

**Economic Vitality Incentive Program
Consolidation of Services
Village of Dryden**

The Village of Dryden has a long history of collaboration with its neighboring municipalities. Because we are a small rural community many services would not be possible without collaboration. The following plan includes both previous cooperative and/or consolidated services and new proposed cooperative and/or consolidated services. All savings and costs are approximate as, until services have been performed, there is no way to figure actual costs or savings to the Village. By statute, this plan is required to list the cost savings for each collaboration. The calculation of the cost savings often depends on perspective of the entity making the estimate and the set of assumptions about the level of service to be provided. For this report, the estimate of cost savings will be from the perspective of the Village of Dryden. Finally, not all collaborative efforts are undertaken for cost saving reasons. Sometimes a collaborative effort is just good public policy.

1. Dryden Fire Department: Is a shared service with the Village of Dryden & Dryden Township. Without a collaborative effort, it would be very difficult for the village to provide fire protection. By working together, we all have a greater level of service.

- a. **Key Partners:** Village of Dryden and the Township of Dryden
- b. **Budget:** The Village Residents pay a 1.0 millage towards the 2010 Budget of approximately \$213,000.
- c. **Benefits:** By working together, we all have a greater level of service.
- d. **Cost Savings:** Very difficult to estimate the Village would have expenses in wages, equipment and operation of around \$75,000 - \$100,000 for a small volunteer fire department.

2. Public Safety: The Village of Dryden and The Township of Dryden Police Department is a shared service. Without a collaborative effort, it would be very difficult for the village to provide police protection. By working together, we all have a greater level of service.

- a. **Key Partners:** Village of Dryden and the Township of Dryden
- b. **Budget:** The Village Residents pay a 1.95 millage towards the 2010 Budget of approximately \$448,000.
- c. **Benefits:** By working together, we all have a greater level of service.
- d. **Cost Savings:** Very difficult to estimate the Village would have expenses in wages, equipment and operation of around \$150,000 - \$250,000 for a police department.

3. Worker's Compensation Insurance: The Village of Dryden is a member of the Michigan Municipal League Workers Compensation Fund.

- a. **Key Partners:** Over 200 cities, villages, townships, counties and special districts.
- b. **Budget:** The total budget is \$27,734,243 and the Village of Dryden contributes \$1,000-\$2,000 annually.

- c. **Cost Savings:** Very difficult to estimate. As a member the Village receives dividend checks back when the fund is healthy and claims are down. It is unlikely that a private sector insurance company would return profits when funds are healthy. This in turn also helps keep rates low for the Village.

4. Liability Insurance: The Village of Dryden is a member of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority which is a joint venture with many other municipalities to provide liability and property insurance for the Village.

- a. **Key Partners:** Over 200 cities, villages, townships, counties and special districts.
- b. **Budget:** The total budget is \$45,763,461 of which the Village of Dryden contributes \$15,000-\$17,000 annually.
- c. **Cost Savings:** Very difficult to estimate. Our price is competitive with commercial insurance. During some periods, it is extremely difficult to purchase commercial liability insurance for a municipality. The joint venture ensures that we will always be able to be insured.

5. Pension Administration: The Village of Dryden uses the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) of Michigan to manage, administer and invest our pension system.

- a. **Key Partners:** There are 750 municipalities that are member of MERS of Michigan.
- b. **Budget:** The total revenue for MERS of Michigan is \$1,341,817,880 of which the Village of Dryden contributes \$25,000-\$40,000 annually.
- c. **Benefits:** The Village of Dryden is too small to hire professional money managers. By pooling our resources, we have access to professional money managers as well as professional staff to manage the personnel records and advise our employees.
- d. **Cost Savings:** This very difficult to estimate. The Village would need to hire additional staff or contract with a private agency. The rough estimated cost savings is \$30,000-\$75,000 annually.

6. Department of Public Works (DPW) Equipment Sharing: In Southeastern Lapeer County the municipalities borrow and share equipment. We reimburse each other based on the Michigan Department of Transportation Schedule C rates. Items such as sewer flushers, street sweepers, and directional boring machines are expensive. It would be impossible for all of us to own one. By sharing, we can all access the equipment we need.

- a. **Key Partners:** Villages of Almont, City of Lapeer & City of Imlay
- b. **Budget:** There is no preset budget for equipment sharing.
- c. **Benefits:** Communities to not need to purchase every type of equipment.
- d. **Cost Savings:** This varies widely from year to year depending on the equipment we need to borrow.

7. Water/Sewer Testing: The Village of Dryden uses the laboratory and Sewer Treatment Plant staff from the Imlay City to handle some of the water/sewer testing for the villages Water Treatment Plant and Solid Waste Lagoons.

- a. **Key Partners:** Village of Dryden & City of Imlay
- b. **Budget:** There is no preset budget we pay a lab service fee per test.
- c. **Benefits:** The Village of Dryden would have to purchase more water/sewer lab testing equipment and have our DPW staff trained and certified for all testing required by the DEQ.
- d. **Cost Savings:** Difficult to estimate the cost of lab equipment for testing and certifications and training for DPW staff.

8. Dryden Library: is part of the Valley Library Consortium made up of over 100 municipalities in the Saginaw Valley Area. Without a collaborative effort, it would be very difficult for the municipalities to provide library services. By working together, we all have a greater level of service.

