

City of Port Huron



City of Port Huron, Michigan

**Plan to Cooperate, Collaborate
and Consolidate Services**

**Category 2 of the State of Michigan
Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP)**

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The City of Port Huron's plan has been posted on the City's website, and a hard copy is available in the City Clerk's office.

CITY OF PORT HURON – LIST OF PROPOSED AND IN PROCESS COLLABORATIONS

PROPOSED FIRE DEPARTMENT CONSOLIDATION PLAN FOR THE CITIES OF PORT HURON AND MARYSVILLE

**Estimated
Cost Savings**

Beginning in May 2011 the Port Huron and Marysville Fire Departments developed a stakeholders task force to investigate the feasibility of creating a single Fire/Rescue service. We included both collective bargaining units, the local private EMS transport company along with each community's Directors of Finance. The primary goal has been to determine if it is more economical, while at the same time improving efficiencies to jointly operate. In addition, we attempted to answer the one question, somewhat counter-intuitive to the reduction of traditional service models: Could this collaboration actually improve the quality of service?

To date we have concluded that the beginning phase of this effort will be centered around an advanced collaboration. The benefits include reduction in administration costs, reduced overtime and the opportunity to closely analyze the economy of scale that evolves moving forward. We have estimated the potential savings in the first year to be \$500,000 for both cities. Port Huron's portion will be approximately 75% of this estimated total.

In order to reduce the concerns by both governmental bodies, this proposal allows each city to maintain ownership of their respective assets, such as vehicles and specialized equipment. The workforce will also remain under the "ownership" of their community. In essence this advanced collaboration or JOA will allow for both a path forward and a path to retreat. Lastly, it is quite evident that both departments have current levels of service that will enhance the quality of service in each others community.

\$375,000

PLAN TO ASSIST THE MICHIGAN STATE POLICE WITH OFFICE AND GARAGE SPACE

Estimated Cost Savings

- The Port Huron Police Department has engaged in a plan to assist the Michigan State Police (MSP) with its current departmental reorganization plan by offering “free of charge” housing space for a squad of five troopers, a sergeant supervisor, a detective and a polygraph operator, along with two motor carrier division officers. This offer would allow MSP personnel displaced from the Richmond Post to be centrally located in St. Clair County, and close to vital important infrastructure. The MSP personnel would be provided secured closed garage access for their vehicles, locker rooms, report typing and dictation services, computer access, office space for the detective and/or polygraph operator and the ability to join the Port Huron Police Department Major Crimes Unit (MCU) or other departmental functions, whether training related or specific task. This offer is at no cost to the State of Michigan at this time. This request is currently being implemented in phases by the MSP. The estimated savings represents the savings to the Michigan State Police.

\$20,000

Recreation Collaborations

- The Port Huron Recreation Department has collaborated recreation services with Fort Gratiot Township, Port Huron Township and Clyde Township. Through this collaboration township residents can now participate in recreation programs as if they were residents of the City of Port Huron and the townships pay any difference in the fee. The City of Port Huron is also meeting with two other townships in our area to continue these very successful partnerships.

\$10,000

CITY OF PORT HURON – LIST OF PRE-EXISTING COLLABORATIONS

Estimated Cost Savings

Introduction

The City of Port Huron has participated in a number of collaborations for a number of years, both on the local level and on a statewide basis. Because these programs have been in place a number of years, it is difficult to provide an accurate estimate of the savings involved even though the savings clearly exist. Where possible, we have tried to provide as accurate an estimate as possible of the annual savings. If it was estimated that the collaboration allowed the elimination of a full-time equivalent position, we have used \$70,000 as an estimated cost of wages and benefits and have adjusted for fractional positions.

