

Top 10 of Impediments to Establishing Inter-Municipal Agreements:

1. Local control:

Parochial attitudes • Territorialism • “That’s not how we do things here”

2. Local politics:

Poor communication between towns • Mindset of selectmen • Governing bodies tend to disagree • Lack of trust between neighboring municipalities

3. Incompatibility:

Needs and wants of neighboring towns are too great

4. Big town/small town:

One feels dwarfed by the other • Small towns may have nothing to share with a larger town next door

5. Geography:

Distances between municipalities can be great, especially in the north

6. Set-up:

Resources needed to research the possibilities are unavailable

7. Administration and fairness:

Who’s in charge after the agreement is in place?
How are the burdens, ownership, and oversight shared?
Are all towns benefiting equally?

8. Employee benefits/contracts/union agreements:

How are employee costs split between municipalities?
Who gets fired or demoted?

9. Equipment and facilities:

Who gets to use what, and when?

10. Calendar:

Budget seasons • Town meetings • Forms of government don’t coincide