

**Village of Roberts & Town of Warren
Joint Comprehensive Plan Meeting
December 13, 2023
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The Village of Roberts/Town of Warren Joint Comprehensive Plan committee met in person and remotely on Wednesday December 13, 2023, at the Village of Roberts Hall, 107 E Maple Street, Roberts. Co-Chair Katy Kapaun called the properly posted meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Members in attendance: Michelle Aho, Patty Johnson, Geno Hanson, Tim Johnson, Stephanie Lamia, Grace Hoyer, and Warren Tracy; Henry Nechville, Steve Melby.

Approval of the minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from September 20, 2023, by Melby, seconded by Hoyer. Motion carried.

Introductions – introductions were given by Susan Badtke from West Central Regional Planning.

What is a Comprehensive Plan? What is the role of Joint Plan Committee & Plan Commissions.

- May act as a coordinating agency of local govt' and agencies.
- Comp Plan is working together and having a conversation as a community to consider existing conditions and trends, decide what is important, identify a vision of the future, develop a guide for future growth and local decision making. This is our plan (Village and Town) not anyone else's. This is tailored to us. The plan must follow state laws and their guidelines. This is meeting two of eight joint comp plan meetings. Plan Commission adopt the resolution and Village Board and Town Board by Ordinance. The goal is to have this done by the end of 2024. The community survey was completed, and we are pleased with the response rate. Had 622 responses: 320 from Town of Warren and 302 from Village of Roberts residents. This exceeded the target sample size by 135 responses. Johnson asked about the percentages and these details will be in the report that will be given to the committee once it is done. Johnson also asked who also got paid for participating and Badtke has drafted a letter to be reviewed that will go to the "winners".

What is Intergovernmental Cooperation?

- Deals with State Statute 66.1001(2)(g) stating is a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs for joint planning and decision making with other jurisdictions including school districts, drainage districts, and adjacent local governmental units. etc. Also includes that the multiple jurisdictions ensures that issues and existing or potential conflicts are identified during the planning process as opposed to later during plan implementation.

Who are the Intergovernmental players/relationships. The group went through the list of intergovernmental players and added the following:

- Ambulance service for the Township includes Lakeview and Baldwin.
- St Croix County Sheriff's office covers the township and assists the village.
- Mutual aid agreements with other municipalities
- The MORE system with the library.

Existing Players & Intergovernmental Relationships

- Discussed the relationships with the different entities.
- Village vs Town – there is not a strained relationship with the municipalities more with the residents. Roberts-Warren Fire & Rescue has worked well with both entities. Always had a good working relationship between the municipalities besides the land use conflict with potential growth. The library is the gem of the county. The relationship with the county and township is working well. The County does pretty much all the services for the Township.

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- Improved communication with the School District and the Village. The Town and the School District have had a lot of communication because of the flooded roads.

Existing & Potential Conflicts

- From the 2002 plan the only conflict brought up was between the Town and County regarding zoning and land division.
- A potential conflict would be annexation of land from the Town to the Village and could the tax benefit be longer than the five-year requirement.

Potential Resolutions / Tools for Joint Planning

- Commercial zoning goes through the County and extra-territorial should come from the County to the Village for consideration. Send the official map over without the bypass on it.
- Future annexation of land between the Village and Township. Boundary planning – originates by property owner. Transitional spaces and density of homes with the Township preserving this property for township. Boundary plan agreement
- Future sewage plant – there is no discussion on relocating or finding an alternate discharge site. We continue to discuss lowering discharge to Twin Lakes. Plan to expand Clearas technologies to treat effluent. We know what it will cost and where we can get the material, not when. Looking for another location site which would mean purchasing land (Hudson example). This could tie into the twin lakes issues. Water tower issue/Clearas expansion
- Twin Lakes (V/T/DNR) –
- Future road improvements – joint between County and State on how to get access to certain properties. Part of this can be done by pushing Main Street under the bridge to make the connection.
- Future land use: fire station location, sewer plant. This will get to the level of development. Interested in survey results to see what the community should look like. Joint planning and capital improvements plan driven.
- Zoning enforcement – how do you handle this without the legal ramification. The Town and County and the County handles the enforcement, but they do not have enough employees to handle this. On the Township, there was a court case it took situations from the County and put it back on the Township for enforcement which caused them to create authority and ordinance violation book (building on town, septic is county, housing piece is on both).
- School board (land use, childcare, etc.) here is another example of communication issue. Would the Village be willing to change the zoning? Annual get together with the school to see what is on their proposals.
- Street maintenance
- Water runoff
- Programs in school – how do you keep them going.
- Boundary agreements and funding agreements – the Township will not want to lose the revenue for the land to move into the Village.
- Warren Cemetery Association has financial issues. If no Cemetery Association the funding falls to the town for financial assistance. Currently independent and are fine.

Goals & Objectives Discussion

- From 2002 the only conflict identified was regarding the Town and County regarding zoning, planning approvals and process. A potential solution was a joint planning commission meeting (Village/Town) and they met as needed. The township needs to meet with the County regarding zoning and planning concerns.
- Policies & Strategies discussion.

Next Steps

- January 17, 2024 – Public Visioning Workshop – members should plan on attending this workshop. Badtke would like to have some survey results at this meeting but cannot promise. Refreshments are on the Town or Village to provide. This session will need to be properly noticed as a meeting. There will be a report back to the committee but there should be reps from each municipality to participate in the conversations and discussions.
- February 7, 2024 – Joint Village/Town Comprehensive Plan Committee
- Population and housing, economic development, and cultural/historic resources.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Johnson, seconded by Hanson. Motion carried.