Statewide and Multicounty Collaborations

- Municipal Employees’ Retirement System of Michigan (MERS) – MERS is a statewide retirement plan and tax-qualified trust that municipalities may adopt for their employees. MERS offers employee benefit programs: defined benefit, defined contribution and hybrid plans, and group insurance products. MERS serves cities, counties, hospitals, libraries, medical care facilities, road commissions, townships, villages, and similar units of local government. MERS members total approximately 750 municipalities and more than 86,000 individual members and retirees. **\$170,000**

- Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) – Statewide governmental authority established to protect our member participants, their employees, their officials, and their citizens from unexpected liability and property losses. MMRMA's individual and state pool members include over 200 cities, counties, townships, and special districts combined, as well as dozens of other governmental entities, including libraries, medical care facilities, fire departments, 911/dispatch departments, courts, transportation departments, and cable services. MMRMA attracts and retains its members by providing cutting edge services, thorough coverages, and financial stability. **\$160,000**

- Michigan Municipal League (MML) – The MML is a statewide cooperative organization organized to improve municipal government. The League’s motto is “Cooperation solves any problem”. The MML’s goals are to create desirable and unique places through legislative and judicial advocacy; to provide educational opportunities for elected and appointed officials; and to assist municipal leaders in administering community services. **Not determined**

- Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), is a multicounty consortium that brings together local governments to provide data and analysis for informed decision-making affecting Southeastern Michigan and its local governments, promoting the efficient use of tax dollars for both long-term infra-

**Estimated
Cost Savings**

structure investment and shorter-term governmental efficiency, delivering direct assistance to member governments in the areas of transportation, environment, and community and economic development and solving regional issues that go beyond the boundaries of individual local governments.

Not determined

Collaborations with St. Clair County

▪ St. Clair County Transportation Study (SCCOTS) – The SCCOTS technical committee includes representatives from local townships, cities, villages, MDOT, FHWA and the County Road Commission. The committee participates in regional transportation planning. They also make recommendations to Southeast Michigan Council of Government’s (SEMCOG) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for projects within St. Clair County to receive federal transportation funding. Federal regulations require this process for local agencies to receive federal transportation funding.

Not determined

▪ Cooperative Construction Project Agreements – We have entered multiple agreements with the County Parks Commission to implement infrastructure improvement projects. The most recent project is the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse Project.

**Varies with
the project**

▪ Collaboration with St. Clair County on NSP Program to provide resources for citizens to purchase and renovate vacant, foreclosed, and abandoned homes.

\$50,000

▪ The City has contracted with the County Prosecutor to serve as the City Attorney for City misdemeanor prosecutions.

\$30,000

▪ Assessing Department – The City considered contracting with the St. Clair County equalization department for assessing services for its citizens, but the proposed services would have resulted in higher costs and reduced services.

**No savings
realized**

▪ The City library was merged with the St. Clair County Library system.

Not determined

▪ The City transferred its District Court operations to the County court system.

Not determined

Regional Collaborations

▪ Tri Hospital EMS – Joint venture of three local hospitals to provide ambulance services, relieving individual local communities of the responsibility.

Not determined

▪ McMorran Civic Center Authority – Regional civic center – although owned by the City of Port Huron, 80% of the visitors to this facility come from outside the City. The facility offers a wide variety of cultural and sports programs.

Not determined

**Estimated
Cost Savings**

- Blue Water Area Transportation Commission (BWATC) – The BWATC provides regional transportation in the City of Port Huron and several surrounding cities and townships, including routes that connect to metro Detroit transit. The BWATC is an independent entity created under the Urban Cooperation Act by the City and the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot and has grown to include several other surrounding communities.
- Economic Development Alliance (EDA) – The City of Port Huron has joined with St. Clair County, other County governmental entities and the business community to provide a single voice for business retention, business attraction and international economic cooperation.

Not determined

\$70,000

Police and Fire Collaborations

- Police and Fire and Emergency Services Dispatch combined with St. Clair County in 2007. The combined services of this Central Dispatching Authority now serve the majority of the population of St. Clair County. Police, Fire, Emergency Medical via advanced life support units from a private carrier are coordinated in computerized and radio response to specific calls for service.
- Police/Sheriff – Drug Task Force – Joint participation – Police/Sheriff departments work jointly on a millage funded narcotics interdiction program. Utilizing personnel from both the Sheriffs Department and the Port Huron Police Department, these officers investigate the vast majority of narcotics related complaints in the county.
- Port Huron Police Department/Sheriff – Major Crimes Unit – Joint participation from both departments, and direct supervision as supplied by the Port Huron Police Department. This specialized investigative unit responds to all major crimes within St. Clair County as an investigative strike force team. These officers also supplement the respective department’s detective bureaus by assisting in their investigations when requested.
- Emergency Services – The Port Huron Fire Department actively participates in mutual aid compacts, sharing in all levels of response including fire suppression, technical rescue and HazMat.
- Emergency Planning – The Port Huron Fire and Police Departments are members of the St. Clair County Emergency Management Homeland Security Advisory Council.
- Police and Fire have mutual aid compacts with the surrounding St. Clair County entities. The Port Huron Police and Fire Departments additionally have mutual aid compacts with the Ontario Provincial Police, the Sarnia Police Department, and the Sarnia Fire and Rescue Departments.

