



TOIRMA Update

By Jim Donelan

TOIRMA Executive Director

Intergovernmental Cooperation

COOPERATION is defined by Merriam-Webster as “the actions of someone who is being helpful by doing what is wanted or asked for: common effort; association of persons for common benefit.”¹ The Illinois Constitution² clearly outlines the authority for local governments to cooperate. These contracts, known as intergovernmental agreements, are successfully being used by townships and road districts across the State of Illinois, saving significant dollars and resulting in greater efficiencies.

Most common partnerships between townships and/or other units of government include snow removal on public roads, construction, and maintenance projects on roadways. Townships jointly oil roads under their jurisdiction, manpower and equipment. Some townships even purchase equipment together for such oiling. Other examples include the ongoing sharing of equipment and labor, the administration of township general assistance, assessing real property, and maintaining cemeteries.

Matt Knight, TOIRMA Associate Director, and I recently spoke with townships located in the Metro-East area of the State (Madison and St. Clair Counties). We learned that townships and municipalities have intergovernmental agreements in-place to provide for the sharing of equipment and personnel. Lebanon Township Highway Commissioner Kermit Edison informed us of an intergovernmental agreement with other townships in the area and with municipalities. Projects such as oiling and chipping roads and ditching are done cooperatively. This is an excellent example of efficiency and cooperation. Kudos!!!

IPWMAN

Another example of intergovernmental cooperation is the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN). This organization’s goal is to assist local governments in being better equipped to respond to natural disasters such as tornados, earthquakes, flooding, other major storm events, infrastructure failures, and terrorism events. If your township is a member of IPWMAN and there is a disaster, a call for mutual aid is sent out to the other members. Assistance during disasters could include personnel and/or equipment. Another example of assistance could be during a flooding event. A township may have a need for temporary signs or barricades and mutual aid can come from other unaffected regions.

TOIRMA has a partnership with IPWMAN. Any TOIRMA member that joins IPWMAN for the first time, TOIRMA will reimburse that member the first year IPWMAN membership fee. Upon paying the invoice, the member needs to provide a copy to TOIRMA for reimbursement. Email: pjacob@toirma.org, fax: (217) 744-8011, or by mail: TOIRMA, 3217 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702.

IPWMAN dues are based on population served. Townships/road districts with a population under 15,000 annual dues will be \$100 per year, 15,001 to 75,000, \$250 per year, and townships/road districts with a population over 75,000, \$500 per year. For more information regarding membership in IPWMAN, please visit ipwman.org, or feel free to contact IPWMAN by email: info@ipwman.org, or telephone: (844) 479-6269.

If you are contemplating entering into an intergov-



Visit TOIRMA’s website,
toirma.org

ernmental agreement, please visit the TOIRMA website, toirma.org, go to the "Loss Control" page, and under "Helpful Resources" is a great document "Elements of a Good Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement." Included in this document are 14 points to assist townships in the development of an intergovernmental agreement.

please feel free to contact me toll-free at (888) 562-7861, or by email at jdonelan@toirma.org.

Think Safe ... Drive Safe ... Work Safe

1: Merriam-Webster.com

2: Constitution of the State of Illinois, Article VII, Section 10

Things to Remember Regarding Intergovernmental Agreements

- May save personnel and other costs such as equipment or material.
- **Before** entering into an agreement, consult a township attorney.
- **Before** entering into an agreement, provide TOIRMA with a draft for review and feedback.
- Create greater efficiencies.

Happy New Year and thank you for your attention to these matters.

As always, if you have any additional questions,

Renewal Packets

On January 15, 2021, TOIRMA's Annual Renewal Packets will be mailed to each member's designated TOIRMA Contact. Please review the packet and returning to TOIRMA by March 1, 2021. We encourage at least the township supervisor and highway commissioner review the packet, complete the appropriate sections, making any necessary changes, and return it to our office promptly (by March 1).

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