

THE PROGRESSIVE CITY



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2013

Economic Vitality Incentive Program Consolidation/Collaboration of Services

A. Current forms of consolidation/collaboration

1. Dickinson County - Landfill Authority/ Solid Waste Management Authority

The cities and townships of Dickinson County were involved in the operation and management of a centrally located landfill until the early 1990's. This was a joint effort to effectively dispose of solid waste collected from throughout the county. This landfill was capped and closed in 1992 and the Dickinson County Solid Waste Management Authority was formed. The Authority now operates a transfer station to collect and dispose of solid waste, recyclables and compostable vegetative waste.

2. Dickinson County Construction Code Commission

The cities and townships of Dickinson County formed a collaborative in the 1999 to unify its enforcement of construction codes within the county. The Dickinson County Construction Code Commission was formed in order to make construction code enforcement more efficient and effective throughout the county. The Commission is self sustaining through its fees.

3. Dickinson Area Partnership Economic Alliance

A collaboration of the cities of Kingsford, Iron Mountain, Norway, Niagara, Wisconsin, Breitung Township, Dickinson County along with several of the large businesses in the area have formed a group to collectively join resource to encourage economic growth within the area. The Dickinson Area Partnership Economic Alliance was formed in 1996.

4. K.I.N.D. Team

A collaboration of the Dickinson County Sheriffs Department, Kingsford Public Safety Department, Iron Mountain Police Department and Norway Police Department formed a joint team. The team utilizes personnel and resources from each department to investigate and monitor illegal drug trafficking, drug crime and other severe crimes in the local area. The Team was formed in 1989.

5. C.I.R.T Team

A collaboration of the Dickinson County Sheriffs Department, Kingsford Public Safety Department, Iron Mountain Police Department and Norway Police Department joined to operate and train a critical incidence response team for the local area. The C.I.R.T. Team was formed in 1989.

6. Iron Mountain – Kingsford Waste Water Treatment Facility

The operation of the joint waste water treatment facility dates back to 1958, when the original waste water treatment plant was constructed. Prior to this time the cities of Iron Mountain and Kingsford jointly discharged waste water to the Menominee River. The two cities worked together to form an authority responsible for the construction and operation of a waste water treatment plant. The cities of Iron Mountain and Kingsford through the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Waste Water Authority continue to fund its operation. An expansion of the plant took place in 1974 and a storm water retention basin was constructed in 1978 to limit the amount of untreated storm water from entering the Menominee River.

7. Fire Department Mutual Aid

The cities of Kingsford and Iron Mountain put into place in February 1998, an agreement that allows the Kingsford Pubic Safety Department and the Iron Mountain Fire Department to work through a mutual aid agreement in the event of structure fires and rescue situations. This agreement allows for each department to have available to them additional on duty personnel, ready to respond to certain emergencies.

8. Provide Water to Areas of Breitung Township

The City of Kingsford provides drinking and fire protection water to two areas of Breitung Township through a consecutive system arrangement. The two separate areas, known as East Kingsford and Skidmore are currently provided a total of 1.5 to 2.0 million gallons of drinking water per month. This provides extra revenue to the City and saves the township the cost of operating a water supply system for these two areas.

9. Youth Athletic Programs

A number of youth athletic programs provide organized sports in the area using the athletic fields provided and maintained by the City of Kingsford. These organizations included Iron Mountain – Kingsford Community Schools Summer Recreation Program, S.A.Y Soccer League, Northern Stars Soccer League, Kingsford High School Soccer Program, Iron Mountain High School Soccer Program, Dickinson Area Youth Football League, Little League Baseball Leagues, Kingsford High School Tennis Program, Girls Fast-Pitch Softball League and Babe Ruth Baseball Leagues. The city provides the fields and performs the heavy maintenance and turf care and the teams provide the programs and the detailed maintenance during the seasons.

B. 2013 Update to planned forms of consolidation/collaboration

1. Automatic Fire Response Aid

The cities of Kingsford and Iron Mountain planned to have in place in early 2012 an agreement for automatic aid for the Kingsford Public Safety Department and Iron Mountain Fire Department. The automatic aid agreement would have provided dispatchers the directive to automatically call both departments in the event of any

structure fire or emergency rescue situation in either city. The City Council discontinued these efforts to pursue a cost saving concept of forming a police and fire authority with its neighboring city, Iron Mountain.

2. Police and Fire Services Authority.

The cities of Kingsford and Iron Mountain continue to discuss forming an Emergency Services Authority. This Authority when formed would provide police and fire services jointly to both cities with the possibly adding neighboring communities to the Authority in the future. If the details of the endeavor can be worked out, this potentially could save the involved communities a considerable amount in manpower costs and equipment requirements. The City Councils have received a draft Emergency Services Agreement and both councils voted to continue pursuing the concept of a joint Emergency Services Authority. The estimated cost savings to Kingsford for a full authority is estimated at \$350,000 annually. The Iron Mountain-Kingsford Committee is currently in a discussion to initiate the Emergency Services Authority with firefighting services as Phase I, as both cities have near future retiring officers and are in discussions on whether or not replace them. This first step would provide automatic fire/rescue response from both station houses with adequate personnel and equipment. The estimated cost savings to Kingsford is estimated at \$150,000 annually.

3. Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program

The city of Kingsford planned to forfeit its Municipal Enforcing Agent (MEA) status for the implementation, permitting and enforcement of its Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC) Program in 2012. This plan was stifled by the fact that the City of Kingsford SESC Ordinance requires that soil erosion and sedimentation control measures can be enforced by the city in all situations less than stipulated minimums in the Part 91 of PA 451. Because of the topography within areas of the city, officials felt that the city needed to maintain this local control. The plan now is for the City of Kingsford to maintain its MEA status and have the Dickinson County Construction Code Commission permit and enforce the SESC program as it pertains to laws Part 91 of PA451. As a matter of record the Dickinson County Construction Code Commission currently handles the SESC programs of the cities of Iron Mountain and Norway along with the remainder of Dickinson County since 2007. This would save the city the costs associated with administering this program, approximately \$4,000 annually and provide the Dickinson County Construction Code Commission addition revenues through SESC permit fees.

4. Flood Plain Control Ordinance Enforcement

To go along with the changes recently implemented by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), The City of Kingsford passed a new ordinance for controlling development of flood prone areas of the city along with jointly approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with Dickinson County to have its Construction Code Commission oversee the enforcement of construction in proximity of flood prone areas. As the Dickinson County Construction Code Commission is currently providing construction inspection throughout the County, it was only prudent that this task be added to their duties. For the city this will only require some additional information to be included on the zoning permits.

5. Youth Athletic Programs

In 2012 a joint effort by the Youth Football League and the S.A.Y. Soccer League along with a local volunteer contractor provided the material and labor to install an irrigation

system for a multi-use area of the City's LoDal Park Complex. This field is used by both of the organizations from April through October of each year. The cost of material along was \$3,500.

Kingsford High School recently announced that they will be adding a Girls Softball Program in the spring of 2013. The Girls Softball Field located at the City's Lodal Park to be used as their home field. As the organization has volunteered to upgrade and maintain the field in recent years and intends to continue, the City Council is in support of this program.