



VILLAGE OF BELLEVUE

EATON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

COOPERATION, COLLABORATION, AND  
CONSOLIDATION PLAN

December 31, 2011

## **Current Cooperation, Collaboration, and Consolidation Plans and Efforts:**

The Village of Bellevue has a long history of cooperation, collaboration, and consolidation with other governments and organizations. Following is a list of current cooperation, collaboration, and consolidation efforts along with estimated cost savings where appropriate.

### **Boards & Administration**

#### **Joint Governmental Meeting- \$0**

The Bellevue Village Council holds joint governmental meetings semiannually with the Bellevue Community School Board and the Bellevue Township Board. These meetings allow the three boards an excellent opportunity to discuss previous and potential areas of cooperation and potential collaborative efforts.

#### **Bellevue Joint Planning Commission- \$4,000**

The Bellevue Joint Planning Commission was the first joint planning commission in the State of Michigan. This commission serves Bellevue Township and the Village of Bellevue.

#### **Eaton County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority- \$unknown**

The Village of Bellevue is a member of the Eaton County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Cooperating with Eaton County to be a part of this allows the Village to offer the program to its residents without funding its own staff and board to administer it.

#### **Joint Elections- \$1,800**

The Village of Bellevue elections are held by Bellevue Township in partnership with the general elections. This consolidation of services has benefited the Village of Bellevue by both increasing the Village's voter turnout while decreasing costs.

#### **Construction Codes Enforcement- \$unknown**

The Eaton County Construction Code Department provides all permits and inspections to residents of the Village of Bellevue.

## **Public Safety**

### Police Vehicle Group Purchase- \$1,000

The Bellevue Police Department purchases its motor vehicles as part of the State of Michigan bid for police vehicles. This allows the Village to realize a cost savings over purchasing the vehicles independently.

### Equipment Purchase- \$8,000

The Bellevue Police Department cooperates with area departments in the joint purchase of equipment when possible and appropriate. The department also works with State of Michigan and Federal agencies when purchasing equipment when cost savings are possible. Recent examples of this are the joint purchase of radio equipment, both portable and vehicle mounted, and the purchase of body armor for officers.

### Eaton County Central Dispatch- \$unknown

The Bellevue Police Department cooperates with Eaton County Central Dispatch, a consolidated countywide dispatch center, to provide all dispatching for the department. Without this consolidated service the Village would not be able to provide dispatching services for the department.

### Eaton County Jail- \$unknown

The Bellevue Police Department cooperates with the Eaton County Sheriff's Department to provide jail services. This is a necessary service the Village of Bellevue would be unable to provide due to fiscal costs.

### Bellevue Community Schools- \$0

The Bellevue Police Department works cooperatively with the local school district, Bellevue Community Schools. These efforts include speaking with students at all age levels, safety education, providing officers for athletic and school sponsored events.

### Mutual Aid with Area Departments- \$unknown

The Bellevue Police Department cooperates with every police department that operates within Eaton County. The department has a mutual aid agreement with these departments, spearheaded by the Eaton County Sheriff. This agreement allows these departments to assist Bellevue's officers and vice versa. This provides a large benefit in allowing for lower staffing levels without significantly sacrificing officer safety.

Crossing Guard- \$1,600

The Bellevue Community School District and the Village of Bellevue provide a crossing guard to help with traffic control and ensure students safety. Both entities split the cost of the crossing guard evenly.

Gun Range- \$1,000

The Village of Bellevue Police Department has a partnership with the Bellevue Conservation Club that allows the department to use the clubs facilities. The department uses the gun range during their training and firearms qualifications.

Bellevue Fire Department- \$60,000

The Village of Bellevue is a one-quarter owner of the Bellevue Fire Department, which provides fire protection services to the Bellevue community. This department is a cooperative effort between four different governments, Assyria Township, Bellevue Township, Convis Township, and the Village of Bellevue.

**Public Works**

Bellevue Community Schools- \$0

The Bellevue Public Works Departments collaborates with the Bellevue Community Schools in materials acquisitions. The Village will provide material at cost to the school for maintenance projects such as blacktop patch and water/sewer line materials. The public works department has also been used as a knowledge resource during projects.

