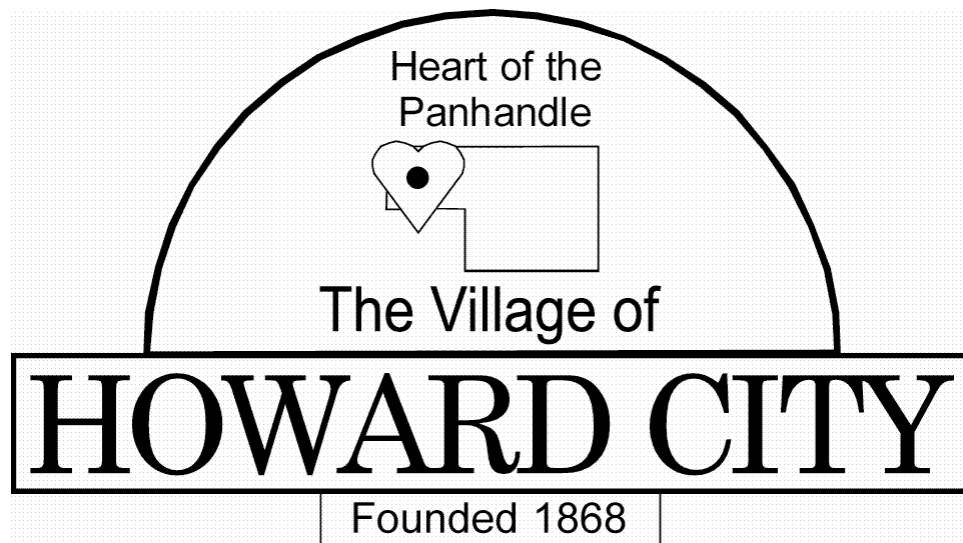


Cooperation, Collaboration and Consolidation Plan
2013/2014



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The Village of Howard City has a strong history of cooperation, collaboration and consolidation both internally and with other entities in our area. We plan to continue this tradition into the future. This report was put together to meet the new requirements that the State of Michigan has put forth in order to receive the maximum revenue sharing dollars for our community.

In the 2012/2013 plan that was submitted last year, we listed numerous goals to cooperate, collaborate and consolidate our services. The following is the list and what we accomplished and also the barriers we encountered in our attempts to reach the goals.

1. Sewer Equipment Purchase - The Village of Howard City, Village of Lakeview and the Montcalm County Road Commission are investigating the possibility of a sewer vacuum purchase. This will be equally paid for and shared by all three entities and will eliminate the need for renting the piece of equipment.

Cost savings - \$6,500.00

Barriers: The cost was not feasible for any of the municipalities that were considering the purchase. The maintenance costs were also deemed too high. The number of times that the equipment would be used would have been minimal and would have resulted in too long of a payback period for the municipalities involved.

2. Manager Position - The Village of Howard City's Manager position is vacant. The viability of sharing a Manager with another municipality or hiring a part-time Manager has been considered since September of 2011. The shared Manager or part-time Manager position would be ideally filled by August of 2014 which is before the next Village election.

Cost savings - \$30,000.00

Barriers: This possibility is still being explored. The Manager that was considering this option from a neighboring community decided that this option would not work for him.

3. Joint Generator Purchase - The Village of Howard City and the surrounding Montcalm County Public Works Departments may consider a joint generator purchase for emergencies. The cost would be shared equally among each jurisdiction.

Cost savings - \$20,000.00

Barriers: The municipalities that were considering this option have decided that they have adequate alternative power and the generator purchase would not be a necessity. Each municipality has generators that can be borrowed according to the public works mutual aid agreement.

4. Public Works/Fire Department Truck - The Village of Howard City is in the process of purchasing a new Grass Rig Fire Truck. The process began in February 2012. This will also be outfitted with a plow for winter snow removal. This will eliminate the need for Public Works to purchase a new truck for plowing.

Cost savings - \$25,000.00

The grass rig fire truck purchase was completed in March of 2012. The truck was outfitted with a plow and put into service in April 2012. The Municipal Services Department began using the plow in December 2012 with the first snowfall and continues to use it daily. The truck is used as a grass rig fire truck in the spring, summer and fall.

Barriers: There were no barriers encountered with this purchase.

There are many ideas for future collaboration, cooperation and consolidation within the Village of Howard City and with our neighboring municipalities. The three goals that we will focus on in the upcoming year are:

1. The Village of Howard City will be contracting with the Montcalm County Road Commission for numerous road repairs and maintenance in the spring/summer of 2013. By using the local road commission to do the road projects, the Village of Howard City will realize a twenty percent (20%) savings over private contractors. This also ensures that the road commission will stay busy with local projects. These projects will be completed before September 30, 2013. The road commission has also agreed to pre-salt the major streets within the village. They drive through the major streets in Howard City to get to their jurisdiction and will pre-salt on their way through. This saves the village's Municipal Services Department time and material throughout the winter months. This process started this winter and will continue through April of 2013.
2. The Howard City Municipal Services Department purchased a sewer pump in March 2008 for use at the wastewater treatment plant. This pump will be shared with a neighboring community at no charge to them. In return, they own a sewer jetting truck that they agreed in January 2013 to bring to our community when the need arises. This is an ongoing collaboration and will continue into the future.
3. The Village of Howard City and Reynolds Township has been working on a joint Master Plan for the last two years. The draft has been completed with the assistance of the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission. The cost was split between the village and the township which resulted in a savings of over \$3500.00. The plan was adopted in March 2013 by the Village of Howard City and expected to be adopted by Reynolds Township before July 31, 2013.