



**Lake County Municipal League
2016 Innovation Awards
Nomination**

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Nominee information

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Executive summary

Please provide a summary of the project and include a description of the project, project objectives, project deliverables and project achievements.

Please see attached

Executive Summary:

The Village of Libertyville is submitting a project to the Lake County Municipal League for the 2016 Innovation Award. Our project includes multi agency cooperation, taxpayer savings, increased efficiencies and service improvements. This project was a vision to become more efficient with our current services while maintaining a hard line on spending. Opportunities were available, but the mechanism to accomplish this goal needed to be created, discussed and approved through multiple agencies.

The Village of Libertyville, working with the Libertyville Fire Protection District (LFPD), created an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Rockland Fire Protection District (RFPD) to provide ambulance service to the RFPD service area. The Village of Libertyville currently provides fire, EMS and special rescue services to the LFPD, an opportunity to consolidate services, generate revenue, and save taxpayers money was possible if we could work out a three way agreement to provide ambulance service to the RFPD. The vision of this project was to provide service efficiencies over a wider spectrum to hold costs and save taxpayer money. Collectively Identified objectives for this project included:

- Improve service efficiencies.
- No cost increase for the Village of Libertyville without offsetting revenue.
- No cost increase for the LFPD without offsetting revenue.
- Convince the RFPD that they will receive excellent service and that the cost for ambulance service from Libertyville would be extremely competitive.
- Work with three governmental agencies to draft and ultimately approve an agreement.
- Do not jeopardize current services the Libertyville and LFPD areas.

This project, now 18 months in existence, has met all of our expectations. From the Village of Libertyville perspective, efficiencies in providing service have been achieved. Minimal additional revenue was needed to provide these services due to the current resources already deployed. The additional revenue needed was offset with new revenue from the agreement. From the LFPD perspective, there has been no impact on the current services, additional revenue from the agreement is realized for the LFPD and justifications have been made for the current level of service provided from the District Fire Station. Last, the RFPD has realized drastically improved response times for ambulance service and has been able to reduce their expenses for ambulance service.

To summarize, this project improved EMS services in the RFPD, reduced EMS costs for the RFPD, prevented tax revenue increases in the Fire Department because of the new revenue from the agreement, and we have improved the efficiency of our EMS resources deployed in the Fire District Station.

This project is an example of intergovernmental cooperation. Today, as every taxing body faces increased costs, we found an agreeable plan which benefits three organizations through improved services, additional revenue and operational efficiency. This is an example of what the future in the Fire Service should look like.

Full description

Please provide a detailed description and address the items listed.

Purpose of the project:

The purpose of this project is to improve existing ambulance deployment efficiencies, consolidate ambulance service over three taxing bodies in an effort to save taxpayer revenue through economies of scale, generate additional revenue for the Village of Libertyville which is not Village of Libertyville or Libertyville Fire Protection based, and continue to find ways to provide the current level of service for less. There is no doubt that every taxing body in Illinois is challenged financially to keep up existing levels of service. Challenging ourselves to do more with less or the same with less is becoming more difficult every year. Capital equipment needs to be replaced, salaries go up, and insurance premiums go up, an all too often heard of theme in government. Our most expensive but also our most important asset is our employees. When analyzing our employees activity it was determined that we had excess capability to our Station 3, which is a Libertyville Fire Protection District Station staffed by Village of Libertyville employees. With this in mind, we were able to contract ambulance service to the Rockland Fire Protection District in order to improve the efficiency of our staff while generating revenue for the Village of Libertyville and the LFPD, and at the same time reducing the cost of ambulance service for the RFPD and their taxpayers. Although this is not a true consolidation of services, it is a functional agreement that works like a consolidation effort spreading out costs to ultimately save the taxpayer money. We have three jurisdictions. This is not often accomplished due to conflicting agendas and personality differences. When governmental agencies cannot work out an agreement like this the taxpayers ultimately pay the price. Some ideas are born of necessity, some from coincidence, and some from thinking of them, this project falls into each category. After several years of analysis, goal setting meetings and budget discussions the need was there for the Village of Libertyville, the LFPD and the RFPD to get this project done.

