

CITY OF WEST BRANCH

COOPERATION, COLLABORATION, AND CONSOLIDATION OF SERVICES PLAN

The City of West Branch has a long history of consolidation of services and sharing of services with our neighboring Townships. The City received recognition from the Michigan Municipal League on September 29, 2006 for a Michigan Municipal Achievement Award for Community Partnerships for planning efforts made through a Growth Assessment Planning (GAP) Committee comprised of officials from Ogemaw Township and West Branch Township and the City. This group studied a number of potential cooperative service sharing efforts, including expansion of the area Wastewater Treatment Plant, combined recreational path and transportation facilities.

The following list of services provide the reader with a good example of service sharing between the City of West Branch, Ogemaw County and area townships. Each of these services provide our community with efficiency in local government and insure the taxpayers and citizens that services are provided in a cost effective manner.

EXISTING CONSOLIDATION OF SERVICES

<u>Name of Service Organization</u>	<u>Member Units and % of Financial Contribution</u>
West Branch Area Wastewater Treatment Plant Authority	City of West Branch (72.7%), West Branch Township (22.7%) and Ogemaw Township (4.5%) Annual operating budget is \$ 476,000 (without bond payments) Estimated annual savings is \$ 120,000
Ogemaw County Emergency Medical Services Authority	City of West Branch, City of Rose City, Ogemaw County, and the following townships: Mills, Richland, Rose, West Branch, Churchill, Cummings, Horton, Edwards, Foster, Klacking, Goodar, Hill, Logan and Ogemaw. Millage levy currently is .9863 mills. Annual operating budget is \$ 1,562,000. Estimated annual savings is \$ 75,000 to \$ 80,000
West Branch Fire Department	City of West Branch (17.36%) and the following townships: Churchill (18.27%), Edwards (12.86%), Horton (8.25%), Ogemaw (13.59%) and West Branch (29.68%) Annual operating budget is \$ 151,000. Estimated annual savings is \$ 45,000

West Branch Community Airport	City of West Branch (30 % Operating Expense; 50% Ownership) and Ogemaw County (70%; Operating Expense; 50% Ownership) Annual Operating budget is \$ 68,000. Estimated annual savings is \$ 40,000
West Branch District Library	City of West Branch and the following town-Ships: Foster, Ogemaw, Edwards, West Branch, Horton and Churchill. Millage levy currently is .4 mills. Annual operating budget is \$ 337,000. Estimated annual savings is \$ 65,000
West Branch Recycling Center	City of West Branch and the following town-Ships: West Branch, Ogemaw, Foster, Edwards, Horton, Churchill, Klacking, Logan and Rose Percentage is pro-rated based on number of customers from each participating unit
Public Act 425 Agreements	The City of West Branch has four (4) agreements with West Branch Township and two (2) agreements with Ogemaw Township.

It is difficult to project exact cost savings currently realized through consolidation of services through the above organizations without substantial financial analysis, which could include building cost/depreciation, equipment cost/depreciation, required staffing levels, etc. Future cost savings that can be realized through new consolidation efforts can and will be computed as these efforts are explored. It is important to note, however, that without township and other city membership in the above organizations and their proportionate contribution of financial assistance, the cost for the City of West Branch to provide these services would be substantially higher. Further, if the City had to fund these services by itself, the City would not be able to afford to provide some of the services on it's own.

NEW CONSOLIDATION OF SERVICES

City Council approved a new Public Act 425 Agreement with Ogemaw Township on December 19, 2011. The property in the agreement covers approximately 11 acres which will be developed next year adding property tax base, a water and sewer customer and also bring new jobs to the community.

FUTURE CONSOLIDATION OF SERVICES

In association with the participating townships, county and cities in the above organizations, the City of West Branch, in the future, will look into the possibility and feasibility of adding townships to the organizations in an effort to further consolidate services and reduce operating costs.

The City of West Branch will also continue to review existing and new services that could potentially be consolidated.

The City will also continue to work with adjacent townships on future P.A. 425 agreements, which have proven to be financially beneficial to both the City of West Branch and adjacent townships.

Cost savings can be calculated based on the budget amount for the service provided and the pro-rated financial contribution of participating jurisdictions in association with the City of West Branch, similar to how savings are calculated on existing services.