve some rational control over its periphery. Growth or expansion of a city or village can proceed in a more orderly fashion, and be based on land use issues rather than the desire of neighboring landowners to have their property annexed. Urban and suburban sprawl can therefore be better controlled.

7.2. Intergovernmental Cooperation Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Recommendations

Goal: Establish mutually beneficial intergovernmental relations with other units of government.

Objectives:

1. Continue the cooperative working relationships the Town has established with neighboring communities and the county.
2. Support the Wisconsin Towns Association and be active participants at local, district, and state meetings.

3. Utilize county technical assistance to support Town planning efforts.

Policy: Before the purchase of new Town facilities or equipment or the reinstatement of service agreements, the Town should pursue options for trading, renting, sharing or contracting such items from neighboring jurisdictions in order to provide services efficiently and to save taxpayers money.

Recommendation: Encourage the Town and Village of Theresa to maintain the appearance of the commercial area in the Town and Village.

Objectives:

1. Cooperate with the Theresa Community Development Corporation and the Village of Theresa.
2. Cooperate with the Village of Theresa to identify lands north of the Village that would be suitable for commercial or industrial development.
3. Continue and expand cooperation with the Village of Theresa, and, if possible, other municipalities and agencies, to share costs of services.

7.3 Intergovernmental Cooperation Programs

The following programs are currently utilized by the community or are available for use by the community to implement the goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations identified.

UW-Extension Local Government Center

The mission of the Local Government Center is to provide focus, coordination, and leadership to UW System educational programs for local government, and to expand the research and knowledge base for local government education. The Center conducts and coordinates educational programming in general local government, local government finance, growth management, and community planning and design. Additional programs are under development. Educational programs are delivered through the two-way live teleconference called WisLine, satellite television, and state-wide and regional workshops. The Center supports the programming of county-based Extension faculty. A variety of resources regarding intergovernmental cooperation are available through the Local Government Center. For further information visit its website at <http://lqc.uwex.edu>.

Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA)

Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) is a non-profit, non-partisan statewide organization created under s. 60.23(14) of the Wisconsin Statutes to protect the interests of the State's 1,259 towns and to improve town government. The association is organized into six districts and is headquartered in Shawano. WTA relies on regular district meetings, an annual statewide convention, publications, participation in cooperative training programs, and other means to support the goal of keeping grassroots government strong and efficient in Wisconsin.