

# Cedarburg, Grafton consider sharing services

## Officials plan joint study committee

By [Don Behm](#) of the Journal Sentinel

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City of Cedarburg and Village of Grafton officials have agreed to study sharing several municipal services, and saving money, as early as 2012 in the face of significant cuts in state aid payments to municipalities in Gov. Scott Walker's 2011-'13 biennial budget.

A joint committee will be created to begin discussing four services - emergency dispatch, park and recreation management, residential yard waste disposal and library management - that could be consolidated or done cooperatively, Cedarburg Mayor Greg Myers said Tuesday.

The committee would be expected to make recommendations to the communities by October so that costs could be trimmed in 2012 budgets, Myers said. Myers will meet with Village President James Brunnquell within the next few weeks to name representatives to the panel.

Cuts in payments from the state shared revenue program and other local aid programs will hit municipalities next year, Myers said.

"That made the whole concept of shared services more imperative," he said. "In the future, communities cannot exist in their own little budget world," Myers said. "Cooperation is the only way to go."

Consolidating emergency dispatch services at the Grafton Police Department could save each community \$80,000 in 2012, according to a summary of a joint Common Council and Village Board meeting held Monday in Cedarburg. Grafton Village Administrator Darrell Hofland drafted the "Joint 2012 Initiative" report and sent it to village and city officials Tuesday.

If Grafton contracted with Cedarburg for park and recreation management services, each community could save an estimated \$45,000 next year, the report said. Grafton would eliminate the job of village park and recreation director as part of the proposal.

Joint operation of a residential yard waste collection site could save the village an estimated \$15,000, but it would not yield immediate savings for the city, according to the report.

An annual user fee of \$40 to be paid by city and village residents would fund the service.

Consolidating library boards to promote joint planning and operations would not result in immediate savings, the report said. Each community would continue to own and operate its own library under the oversight of one

board.

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