

New Shared Services begun after October 1st, 2011 - City of Big Rapids

Central Michigan Enforcement Team

Big Rapids, Mecosta County, Ferris State University, Ionia County, Montcalm County and Newaygo County are all part of the Special Forces Unit that works on Drug and other regional cases. The group arrangement is to send an officer to the unit and to share the forfeiture funds based on participation. Some years ago the City of Ionia left the unit and the City of Big Rapids picked up the vacant position supplying two officers to the CMET team. Recently a new Sheriff has been elected in Mecosta County who is interested in supplying an officer – thus relieving the City of the obligation to supply two personnel for the team. This support will save the City of Big Rapids one officer position saving **\$70,000**

Elections

The City has 5 voting precincts. With technological advances it would be possible to consolidate the City the City into 4 precincts. This would be helpful because elementary schools have begun to be reluctant to be polling places for all the ‘strangers’ that come on campus that day. Consolidation also would allow for fewer poll workers and fewer machines and printing costs. Big Rapids consolidation of voting places **\$2000**

Computer Technology

The City of Big Rapids and the County of Mecosta have networked for years on technology. The City employs two individuals full time and the County one who provide technical assistance for this program. The savings over the years has been significant in hardware, software and personnel costs. The agencies continue to look for ways to extend these savings. For 2011, the City was able to obtain former cell tower buildings located at the base of the Water towers for use in the City/County technology consortium. Negotiating for this structure will save the separate construction of a facility. The building will be come a hub for City data transmission. Building acquisition saving **\$15,000**

In addition to the building saving, the group is always looking for other partners to join this team. This coming year the County Park Board has decided to join. The anticipate paying the City \$5,000 for this service. In the past they have been paying a private contractor \$100 per hour – not including driving time! While the actual saving will vary with the number of hours needed to update and maintain the system, the projected savings by the Park system is **\$10,000**

Assessment

Big Rapids Township has decided to contract out its assessing business to BS&A Software systems. The City of Big Rapids also uses BS&A to assist in its assessing. Mapping and parcel handling are a problem for any system. The City has digital technology, however, for its residents – which includes an overflight of the township as a routing part of our mapping system. The City’s maps – driven in part by the water and sewer utility in the township, can double nicely for assessing purposes. Therefore the township approached the City about a joint venture for assessment mapping. The City has agreed to provide the mapping and parcel accounting for \$5500. This upcoming year the City is agreeing to maintain the system at a cost of \$25 dollars per parcel. As the City has need of updated aerial digital photography periodically and this activity has in the past included the Township, no additional charges were levied to the

Township in creating their mapping database. The assessing office estimated this saving to the township at \$15,000 and created an income for the City of \$5,000.

Net advantage/saving to both sides	\$20,000
Future maintenance based on an average of 50 parcel changes annually	\$1,250

DPS Office Space

The City has a Department of Public Safety Building that was built for the future. As such there are minor portions that are not fully utilized. The State of Michigan approached the DPS with the desire to use one room for office space for the State Forester. The individual would have access to the building, photocopying machine, and other amenities in a modern surrounding. This mutual arrangement will work well for all concerned. The City would be 'heating and air conditioning' this space anyway but with this arrangement will be compensated for this minor office space. The State will have top flight offices, for a relatively nominal annual cost.

\$2400

Training Opportunity

Ferris State University will be tearing down Carlisle and Masselink Dormitories this summer. This condition allows the City and area departments to have both Police and Fire training on a 'real' basis. Since the building will be removed anyway, this training can include assault on the building, interior wall breaching, water delivery, and police surveillance. This kind of training is not possible without cooperation of the University and the City/County safety forces. It is hard to put a price on the value of this activity since it is unique to the cooperative nature of the area. Still, to purchase this training there is a high value.

\$10,000

Shared Services begun prior to October 1, 2011

1. CMET

Central Michigan Enforcement Team provides drug and special police enforcement to the region. Big Rapids contributes one officer to this effort.

2. Police Training Consortium

The Region including Ferris, the Sheriff and the City are part of this group training effort for Police Officers

3. HAZMAT Region 6

The City of Big Rapids not only participates in this regional hazmat effort but also provides the space to house and maintain the regional trailer which contains the protection and remediation equipment needed on the scene.

4. Voting and Training Services

The City provides training for election workers for City, County and School elections.

5. Use of Water Tower for Communications

The City and County have a Technology cooperative agreement that has been expanded over the years to include other neighboring agencies. The City donates the use of the water tower to this system for proper elevation.

6. White Pines Trail Maintenance

The City assists the Department of Natural Resources in maintaining the White Pines Trail that passes through the City.

7. Fire Services

Big Rapids has a full time Fire Service and contracts with five area townships to provide fire service to these agencies. Training and First Responder Services are included in this area cooperation.

8. Water Franchise

Big Rapids provides water to area businesses and residents outside the corporation.

9. Wastewater Franchise

Big Rapids provides wastewater service to businesses and residents outside the corporation.

10. Water and Sewer System Maintenance

In addition to the water and wastewater franchises, insofar as the townships have a distribution system, the City provides maintenance and repair on these lines and lift stations.

11. Storm Water services

Drainage challenges have been met by combining the costs of improvements with the County and Ferris State University.

12. Cemetery.

The City provides financial support to the Township Cemetery.

13. Economic Development

The City, County, Ferris State University and area Townships have consolidated services to provide economic development activities for the County area as a whole.

14. Library Services

The Big Rapids Community Library provides service to all or parts of 5 townships.

15. Airport Services

The Big Rapids airport is located in Big Rapids Township and provides service to the entire region.

16. Swimming Pool – Recreation

The full time City recreation department provides swimming programs and a host of recreational opportunities.

17. DART

The DART bus system provides services to limited areas in the township – which does include a major shopping area.

18. Building Permit/Inspection Services

The City contracts with the County Building department to conduct building inspection services (electrical, plumbing) for the City construction. In addition, the housing rental inspection program is also contracted with this County Department.

19. Dive Team

The City and County have networked together to provide water rescue service.

20. Technology

The City and County have networked to provide technology services and continue to add other agencies. Technical assistance allows all groups to have faster service behind a more sophisticated fire wall.

21. Brownfield Program

The City and County jointly applied for a Brownfield grant which has helped document Brownfield difficulties and set the stage for redevelopment of these difficult areas.

22. Downtown Development TIF

The County assisted greatly with the VSCI grant process by helping fund the Downtown improvements through a TIF on the district.

23. Fuel Consortium

The County Road Commission, County, City and Transportation agencies have combined to purchase fuel and a central dispensing depot. The local Medical Center and High School have sense joined the network. The City provides power backup generator services to this depot.

24. Joint purchasing

Several joint purchasing efforts are coordinated between agencies including salt for winter roadwork, Fire apparatus,

25. Aerial Topography

The City has flown the community to assist in the mapping and assessing of the City. This data has been shared with Big Rapids Township and Ferris State University.

26. Artistic ventures

Festival of the Arts, the Summer Band Series and Public Art initiatives have all been completed with the support of the entire region.

27. Street Sweeping

The City and Ferris combine to keep the Streets of the City and Campus Clean.

28. Neighborhood Policing

The Department of Public Safety is employed to provide specific and specialized services for the Big Rapids Housing Commission which controls of 300 units of LMI housing in the City.