\$300,000

\$70,000

Not determined

Not determined

Not determined

Not determined

**Estimated
Cost Savings**

- Police/Fire #800 MHz – City and County contributed assets for a joint radio system that operates for police, fire and emergency medical services, drug task force, special response teams, and other specialized event channels that would require connectivity. This system is also indirectly connected to the MPSCS #800 MHz radio system.
- Police – Federal Agencies/County Law Enforcement Agencies – Joint Stone Garden border protections grant participation by those St. Clair County entities that have borders within their jurisdictions. The Port Huron Police Department makes its Special Response Team (SRT) and their Police K-9 unit available to all Federal agencies within the county, including Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Department of Homeland Security.
- Regional participation and offering of the Port Huron Police Department Special Response Team to supplement the St. Clair County Sheriff’s Department Team, or upon request as an individual response unit. This unit recently regionalized by offering several law enforcement agencies within St. Clair County the opportunity to have a member of their respective departments apply to the Port Huron Police Department Special Response Team, be outfitted upon qualification, trained in combat and rescue team techniques, and then be able to return to their departments and instruct their personnel in the training that they acquired. This process is ongoing at this time.
- Regional offering of the Port Huron Police Department Crisis Negotiation Unit. Upon request as an individual response unit, this unit was recently regionalized by offering several law enforcement agencies within St. Clair County the opportunity to utilize the special skills set this team has for a variety of intervention issues.
- Regional participation and offering of the Port Huron Police Department K-9 unit (training consortium). The Port Huron Police Department K-9 unit works in conjunction with approximately twelve (12) other police departments in training exercises, and upon request of any of the training partners, can be utilized for narcotics interdiction or suspect location as needed.
- Regional participation and offering of the Port Huron Police Department K-9 unit to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). The Port Huron Police Department recently agreed to have its police narcotics K-9 units assist the DEA agents with narcotics investigations and interdictions that it may be involved in within the scope of the Detroit DEA field office.
- Port Huron Neighborhood Watch Program with various neighborhood groups of citizens – Community Policing Venture. The Port Huron Police Department recently re-energized and expanded its Neighborhood Watch Program to include a cross-section of the entire community, the school buildings within the City, and those neighboring jurisdictions or townships that have citizens interested in the concept or program of Neighborhood Watch.

Not determined

Not determined

Not determined

Not determined

Not determined

Not determined

Not determined

**Estimated
Cost Savings**

- Training of the Port Huron Housing Commission staff on the use of OC spray and use of force by the Port Huron Police Department use of force instructors. The Housing Commission members are private civilians who police their respective neighborhood housing cooperatives.
- Collaborative school access by police program with the Port Huron Area School District where Port Huron Police Department uniformed and plain clothes members make periodic un-announced visits to local school buildings, integrating themselves into the building setting. On occasion these officers besides providing walk-thru security of the building, are also assigned children that may have behavioral or family issues, thru our lunch buddy program.
- Collaborative use of MDOT weight scales by Port Huron Police Department at Blue Water Bridge Authority. The Port Huron Police Department does not possess portable scales for commercial motor vehicle weight enforcement at this time. Thru a cooperative agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) at the Blue Water Bridge, Port Huron Police Department officers can utilize the in-place weight scales at the Blue Water Bridge whenever necessary.
- Port Huron Police Department – Citizens Police Academy – Collaborative Community Policing venture that is offered not only to citizens of Port Huron, but all jurisdictions within St. Clair County. This twelve (12) week program allows a systematic look into the world of law enforcement by citizens, in all facets of police work. Citizens complete the program after a variety of special instructions, including criminal law, firearms, evidence processing, use of force, etc. This program helps build citizen trust in local law enforcement, and strengthens the bond of partnership between the Port Huron Police Department and the community.
- Port Huron Police Department “VIP” (Volunteers in Policing) Program. This program is where we utilize those interested volunteer members of the City and surrounding jurisdictions to assist the Port Huron Police Department’s sworn law enforcement officers in some of the duties they may do. These selected and trained volunteers perform community patrol tasks, serve as police department ambassadors, they assist in the CPA training program, amongst a variety of other duties. These citizens are recognized as an important part of our community policing program. This program was recently enhanced to allow further use of the “VIP’s” to include some limited office work, filing, data entry work, etc.
- The Port Huron Police Department provides an outlet for several colleges’ Criminal Justice degree programs the ability to assign “Interns” to the Port Huron Police Department as a part of their major experience. The Port Huron Police Department allows these interns to observe and do some limited police duties or functions and allows the interns to actually ride along with a police officer or detective so that they may see what exactly encompasses their job responsibilities. Some of the educational institutions that partake in this program at this time include Central Michigan University, Ferris State University, and the St. Clair County Community College – Criminal Justice Program.

