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Agreement has saved money for Saukville, raised revenue for neighbor

It was something of a bold move last year when Village of Saukville officials decided to contract with the Village of Grafton for building inspection services.

The trend-setting intergovernmental agreement between the two communities went into effect a year ago.

At the time, it was touted as a money-saving move for Saukville after a staff reduction left the village without a building inspector on staff, and a revenue enhancer for Grafton, which has a full-time inspector.

Although residential, commercial and industrial building inspections are now handled by Grafton's Inspections Department, the necessary paperwork is still available at Saukville's municipal office and through the village's website.

The agreement covers building, electrical and plumbing permits and inspections.

All permit processing and technical questions are handled through the Grafton office, located at 860 Badger Cir.

The Saukville Village Board unanimously voted to renew the agreement for another year last week, making only minor text tweaks. The new agreement runs through 2013.

In exchange for the inspection services, Grafton receives $500 a month plus 60% of the permit fees, invoiced monthly.

If a Grafton inspector is required to attend a Saukville meeting or testify in municipal or circuit court, the reimbursement rate is $55 per hour. Those appearances must first be approved by the Grafton and Saukville administrators.

Inspection fees remain unchanged.

"The relationship has worked out very well. It has been a win-win for both communities," Village Administrator Dawn Wagner said.

The Saukville staff continues to handle permits and inspections for signs, fences and commercial code compliance.