Stakeholders of the project:

Village of Libertyville

Libertyville Fire Protection District

Rockland Fire Protection District

Collaborative efforts:

As noted throughout, this project was a collaborative effort of the Village of Libertyville, the Libertyville Fire Protection District and the Rockland Fire Protection District. Each agency played a role in getting this agreement done and each agency is benefiting from its creation. The Rockland Fire Protection District needed ambulance service, the Libertyville Fire Protection District owns a station which can effectively service the Rockland Fire Protection District area and the Village of Libertyville has the equipment and staffing to provide the service.

Success metrics:

The success of this project is to measure both quantitative and qualitative. With respect to the quantitative measurement of the success of this project we have reduced response times, reduced costs, and increased revenues. With respect to the qualitative success of this project we have an improved level of service, an improved level of efficiency, and a project that sets an example for intergovernmental cooperation. Response times to the Rockland Fire Protection District went from 5 to 8 minutes to under 3 minutes, the ambulance service rate for the RFPD was reduced, and the Village of Libertyville and the LFPD have received increased revenues with minimal cost increases.

Barriers to success, entry or obstacles:

For this project there were no significant barriers or obstacles which prohibited our success. The Rockland Fire Protection District was excited about being able to reduce costs and response times, the Libertyville Fire Protection District wanted assurances that the service level to LFPD residents would not be compromised, and the Village of Libertyville was excited about the opportunity. We did meet with the Libertyville Fire and Police Committee on several occasions to explain the project and its benefits, this was important for Board approval. Working close with each agency and educating the Trustees was important to the success of this project.

Sustainability of the project:

The sustainability of this project will be determined by the Trustees of each jurisdiction and their responsibility to their taxpayers. As long as the agreement remains beneficial to each jurisdiction and their taxpayers the project should remain in place and operational for the foreseeable future. As noted, this project benefits each jurisdiction. It is important to keep this as the target.

Future plans or expansion of the project:

AT this time we have no future plans for the expansion of this project. Should opportunities arise or needs present themselves this agreement could be expanded. Ideas have presented themselves and discussion has taken place on expanding EMS service even further as well as looking at sharing or consolidating fire services as well. Nothing has occurred from these discussions at this time but we are hopeful in the near future we can expand on the original project.

Results and achievements:

This project resulted in the saving of taxpayer dollars. Because of this project the RFPD has reduced EMS costs and faster response times. Because of this project the Libertyville Fire Protection District is receiving revenue for the use of their station and add better efficiency of the station. Because of this project the Village of Libertyville is receiving revenue to provide EMS service for which there is a minimal cost increase to provide, and the Village of Libertyville is realizing a better efficiency in staffing and equipment. The achievement is seeing multiple agencies come together for the good of the taxpayer.

Innovative components of the project:

The innovative components of this project include a three jurisdiction agreement, consolidated services, and taxpayer savings. The genesis of this project was the need to save money and provide efficiencies. Because of the intergovernmental cooperation we were able to create a three way agreement which benefited each jurisdiction and their residents by consolidating EMS service for better efficiency and taxpayer savings. These ideas and concepts are not new, however, in the Chicago Metropolitan area these efforts never seem to take hold. There are discussions, study's and the project does not see conclusion. In our opinion this was a big step in this area to work towards future goals.

Ease of replication by other municipalities:

This is a two part answer. Other jurisdictions could easily replicate this project and provide intergovernmental cooperation. However, the ability to provide the services and the access capacity to add additional work needs to be available. If you need to add staffing or equipment to make this project work the cost savings may not benefit one or all of the jurisdictions. There are other examples of consolidation efforts which could be undertaken to benefit multiple jurisdictions. This particular project is specific to Libertyville because of our relationship with the Libertyville Fire Protection District and our ability to provide services. We also have a neighbor (RFPD) who needed service and was willing to work with us. With the proper resources, education and cooperation this is a viable project in many locations.

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