Not determined

Not determined

Not determined

Not determined

Not determined

Not determined

**Estimated
Cost Savings**

The Port Huron Police Department has entered into an agreement with the St. Clair County Community College –Campus Security Department to train its security officers and other personnel in a variety of different areas. These include the use of OC spray, self-defense or physical control tactics, etc.

Not determined

Regional Public Works Collaborations

- Regional Water Treatment Facility – The City of Port Huron provides treated water to the City of Port Huron, Port Huron Township, Kimball Township, Fort Gratiot Township and Clyde Township. The City’s Water Filtration Plant (WFP) produces between 9 and 11 million gallons a day of safe drinking water and serves a population of approximately 58,000 people across five municipalities. **\$850,000**

- Water Filtration Plant (WFP) Laboratory Services – The City’s WFP has an onsite laboratory which analyzes the public drinking water supply in accordance with the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act (PA 399). The laboratory also performs bacteriological tests on samples taken from the City’s water distribution system and from sample points within the WFP. Not only does our laboratory analyze the City’s required samples but also the samples from the four municipal water distribution systems in which filtered water is provided. This saves these other governmental agencies the cost of setting up this type of testing. **\$30,000**

- Regional Sanitary Sewer Collection and Treatment – The City of Port Huron transports sanitary waste generated from the City of Port Huron, Fort Gratiot Township, Port Huron Township and Kimball Township and a small portion of the City of Marysville. The City operates and maintains large sanitary interceptor sewers and sanitary pump stations that transport sewage from these four municipalities and from inside the City to its Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). **\$1,000,000**

- Industrial Pretreatment Program – The City’s WWTP receives sanitary sewage generated from within the City as well as our surrounding communities, the City’s WWTP personnel administers and oversees this program for all the industrial and commercial customers located within the municipalities served by the WWTP. **\$50,000**

- Storm Water Advisory Groups – The City is a member of multiple storm water advisory groups. These groups include twelve separate governmental agencies. Our participation in these groups allows each governmental entity to share some of the cost of implementing the federally mandated Storm Water NPDES requirements with other agencies. We have formal cooperative agreements with these agencies. **\$70,000**

- Cooperative Private Partner Project Agreements – We have entered cooperative agreements with private developers to complete infrastructure improvements. We still have an active cooperative agreement with Acheson Ventures for the development of Desmond Landing. **Varies with
the project**

**Estimated
Cost Savings**

Collaborations with Nonprofits

- Senior City Transportation – Partnership with local nonprofit – the St. Clair County Council on Aging to provide local on demand transportation to seniors for things such as doctor office visits, trips to the grocery store and others. **\$10,000**

- The City has participated in partnerships with the Community Foundation of St. Clair County and the Community Action Agency for neighborhood redevelopment programs. **Not determined**

- Partnership with Blue Water Habitat for Humanity to leverage their resources and the City’s grant funds to make repairs and improve efficiency in homes occupied by elderly, disabled or low income. **Not determined**

- Partnership with Port Huron Neighborhood Housing Corporation to leverage resources and staff to redevelop blighted neighborhoods and provide homeownership opportunities to families. **Not determined**