

■ Governmental Projects & Services Plan ■

*The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with,
but whether it is the same problem you had last year.*

-John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State

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Providing services for the preservation of health, property, and the general welfare is the key function of local government. The Village has four main areas that address this situation, those are as follows; Public Buildings, Public Safety; Services; Intergovernmental Relations.

### ► Public Buildings

At the time of the update the Village was not in ownership of any public buildings or structures. The Village office is rented space from the LIPOA. The Village also lacks any space for storage of equipment. Village officials are in the process of consolidating land and working on site designs to construct a multiuse building for the Village by 2007. This new building would be used for the Village office, meetings, equipment storage and could also be used for community events. The Planning



Commission has identified several Village owned lots in the Isabella North plat as the desired location for this new building. Once the land has been consolidated, the Council has expressed its desire to sell off the remaining Village lots. While the current arrangement with the LIPOA has worked well, and been a major benefit to the Village, the functionality of this arrangement can only last so long, and in order to provide the best possible services to the citizens of

the Village separate locations will eventually be a necessity. As the Village continues to grow and develop greater demands will be placed on the Village and as such separate space and facilities will be needed. This will in no way reduce the relationship between the Village and the LIPOA.

### ► Public Safety

Ensuring the public's safety and well-being is of vital importance to the Village. The two main services that best fit this area are police and fire coverage. The Village is served by three separate law enforcement agencies, The Sherman Township Marshal (Only Sherman Twp.), The Isabella County Sheriff's Department, and the Michigan State Police. The most noted area of concern is that of traffic safety and speed control on the Village roads. With declining state shared revenue it has been harder for these agencies to provide service to the Village, and as such the Village may consider a special 1 Mill in the future to enter into a contract with the Sheriff's department on a set coverage amount. The Finance Committee of the Village has requested that a one-year study be conducted on the needs of such an agreement.

The Sherman-Nottawa Fire Department has jurisdiction over the entire Village, the service is covered by the township for the residents of Sherman Township, the Village residents located in Broomfield Township have contracted the department at a cost of 1 mill a year. Located in Weidman they provide quick and professional emergency response to fire

and EMS calls. This relationship has been very beneficial to the Village, especially the residents of the Village in Broomfield Township. Maintaining and extending this agreement is a desire of the Village.

► Services

- Code Enforcement: The Village's primary means of ordinance enforcement is through the Code Enforcement Department which was officially created in 2003. This Department has full legal authority to issue Civil Infraction Tickets. The Department maintains regular patrols during the months of May through September each year, with limited patrol and on-call response in the winter season. The goal of this Department over the next several years is to increase training of the officers, resolve complaints and violations in a timely manner and be a noticeable presence in the Village, possibly even in the area of speed enforcement on Village streets.
- Public Works/Lagoon Property: One area of service that the Village could begin as soon as the fall of 2005, is seasonal brush pick-up and disposal at the lagoon property. Other municipalities offer services such as this, and Lake Isabella would benefit from it as well. The Village could possibly contract with a local wood-chipper to mulch and chip some of the brush and tree limbs brought in, and provide free wood-chips for residents of the Village. Guidelines will need to be created to make this project happen along with developing the lagoon property for clear vehicle access. Access to the river was secured in the summer of 2005 with the Village acquisition of the Baseline road right-of-way east of School road all the way to the river.
- Road Maintenance: The Master Plan Survey indicated that this was the top service concern of the Village. The Village currently has this area under contract with a local excavating firm, which provides a very high quality service to the Village. Keeping the roads in top condition is evident in the capital improvement plan adopted by the Village in each fiscal year. Maintaining this level of service is without question and is needed by the residents. Another goal is to work with the Isabella County Road Commission to acquire and improve Duquesa Drive outside of the Village limits. This road serves as a vital second point of entry into the north side of the Village and would be used regularly by emergency vehicles, school buses, and residents. The condition of the road would need to be brought to Village standards before being accepted by the Village.
- Solid Waste Management: At the time of the Master Plan update the residents of the Village work with solid waste companies on an individual basis for trash services. The Village will begin research and discussion to possibly bring a uniform contract to the entire Village. This contract, when negotiated by the Village, should save the residents significantly for their solid waste needs. The Village will also include in these discussions any of the surrounding townships that are interested. A joint authority of the Village and townships would provide uniform services and fees for all residents within the authority. A similar model has been formed in Saginaw County with the Mid-Michigan Waste Authority.
- Cemetery: The Village will also explore the creation of a municipal cemetery. One possible location would be a portion of the lots that the Village has retained in the



Isabella North plat. Another location that has been suggested is off of River Road near Brinton.

► Intergovernmental Relations

Building and utilizing strong relationships with other governmental units is key to the long term prosperity of the Village. For the most part municipal problems are not unique and other units of government may have faced similar challenges and the ability to draw from their experience is an invaluable asset. The Village is a very active member in the Michigan Municipal League, and is the 2007 host municipality for the Regional Meeting. Membership and activity in the league has allowed the Village to take a more proactive stance regarding legislation at the State level. Locally the Village has built solid working relationships with Isabella County and both townships. Maintaining these relationships and working together is necessary for the long term successful operation for the Village and other local units of government.