- a. **Key Partners:** Village of Dryden & Township of Dryden and over 100 communities in the Saginaw Valley Area.
- b. **Budget:** The 2011 Dryden Library budget was \$189,487 of which village residents .3645 mills.
- c. **Benefits:** By pooling resources, we have a larger, more resourceful library than we could otherwise afford. Without all entities working together the Village would likely not be able to provide library services.
- d. **Cost Savings:** This is difficult because without a collaborative effort the Village would not be able to provide library services without a specifically dedicated millage.

9. Lapeer County Central Dispatch Authority: has been a successful collaboration between all the cities, townships and the county. Dispatch has become a very high technology field has been a successful collaboration between all the cities, townships and the county To run a dispatch center, the village would need to hire at least 4 dispatchers and purchase modern dispatch center equipment.

- a. **Key Partners:** Lapeer County & all local municipalities.
- b. **Budget:** The total budget for central dispatch in 2010 \$1.8 million. The center is funded through a surcharge on telephone lines for operation and a .75 millage for equipment.

c. **Benefits:** If the Village were to create their own dispatch center, we would not be able to afford the same level of service or use the sophisticated technology that is available in a collaborative effort.

d. **Cost Savings:** \$445,000 to \$1,000,000 depending on perspective

10. Lapeer County EMS Authority: We are a community service for the citizens of Lapeer County. Created in 1997 by the merging of three local ambulance agencies, Lapeer Area Ambulance Service, North Branch Area Ambulance Service, and the Imlay City Department of Public Safety which have served the area as early as 1969. The service is now governed seven member Board of Directors with representatives appointed by the fifteen municipalities within Lapeer County.

a. **Key Partners:** Lapeer County & all local municipalities

b. **Budget:**

c. **Benefits:** If the Village were to create their own EMS authority, we would not be able to afford the same level of service or use the sophisticated technology that is available in a collaborative effort.

d. **Cost Savings:** This is difficult because without a collaborative effort the Village would not be able to provide EMS services.

11. Tax Assessment: the Township of Dryden shares the Tax assessor with the village of Dryden.

a. **Key Partners:** Village of Dryden & Township of Dryden.

b. **Benefits:** Having one database to maintain would save both the local units and county time and effort.

c. **Cost Savings:** The cost savings are approximately \$25,000 for software and staff.

12. Veterans Memorial Park: is a joint effort by the Village of Dryden, Township of Dryden and the Dryden Downtown Development Authority.

a. **Key Partners:** Village of Dryden, Township of Dryden & Dryden Downtown Development Authority.

b. **Benefits:** Joint collaboration of all involved created a pocket park in the Village of Dryden for honoring our veterans and community use (Concerts in the Park etc.)

c. **Cost Savings:** Approximately \$25,000 to each municipalities.

Future Collaborations:

1. Wellhead protection plan: The State of Michigan is encouraging all with water systems to develop wellhead protection plans. The purpose of the wellhead protection plan is to protect the water source we use at the water treatment facility. Since our source water originates underground wells the best plan will include collaboration with our neighboring communities.

a. Key Partners: Surrounding Municipalities.

b. Budget:

c. Benefits: The plan is important to the village and all of its partners. The results will protect water for many residents in several communities.

d. Cost Savings: Cost savings is the wrong metric for wellhead protection. Collaboration is required for a good plan. Better and safer drinking water for the region is the goal.

2. Road Salt: The Village of Dryden purchases road salt under the state contract. The schools cannot purchase under the state contract because the contract requires delivery of too large of a quantity of salt. The Village of Dryden could approach the Dryden Community Schools to see if they would be interested in an agreement to purchase their road salt from the Village of Dryden.

a. Key Partners: Village of Dryden and Dryden Community Schools

b. Benefits: The Village of Dryden saves a substantial amount of money as a result of purchasing large quantities of road salt at a time; the Dryden Community Schools could also save a substantial amount of money by purchasing the road salt from the village at cost.

c. Cost Savings: There are no real cost savings to the Village. The Schools could realize a significant cost savings.

3. Website Development & Management: The Village of Dryden will offer the software and trained personal to develop and manage a website for the Township of Dryden.

a. Key Partners: Village of Dryden and Township of Dryden.

b. Benefits: The township of Dryden currently does not have a website . To hire an outside service to develop and maintain the website would be costly.

c. Cost Savings: The savings to the Township of Dryden would be between \$5000 - \$10,000. The Village has the trained personnel and software to operate a website cost effectively.

4. Building Department: Since 2008 The Village of Dryden operates its own building Department We have provided better service and a substantial cost savings to our residents with 24 hour response on inspections.

a. Key Partners: Township of Dryden or surrounding communities.

b. Benefits: All the ordinance enforcement, zoning & building inspections are handle at a local level with full communication between all parties involved. All inspectors work on a fee basis and handle inspection with a 24 hour response time.

c. Cost Savings: The Village of Dryden has made a profit of about \$5000 each year from the building department. Prior to 2008 the village spent thousands of dollars and did not have timely resolutions of ordinance enforcement, rental inspections & fire inspections.

5. Cemetery Management: Since 2007 The Village of Dryden manages its cemetery with Data management software. The village could offer the our trained staff and data management software to the Township of Dryden to manage the cemeteries in their jurisdiction.

a. Key Partners: Village of Dryden & Township of Dryden

b. Benefits: Having one database to maintain would save both the local units time and money.

c. Cost Savings: At this point, the cost savings are unknown. As the program is better defined, a cost estimate will be able to be calculated.