

**City of Grandville, Michigan**  
**Economic Vitality Incentive Program**  
**Cooperation, Collaboration and Consolidation of Services**  
**Report**  
**December, 2012**

This report has been prepared in accordance with Public Act 63 of 2011 to comply with State of Michigan Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP) requirements. The EVIP requires each eligible unit of government have in place a public plan with one or more proposals to increase its existing level of cooperation, collaboration and consolidation either within the jurisdiction or with other jurisdictions. The following report includes both the required listing of previous service consolidations with the estimated cost savings realized from each as well as a description of 3 new service consolidations currently being planned for future implementation and the estimated potential savings of these initiatives.

The City of Grandville has a long history of cooperation, collaboration and consolidation. These efforts have contributed significantly to the continued efficiency of Grandville's local government operations. The best evidence of these contributions has been the City's ability to maintain a very low property tax millage rate to fund City general operations. At present, the City of Grandville's property tax millage rate of 9.154 mills is the **lowest** of any city in Kent County that does not levy an income tax.

Principle partners in City of Grandville collaborations include Kent County, the Grandville Public School System and the cities of East Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Wyoming and Walker. Much of the information contained in this report stems from a previous analysis of existing cooperation among Kent County and these six metropolitan cities as reported by the Citizen's Research Council Report #357 – "Streamlining Functions and Services of Kent County and Metropolitan Cities (October, 2009). That report included a matrix of existing collaborative efforts in these communities. That base information has been

reviewed and updated by the City of Grandville and cost estimates provided where required.

With regard to “estimated savings”, an effort has been made per the requirements of Act 63 to quantify cost savings where possible. Where actual dollars cannot be quantified a “best estimate” has been provided and is uniformly conservatively figured. Cooperative, collaborative and consolidative efforts may also have significant benefits of a non-monetary nature; however, those benefits have not been listed in this report.

The City of Grandville has identified dozens of existing collaborative efforts. Following are the most notable of those initiatives.

### **Existing Consolidations & Collaborations**

**Subject Area:** 59<sup>th</sup> District Court  
**Partner:** City of Walker  
**Description:** Cities of Grandville and Walker operate a single district court sharing a Judge and staff. All associated costs are prorated. Each community has its own court facility to conveniently serve residents.  
**Estimated Savings:** \$200,000 – \$300,000 per year

**Subject Area:** Public Safety Emergency Dispatch Services (9-1-1)  
**Partner:** Kent County  
**Description:** Grandville contracts with the Kent County Sheriff’s Department for emergency dispatch services for police, fire and emergency medical calls. The City at one time operated and staffed its own full-time internal dispatch center but that operation was discontinued with the move to contracted 9-1-1 dispatch.  
**Estimated Savings:** \$150,000 – \$200,000 per year

**Subject Area:** Regional Geographic Information System (REGIS)

Partners: REGIS Partner Municipalities (19 including Grandville)  
Description: A multi-unit partnership of local governments created to purchase, implement, operate and maintain a regional geographic information system for the benefit of all member units.  
Estimated Savings: \$100,000 per year

Subject Area: **Kent Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (KANET)**  
Partners: Kent County Sheriff, City of Walker, City of East Grand Rapids  
Description: Cooperative vice enforcement team administered by Kent County Sheriff and staffed with members of the law enforcement units of each partner agency. KANET operates independent of the individual police agencies and investigates “vice” activity throughout the area. Partner agencies split the net proceeds from any drug forfeitures and/or property seizures allowed under State law.  
Estimated Savings: \$195,000 in drug forfeiture/seizure proceeds have accrued to the City of Grandville over the past 5 years to be used for qualified law enforcement purchases saving the same amount in General Fund dollars.

Subject Area: **Summer Recreation Programming & Administration**  
Partner: Grandville Public Schools  
Description: Jointly funded program providing comprehensive summer recreation services to residents of the City and the larger school district.  
Estimated Savings: \$40,000 per year

Subject Area: **Police School Liaison Officer**  
Partner: Grandville Public Schools  
Description: 1 Grandville Police Officer is provided to work full-time in the schools during each school year. City and School District split the cost of the officer.  
Estimated Savings: \$40,000 per year

Subject Area: **NPDES Stormwater Regulation  
Compliance/Permitting/Planning**

Partners: Via Grand Valley Metro Council (Approx. 12 participating agencies).

Description: Participating agencies share the cost of NPDES compliance, permitting and planning including utilization of a qualified private engineering firm to lead this effort. Grandville also has included, at their request, the Grandville Public School District as an embedded agency and is responsible for the District's continued NPDES compliance. The combined effort reduces NPDES costs for each agency.

Estimated Savings: \$ 20,000 per year

Subject Area: **Traffic Signal Maintenance**

Partner: City of Grand Rapids

Description: Grandville contracts with the City of Grand Rapids to provide programming and maintenance of all 32 traffic signals in the City of Grandville eliminating the need to staff and equip this function internally.

