

**City of Essexville**  
**Economic Vitality Incentive Program**  
**Consolidation of Services Report**  
**January 3, 2013**

This report was prepared to comply with the Michigan Economic Vitality Incentive Program requirement of 2013. Last year the City reported seven major areas of cooperation between various neighboring communities and we are pleased to state that all these cost saving and cost sharing activities are still in place and continue to save our City in the area of \$250,000 annually. In addition to the past accomplishments listed herein we have also instituted new cost saving programs to the existing plan. This report in its entirety is available to the public in print form at the Essexville City Hall and on the City of Essexville web site [www.essexville.org](http://www.essexville.org).

**Regional Water Treatment Plant**

Essexville along with fourteen Bay County communities have formed a partnership to construct a new Regional Water Treatment Plant utilizing a Membrane Filtration System and a new raw water supply. This venture will provide present and future generations with a clean and safe supply of drinking water. The construction of this sixty million dollar facility will begin during 2013 and be on line in 2015. This project which is highly endorsed by both State of Michigan and Federal agencies also carries a “green” element to the filtration system which will save the consortium six million dollars in debt forgiveness which amounts to in excess of twenty thousand dollars in direct savings to Essexville. By the formation of this consortium the monies saved by allowing the highest rated (bond rate) member to bond the project could potentially exceed one million dollars.

In addition to the construction are the savings realized by separating our infrastructure from the current supplier and our becoming a wholesale customer and partner and a voting member of the new Regional Advisory Committee.

## **Public Works Equipment Sharing**

Essexville has begun a partnership of sharing equipment and operator labor with our neighbor Hampton Township. The Public Works Department of Essexville has a Vactor (sewer truck) that is capable of cleaning to the bottom of several of Hampton Townships lift stations. Our use of our truck to assist Hampton saves them the expense of subcontracting this work saving them in excess of one thousand dollars per lift station or a total savings of approximately eighteen thousand dollars per year. In return Hampton Township has a long reach excavator with a ditch bucket and they will clean our Saline and Maple Street ditch system approximately once every three years which saves Essexville approximately the same amount of money.

Essexville also owns an Elgin Pelican street sweeper and we will sweep the few streets that Hampton has curb and gutters on. In return Hampton which has an extended reach bucket truck makes their truck and operator available for trimming trees which are out of reach for our smaller truck. In addition our DPW crews will work together on water main breaks and sewer repairs should either department be short on manpower or equipment. We also share equipment such as pumps, cutoff saws etc.

Both Public Works Departments also share doing maintenance at the area schools by keeping their parking lot catch basins clean and free of debris. Between Hampton and Essexville we have seven schools nested in our jurisdiction. This cooperative effort between parties is expected to save Essexville over thirty three thousand dollars annually.

## **Sharing of Assets**

The City of Essexville recently decommissioned its Waste Treatment Facility. The City of Pinconning (our neighbor to the North) inquired of our intention in disposing of the old but serviceable equipment we no longer needed. Pinconning operates a plant similar to our old plant. Essexville

gave the City of Pinconning access any and all of our no longer needed equipment. Several truckloads of supplies and equipment were taken by Pinconning with a saved expense to them of several thousands of dollars.

### **Planning for Future Consolidation**

There have been recent discussions regarding the feasibility of extended cooperation with neighboring townships. These discussions have centered on the sharing of equipment and operators with regard to equipment owned by one municipality being available to a neighboring community. Some of the problems identified to date have been insurance coverage, union affiliations and situations involving overtime. The parties involved in these discussions have expressed concerns over some of the issues but agreed that a plan could be formulated. This working group will convene in the spring of 2013 to have further discussions regarding this matter. We anticipate that at least one agreement can be negotiated in a cost saving effort with a neighboring community.

At the same time Essexville has encouraged this same effort of cooperation within the Police, Fire and Public Safety Departments. Substantial savings have been realized by utilizing mutual training exercises and equipment, volume purchasing efforts and mutual aid agreements.

This concludes the 2013 Consolidation of Services Report for the City Of Essexville.