



Town of Salem, WI

COOPERATIVE PLAN

Information & Frequently Asked Questions

Salem & Silver Lake Announce Exploration of a Cooperative Boundary Plan!

- The Boards of the Town of Salem and the Village of Silver Lake unanimously passed and support the resolutions to explore a cooperative boundary agreement.
- Town Chairperson Diann Tesar acknowledged that this is the start of looking at a possible agreement that could effectively merge Salem and Silver Lake into a single municipality.
- A boundary agreement with the village was cited by a Salem citizens committee that studied incorporation models last year that a boundary agreement is the most streamlined of all of the possible ways Salem could become a village.
- The study group found the following as advantages of being incorporated
 - Salem's borders would be protected. Salem could not be cut up and annexed into villages with higher taxes.
 - Length of time to get zoning approvals would be shortened and easier. This is especially important to the development of the Salem Business Park.
 - Can take full advantage of "home rule". Cities and villages can do anything they want unless prohibited by the State: towns can only do what is permitted by the State.
- A boundary agreement is the most streamlined approach to incorporation.
 - It's more cooperative with the other municipality.
 - It will keep the entire town together (no Town AND Village of Salem).
 - No referendum is required.
 - It will take less time.
 - It is the cheapest route.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why would the Village of Silver Lake and the Town of Salem enter into a Cooperative Plan?

The Cooperative Plan is made with the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of the territory covered by the Plan which will, in accordance with existing and future needs, best promote public health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity or the general welfare, as well as the efficient and economy in the process of development.

2. What are the advantages of the Cooperative Plan Agreement?

- Increase government efficiency. The Village and the Town recognize the efficiencies and economics which result from the sharing of services and the elimination of duplicative and unnecessary expenditures. The

provisions of the Cooperative Plan allow the Village and the Town to maximize these efficiencies and still provide a high level of service to both communities.

- Establish boundaries. Like many towns located next to incorporate municipalities, the Town is subject to the loss of territory by annexations over time. Because of the lack of control over the annexation process, the losses of territory from the Town create, from a municipal services standpoint, a boundary which may make it difficult for the Town to provide services. The boundaries sought by this Cooperative Plan recognize the need of the Village of Silver Lake and the Town of Salem to maintain stable boundaries and to engage in meaningful planning.
- Assure orderly development. Capital infrastructure improvements require a planning horizon which may be from one to five years in length. Under normal annexation dynamics, annexation may occur well in advance of the planning for infrastructure improvement planning horizons, the infrastructure may be extended into the annexed territory for one to five years. The order phasing of growth and development will be enhanced by this Cooperative Plan.

3. Who prepares the Cooperative Plan?

The municipalities that propose to set the boundary lines between themselves under Section 66.0307 shall prepare a cooperative plan.

4. Will there be a referendum on the Cooperative Plan?

No, a binding referendum is not part of the cooperative agreement process per state law.

5. How far along in the process is the Cooperative Plan?

- ✘ Town of Salem Board passed the resolution to explore a cooperative boundary agreement with the Village of Silver Lake: May 2, 2016
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 - Salem public information forums at town hall: June 16th and June 21st
 - Joint Salem and Silver Lake Public Hearing: July 6th
 - Salem Board holds vote on the cooperative boundary agreement: July 27th
 - Cooperative agreement submitted to State: September 6th
 - State approval due by: December 5th
 - Salem and Silver Lake become on municipality: February 14, 2017

6. If the Cooperative Plan is approved, who will provide municipal services for the residents and businesses residing in the new village?

Current services will remain the same at the time the agreement goes into effect.

7. If the Cooperative Plan is approved, will my mailing address change?

No, upon completion of the cooperative boundary agreement there will be no change to any mailing addresses. It's up to the United States Post Office to change mailing addresses & we've learned from other mergers that their preference would be not to change mailing addresses due to a **boundary agreement**.

8. How will this affect those in Trevor, Camp Lake, Voltz Lake, Wilmot, etc.?

Regardless of which community you live in, you will see no difference in day-to-day services that you receive as a result of the Cooperative Plan.

9. Does this mean Salem is taking over Silver Lake or vice versa?

The action is not about one municipality taking over the other one, that's the purpose of the cooperative agreement, and the advantage. Both municipalities work together to negotiate terms that are beneficial for everyone and each board votes on the final agreement.

10. Where will the new town hall be located?

There has been no decision made yet as to where the new town hall will be located.

11. How will this affect my taxes?

We do not anticipate any substantive change to the mill rate given that many costs are duplicated (for instance, board salaries) and will be easily eliminated and that the current assessed value of the Town of Salem is over \$1B. More to come at the information forums and our rough analysis will be put on the town website afterwards.

12. How will this affect the Town of Salem and the Village of Silver Lake boards?

As of the effective date of the agreement, the Village of Silver Lake board will remain in place. However, primary elections will be held on February 21, 2017, if necessary, and Municipal Elections will be held on April 4, 2017 for the President and 3 trustee positions.

13. How will this affect the current boundary agreement the Town of Salem has with Paddock Lake?

The Cooperative Plan Agreement will not affect the boundary agreement that the Town of Salem currently has with Paddock Lake.

14. Will our kids have to go to school with kids from Silver Lake? Are there other ways it will affect our schools system/districts?

There will be no changes to the school districts or where children go to school.

15. What happens with regard to police, ambulance and fire services?

The Town of Salem already provides fire and rescue services for Silver Lake so there will be no changes to those services. The Village of Silver Lake already has a contract for police with the Kenosha County Sheriff's department.

16. Will our town name remain Salem/Trevor or will it change?

Per the Cooperative Plan, prior to the effective date, Village will adopt a charter ordinance per section 66.0101 of the Wisconsin Statutes changing the name of the Village from "Village of Silver Lake" to "Village of Salem" as of the Effective Date. The names of the communities, or "hamlets", (like Trevor, Wilmot, etc.) will remain the same.

17. Where can I find additional information regarding the Cooperative Plan?

You can find information posted on the Town of Salem website at www.TownofSalem.net .

18. Who can I contact if I have any questions or comments regarding the Cooperative Plan?

Send any questions to cdulaney@townofsalem.net ; we will get back to you as soon as we can.