

Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

November 14, 2006, 1:30 P.M.

*Hyatt Regency Indianapolis
National Parks Room (2nd Floor)
1 South Capitol Ave.
Indianapolis, Indiana*

FOCUS GROUP NOTES

Focus Group Participants: Dan Bieberich (Root Township, Adams County), Judy Hagan (Clay Township, Hamilton County), Michelle Junkins (Adams Township, Hamilton County), Paul Lantz (Jackson Township, Elkhart County), Phyllis McKinley (Perry Township, Tippecanoe County), Marvin Redman (Center Township, Posey County), and Carl Seest (Ross Township, Clinton County)

IACIR Members: Larry Breese, Joyce Poling, and Linda Williams

IACIR Staff: Jamie Palmer, Debbie Wyeth, Nichole Kloehn, and Ryan Manning

For what types of services does your community use interlocal agreements?

- Fire services to town
- Parks and rec
- Construction of fire stations
- Paramedic services
- Dispatch
- Other types of agreements:
- Mutual aid
- Often oral or informal agreements
- Partners:
- Other townships
- Municipalities

Are there additional services for which this tool was considered that did not result in interlocal agreements?

- Dispatch
- Additional sheriff protection (chose video surveillance instead)

What was the impetus for creating the agreements that your community has entered into?

What have been the primary benefits?

- Need for a formal arrangement
- Allows local government to provide a needed service (no interlocal agreement = no service)
- Practical consideration in light of continuing annexation
- Shared debt saved money
- Equity of service and funding

In cases when a local government has no agreements, an agreement was sought but not achieved, or an agreement was difficult to achieve, what were the impediments?

- Bigger is not always better or cheaper
- Liability issues
- Collections can be difficult
- Cost
- Varied interests
- Turf/egos
- No energy to do new, creative things
- Lack of education about process
- Service became more expensive
- Easier to use other mechanisms
- Time zones
- Regulatory constraints
- Issue regarding details of property ownership
- Larger communities are harder to partner with

What activities might increase the use of interlocal agreements?

- Mechanism for single levy
- More how-to conference sessions/training
- Ongoing technical assistance
- Citizens appreciate efforts to save money
- More information about how communities are using these agreements
- Better general communication with citizens about the services that taxes buy; importance of community buy-in
- Important to communicate as process proceeds

What types of incentives would be meaningful in encouraging the use of interlocal agreements?

- Must use interlocal agreements to share in homeland security monies
- Provide grant monies or points in scoring
- Re-institute Build Indiana monies
- Additional revenues