Street Maintenance- \$1,000

The Village of Bellevue Public Works Department collaborates with other governments to assist in the maintenance of Village streets. Examples of this are this are working with Bellevue Township to provide dust control on gravel streets and working with the Eaton County Road Commission to provide salt purchase, bridge inspections, chip sealing, and pavement markings.

MDOT Contract- \$4,900

The Village of Bellevue Public Works Department has a collaborative effort with the Michigan Department of Transportation. This effort allows the Village to be reimbursed for expenses pertaining to the maintenance of M-78 in the Village of Bellevue.

## TMDL- \$0

The Village of Bellevue's Wastewater Plant is a member of a Total Maximum Daily Loading (TMDL) group. This organization is a group of public and private interests that have formed a collaborative effort to control and potentially reduce the phosphorus levels in the Kalamazoo River/Lake Allegan Watershed. This effort has a direct impact on the environmental quality of the region.

## Resource Recovery Recycle Site- \$8,500

The Village of Bellevue has a collaborative effort with Bellevue Township, City of Olivet, and Walton Township in cooperation with the Eaton County Resource Recovery Department to provide recycling to the southwest corner of Eaton County. This effort has allowed all four government entities to provide a service to our residents that would be difficult if not impossible due to costs without the partnership.

## **Future Cooperation, Collaboration, and Consolidation Plans and Efforts:**

The Village of Bellevue is constantly seeking opportunities to cooperate, collaborate and consolidate services to reduce costs, enhance, or expand the services offered to the Village's residents.

The Village of Bellevue anticipates that it may be able to accomplish one or more of the plans outlined in this report. Factors outside the Village's control may limit our ability to implement one or more of the plans.

Following are cooperation, collaboration, and consolidation plans that are currently being explored to achieve these results with estimated cost savings.

### **Boards & Administration**

#### **Bellevue Village Council- \$250-\$500**

The Bellevue Village Council will seek joint training opportunities with surrounding government boards. These training sessions will allow the board members to maintain and expand their knowledgebase while being budget conscious. Joint training allows all communities to offer the training at a reduced cost. It also allows for council members from different governments to share their experiences and learn from one another.

The Bellevue Village Council and the Olivet City Council are talking about holding biannual joint meetings between the two councils. These meetings will be held with the goal of establishing and strengthening the relationship between these two governmental boards. This relationship will serve both communities when joint efforts

are investigated as trust plays an important role in these types of endeavors being successful. This plan has a negligible direct impact on the budget. Future cooperative, collaborative, or consolidation efforts this relationship assists in bringing to fruition are indeterminable at this time.

**Bellevue Village Hall- \$100-\$300**

As with the Bellevue Village Council the Bellevue Village Hall staff will seek joint training opportunities with surrounding governments, specifically the City of Olivet. While this group is a smaller population there are still potential cost savings in group discounts and traveling expenses. Attending training together provides a secondary benefit of allowing both staffs valuable time for networking.

**Public Safety**

**Bellevue Police Department- \$500-\$1,000**

The Bellevue Police Department will work with the Olivet Police Department in providing weapons training and qualifications. The Village's officers are required to qualify with all duty weapons, which includes handgun, shotgun, M4 Rifle, Taser, pepper spray, PPCT, etc. By working with the City of Olivet's Police Department both departments can share instructors and training facilities. This joint training will also give the officers the opportunity to share experiences and discuss issues amongst their peers, thereby learning from one another.

**Public Works**

**Bellevue Public Works and Wastewater Departments- \$500-\$1,000**

The Village of Bellevue's Public Works Department will explore the possibility of holding joint training sessions with surrounding public works departments. These training sessions may include topics such as MIOSHA, equipment operation, safety equipment and its proper use, chemicals, emergency preparedness, etc. These joint sessions would allow for the cost of training to be split over a larger number of attendees. The opportunity to network with other public works employees is a valuable secondary benefit.