Estimated Savings: \$15,000 per year

Subject Area: **Joint Vehicle Fuel Purchase and Pump Facility**

Partners: Grandville Public School District

Description: The City of Grandville eliminated its own independent vehicle fuel facility and now has an agreement with the local school district to utilize the district's fuel facility. City police, fire, public works and Clean Water Plant vehicles are fueled alongside the district's buses. GPS purchases the fuel and bills the City based on its actual use.

Estimated Savings: \$10,000 per year

Subject Area: **Community Service Work Crews**

Partners: [Internal Collaboration] 59<sup>th</sup> District Court/Probation, Department of Public Works and Grandville Clean Water Plant

Description: Probation staff administers regular work projects throughout the community using the labor of offenders who have been assigned a community service obligation as part of the adjudication process. Work crews improve parks, pick up trash, clean up after parades, paint equipment and have re-roofed a park structure. Tools, equipment, project supervision and other resources are provided by the partner departments. This collaboration allows completion of projects not able to be completed by regular or part-time departmental staff.

Estimated Savings: \$5,000 – 10,000 per year

Subject Area: **Weapons Range**

Partner: City of Wyoming

Description: Grandville contracts for annual use of the City of Wyoming's Gun Range. By doing so, the City was able to eliminate its own lightly used gun range.

Estimated Savings: \$2,500 per year

**Other Existing Consolidations & Collaborations (listed briefly, by Grandville department):**

**Administration:** Joint purchasing with State, County and other units; Assessing data sharing on commercial tax appeals; shared commercial appraisal fee on joint MTT appeal defense with City of Wyoming; Michigan Municipal League (MML) Worker's Compensation Pool; Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) pension services; Right Place, Inc. business attraction/retention services; Kent County investment pool; election administration for school district elections;

community access television jointly funded with Georgetown Township and the City of Hudsonville.

- Court:** Shared Judges covering vacations for other district courts
- Fire:** Mutual aid, Automatic aid, Fire Academy, HazMat contract, joint fire and EMS training
- Library:** Kent District Library System
- Parks/Recreation:** Kent Trails regional trail system with Kent County Parks Commission and four other local units, a Kent County Parks & Rec study with multiple county jurisdictions including Grandville is in progress.
- Police:** Specialized police units including the Combined Auto Theft (CAT) Team, Fraud & Identity Theft Team, Major Case Team and Cold Case Team; forensic services; serious accident reconstruction/analysis; joint liquor control sting operations; Minors In Possessing of Alcohol Coalition; Tactical Teams; West Michigan Criminal Justice Training Consortium; Children's Assessment Center for child sexual abuse investigations; Metropolitan High School Police Academy; school crossing guard supervision and training.
- Public Works:** No cost equipment sharing with nearby units, transportation planning via GVMC acting as Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), boundary street maintenance agreements, joint training; joint purchasing of road salt and liquid calcium chloride, contracted pavement marking with Kent County Road Commission.
- Transportation:** Interurban Transit Partnership (The Rapid) bus system
- Utilities:** Wastewater treatment services provided by City to four Ottawa County communities, wholesale water treatment purchased from City of Wyoming, Waste to Energy (WTE) solid waste incinerator.

## **Future/Pending Consolidations & Collaborations**

**Subject Area:** **Police Records Management System**  
**Partner:** City of Wyoming  
**Description:** As the previous RMS began to fail and was no longer supported by the vendor, rather than purchase a new, and extremely expensive, single user RMS system for Grandville P.D., Grandville worked with the City of Wyoming on a new system capable of serving both departments.  
**Status:** Installation of the new joint RMS is underway.  
**Schedule:** New RMS system will be fully operational in Q1 of 2012  
**Estimated Savings:** \$240,000 (first year) + \$20,000 per year in lower maintenance costs

**Subject Area:** **Phone System Replacement**  
**Partner:** Grandville Public Schools, City of Walker  
**Description:** Aging City phone system is due for replacement. City of Walker phone system is also nearing end of service life. As the cities share a public school district that installed a new VOIP phone system in 2011, inquiry has been made as to whether the school phone system has the capacity to take on one or both of the cities thus eliminating the need for purchase of two additional phone systems.  
**Status:** Preliminary discussions re: feasibility with potential partners and possible consultants/vendors is underway.  
**Schedule:** Feasibility to be determined by end of Q2 of 2012  
**Estimated Savings:** To be determined

**Subject Area:** **Senior Citizen's Center**  
**Partners:** Georgetown Township, City of Hudsonville  
**Description:** Two of the three adjacent communities were separately considering construction of new Senior Centers to replace existing centers in their jurisdiction. The third has no existing facility but allows senior use of a community room at its City Hall. Unit Managers have begun exploration of the

feasibility of constructing a single new facility to serve senior citizens in all three communities thereby reducing the cost and duplication resulting from independent construction projects.

Status: Preliminary feasibility discussions underway.

Schedule: Feasibility to be determined by Q4 of 2012

Estimated Savings: \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 in capital cost avoidance  
(Grandville only)