

Chapter 4 Utilities And Community Facilities

Section 4.1 Introduction

Adequate infrastructure, utilities, community facilities and services are important in meeting existing and future community needs. They are the framework of a community's life and without them present day standard of living could not exist. The decisions made for the Town of Dewey regarding the utilities and community facilities will have an impact on all present and future residents.

This chapter will describe the existing utilities and community facilities serving the community, and outline future desires and needs for Town residents.

Section 4.2 Public Utilities Inventory

A. Sanitary Sewer Service

Residents in the Town utilize private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS), otherwise known as private septic systems, as allowed by the Portage County Private Sewage System Ordinance.

The Portage County Planning and Zoning Department administers the permitting and management of POWTS county-wide.

B. Water Supply

Residents in the Town rely entirely on private wells for water supply. Please see the groundwater section of the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources chapter for further information.

Since potable water is obtained primarily from groundwater, consideration should be given to possible sources of contamination. One possible source is landfills. Landfills (also formerly known as dumps) have been around as long as people lived in Portage County, however, the locations of many of the smaller, private dumps are unknown. The amount of materials deposited in these was small, and the toxicities of the materials were likely fairly low as compared to current solid waste. All known landfills have been closed. According to Department of Natural Resources Administrative Code, there must be a 1,200 foot separation between a private well or reservoir and the nearest edge of an existing, proposed, or abandoned landfill. Landfills in the Town are shown on Map 4.1.

C. Storm Water Management

The Town does not have a formal storm water management plan. However, responsibility for storm water management within the Town of Dewey is split between Portage County and the Town. Storm water facilities consist mainly of ditches along the road network. Portage County maintains the ditches along the portions of County and State Highways within the Town of Dewey, while the Town maintains any ditches along Town roads. Ditches along Town roads vary in size, ranging up to 4 feet in width. The potential for water storage in the Town is high, as evidenced by the presence of many wetlands (Map 5.5).

D. Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities

The Town has a contract for solid waste and recycling services. Solid waste materials are picked up once a week. Recycling materials are picked up once a month. The Town is satisfied with its current level of service but will review potential changes as the need arises. Portage County has a recycling facility – Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

E. Corporate Utilities

1. Telecommunication Facilities - The Town does not own or manage telecom facilities.
2. Power Generating Plants and Transmission Line - There is one hydroelectric power plant on the Wisconsin River, located on Lake DuBay in the Town of Eau Pleine and Dewey. It is owned by Consolidated Water Power and has the capacity of generating 7,200 kW of electricity. Electrical power is supplied to the majority of residents through Wisconsin Public Service Corporation and Central Wisconsin Electric Coop.

American Transmission Corporation has a transmission line through the town.

El Paso has a natural gas pipeline through the town.

3. Telephone and Internet Services in the Town are currently offered by AT&T however some town residents lack access to DSL and currently Broad Band is not available throughout the town.

Section 4.3 Community Facilities Inventory and Analysis

A. Municipal Buildings

The Town Hall and Garage are located on Dewey Drive. The garage, which is adjacent to the Town Hall building, houses the Town's road maintenance vehicles and accessory equipment. Also attached to the Town Garage is the Dewey Fire Department. Firefighting equipment and vehicles are kept in this facility.

B. Police, Fire, Rescue, Emergency Response

Police protection and ambulance service is provided by Portage County. The Portage County Sheriff's Department provides protective services through random patrols and on a "call-out" basis. Portage County is divided into 3 districts for patrol purposes. The district in which Dewey is located is bounded by STH 66 to the southeast and the Wisconsin River to the west, and the Portage County line to the North. During the day shift, 1 officer is assigned to each district, plus an additional officer "floats" throughout the County. During the night shift, 2 officers are assigned to each district, plus 2 additional officers float throughout the County. Officers may drive through the Town any number of times during each shift to check on businesses and residences.

Fire services for Dewey come from the Dewey Fire Department. The volunteer/paid fire department is based out of the Town of Dewey and serves mainly residential areas and the Interstate Hwy 39. There are 14 volunteer firefighters and 5 first responders, the number of which can change at any time. In 1998/1999 the department added a large area to the fire protection district, creating their current 226 square mile service district. They also provide and receive mutual aid with many other departments in Wood, Portage and Marathon Counties through the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). Dewey Fire Department belongs to the

Map 4.1 Community Utilities

Map 4.2 Community Facilities

First of State Division of Portage County and they now provide the township with Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency Medical Service, Vehicle Extraction, and Search & Rescue. Fire equipment includes:

1 Fire Engine	1 Engine Tender (with wheels)	1 Rescue Squad
1 Water Tender	2 Brush/Wildland Tenders	

Ambulance service is provided by Portage County. The County has 5 ambulances that are staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and can respond anywhere in the county in minutes. They cover approximately 810 square miles and are the only ambulance service in most of that area. The County Ambulance is operated by the Stevens Point Fire Department, with locations on Franklin Street (Station 1) and Industrial Park Road (Station 2), both in Stevens Point. Station 1 houses both an engine and ladder company, a rescue squad and three ambulances, has 6-8 firefighters/EMT's and the administrative staff. Station 2 houses an engine and ambulance, and has four personnel. Between the Stevens Point Fire Department and the Portage County ambulance service, there are a total of 17 firefighters/paramedics on staff. There are also 36 full-time trained ice/ cold water rescue personnel available, of which there are at least 10 on duty 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Rescue equipment includes:

6 medic trucks, including one equipped for confined space/water & ice rescue
1 Rescue air boat for water and ice rescue

C. Schools

The Town of Dewey is served by one school district.

