



City of New Buffalo
Berrien County, Michigan
Economic Vitality Incentive Program
Certification of Consolidation of Services
January 24, 2014

Updated Status of Previous Years' Service Consolidation Proposals

Police Service Consolidation: The City of New Buffalo and the Village of Three Oaks discussed the shared use of the City's Police Chief and Clerk with Three Oaks deciding to hire a Police Chief that could also cover a patrol shift. This plan was not implemented and has been cancelled. No barriers were encountered. Time line: 3/2012 – 6/2012

Cooperative Purchasing Consortium: The City of New Buffalo, Village of Three Oaks and area townships started discussion and due to elections and new officials, this process was slowed. This proposal was not implemented and has been cancelled at this time. The communities have realized that most, if not all major purchases are made through Mideal. No barriers were encountered. Time line: 3/2012 – 4/2013

Shared Mechanic: The City of New Buffalo and the Village of Three Oaks discussed the shared use of the City's mechanic. As the City's mechanic is a working member of our Street Department, time taken to repair other vehicles would mean that the City may need to hire another employee to cover the hours. Being cost prohibitive this was not implemented and has been cancelled. No barriers were encountered. Time line: 3/2012 – 5/2012

Fuel Depot: The City of New Buffalo, New Buffalo Community Schools, New Buffalo Township, Galien River Sanitary District and Pokagon Band of Pottawatomi Indians joined together to discuss and implement a collaborative fuel depot. From start to finish this project took approximately six months. It was fully implemented with no barriers encountered and a savings to the City of approximately \$6000.00 a year. The City has seen an estimated \$3000.00 savings this past year. Time line: 12/2011 – 9/2012

Maintenance/use of parks/athletic fields: The City of New Buffalo and the New Buffalo Area Schools are discussing the shared use and maintenance of these facilities. The City Park and the Middle/High School are adjoined. The savings can range from \$1000.00 a year to \$30,000.00 per project based upon maintenance costs and non-duplication of facilities. Time line: 11/2012 – 3/2013. The outcome of this project has been successful. It is difficult to put a dollar amount on the savings in dollars. The success has come in the form of improved efficiency and service. Athletic field are maintained more regularly and are in better condition than in previous years.

Shared Facilities: The City of New Buffalo will have discussions with the New Buffalo Area Schools regarding the shared use of maintenance facilities and storage areas. The City and School would benefit



by not expanding facilities that are needed seasonally. Space that is not being used by one can be used by the other. The cost savings is unknown but could reduce the need to build a new structure by either entity and will provide more efficient service. Time line: 1/2013 – 4/2013. This project has proved beneficial by providing increased storage and maintenance facilities while not inflating costs. The outcome is efficiency with un-estimated savings.

Proposed Service Consolidations

The City of New Buffalo is working the City of Bangor and Amtrak to apply for a TIGER Grant in hopes of creating the possibility for more efficient rail service along with keeping rail service to the Bangor area. The cost saving is unknown. The benefit to the communities is the much needed economic stimulus that rail service provides to our communities. Time line: 1/2014 – 9/2014 for grant submission and outcome of submission.

The City of New Buffalo is working with New Buffalo Township, Berrien County, New Buffalo Area Schools and the Friends of Harbor Country Trails to submit a Safe Routes to School Grant. The City saved an unspecified amount due to the fact that through a local grant, the Friends of Harbor Country Trails paid for a consultant to put the grant together. The possible savings to the City is nearly \$400,000.00 in sidewalk construction should the grant prove successful. Time line: 12/2013 – 7/2014