1. Stevens Point Area Public School District

The Stevens Point Area Public School District covers nearly 400 square miles, so transporting students is a significant activity and expenditure. During the 2002-2003 school year, the transportation department bused nearly 7,000 students to public and private schools with a fleet of 79 districted-operated and 1 contracted buses traveling 1.2 million miles. Typically, the district's annual cost for busing is about two-thirds of the state average, with a district budget of \$2.6 million. The Stevens Point School District is the 14th largest district in the State of Wisconsin and serves a population of approximately 50,000 and employs staff of over 900. The approximate student enrollment for the 2003-2004 school year is 7,400.

The Stevens Point Area Public School District includes the City of Stevens Point, Villages of Whiting, Plover, Park Ridge, Amherst Junction, Junction City; Towns of Linwood, Hull, Eau Pleine, Dewey, Carson and Stockton; as well as the Towns of Sharon, Plover Grant, Buena Vista, Milladore and Sherry.

The Stevens Point School District consists of ten K-6 grade elementary schools, two 7-9 grade junior high schools, and one 10-12 grade senior high school and an alternative school. Three charter schools lie within the secondary schools. Three of the elementary schools are charter schools and three additional elementary schools have applied for charter status. In addition the 45-acre Boston School Forest, located in the Town of Plover, is an educational facility used by students for environmental education programs throughout the school year.

D. Parks

Portage County owns Wisconsin River County Park located next to Bay Beach Park. Consolidated Water and Power, as part of the FERC Agreement, owns and manages 90 acre South Bay Beach Park, located on the east shore of Lake Dubay on Park Road. The park offers boat launch facilities, swimming and picnicking. Also found in Dewey is the Dewey Marsh managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This 5,716 acre facility is available for wildlife viewing and hunting.

E. Cemeteries

The Town currently has one Cemetery: St. Mary's Church Cemetery.

F. Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities in Dewey. The closest facilities are located in the City of Stevens Point, with the largest being St. Michael's Hospital and Rice Medical Center. This facility is located approximately fifteen miles from the center of the Town. Other facilities that serve Dewey residents are located in Mosinee and Wausau area, approximately 30 miles to the north, and Marshfield, which is approximately 35 miles to the west of Town.

G. Child Care Facilities

There are no licensed child care facilities located in the Town of Dewey. The closest facilities exist in the Stevens Point area.

There are 2 different categories of state licensed child care; they depend upon the number of children in care:

- Licensed **Family** Child Care Centers provide care for up to 8 children. This care is usually in the provider's home, but it is not required to be located in a residence.
- Licensed **Group** Child Care Centers provide care for 9 or more children. These centers are usually located somewhere other than a residence and may be small or large in size.

For a complete list of licensed providers, contact the Regional Division of Children and Family Services at:

2811 8th St. - Ste. 70
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
Phone: (715) 422-5080
Fax: (715) 422-5091

H. Libraries

The Town does not have any library facilities within its boundaries. However, the Charles M. White library, affiliated with the Portage County Library system, is located on Main Street in downtown Stevens Point, approximately 15 miles from the center of Dewey. This facility is open seven days a week. There is also a Plover branch, located at 2151 Roosevelt Drive, approximately 20 miles from the center of Town. Hours for the Plover branch can be obtained by calling 715-341-4007. More detailed information about the Portage County Public Library can be obtained via the internet at: <http://library.uwsp.edu/pcl/> or by calling the library system at: 1-800-264-0766.

Section 4.4 Summary of Future Needs

The vast majority of Town residents are likely to continue using private on-site wastewater treatment systems through this plan horizon (2025). Some systems may need replacing, however; due to the low projected population increase, the Town does not anticipate the need for a municipal wastewater treatment facility.

Contracts and agreements with other service providers such as; fire, solid waste and recycling, snow plowing and road maintenance will be periodically reviewed.

Section 4.5 Utilities and Community Facilities Issues

- A. Require that utilities be buried in new subdivisions.
- B. Pursue options with the Portage County Humane Society for animal control.

Section 4.6 Utilities and Community Facilities Goals, Objectives, and Policies

A. Goal Provide a range of Community Facilities and Services to meet the Town's current and emerging needs.

B. Objectives

1. Share services across municipal borders whenever possible.
2. Consider future development to be placed in such a way as to facilitate economical use of utilities as future needs arise.
3. Keep on top of issues dealing with the shooting range and DNR land in the Dewey Marsh.

C. Policies:

1. Explore additional dry hydrants as a potential to improve the Town's fire rating.
2. Encourage increases in the number of first responders and firefighters.

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