

CHAPTER 4 Utilities and Community Facilities Element

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 Eau Pleine 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

Almost all 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. There are two properties in Eau Pleine, adjacent to the Village of Milladore, that are being served by Milladore sewer and water at the time this plan was written.

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 Agriculture, 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, except the current County Landfill located on Cty Rd QQ, 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 4.2.

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 Eau Pleine 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 Highways within Eau Pleine, 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 5.4).

Approximately 7,866 acres of the 29,107 acre Mead Wildlife Area are located in the Town. A series of ditches throughout the area are maintained by the WI DNR primarily for wildlife habitat, however, water flow through these channels can be regulated to mitigate large storm events or heavy runoff from the spring thaw. In addition, a series of ditches that were created in the early 1900's in the area are not maintained by the DNR but still function to help drain stormwater.

D. Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities

The Town has a contract for solid waste and recycling services with Superior Onyx Waste Services based in Schofield, WI. Solid waste materials are picked up once a week and taken to a landfill, owned by Onyx, in Wisconsin Rapids. Recyclables are picked up once a month at the Town Transfer Station (former Town garage) and then taken to a separating facility in Schofield, WI. The Town is satisfied with its current level of service but will review potential changes as the need arises.

E. Corporate Utilities

1. Telecommunication Facilities - The Town does not own or manage telecommunication facilities. There are currently no commercial telecommunications towers within the Town.
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. It is owned by Consolidated Water Power and has the capacity of generating 7,200 kW of electricity. One 345 kV transmission line runs through Town in a north – south orientation. Its course runs approximately parallel to Hwy 34 (Map 4.1). Electrical power is supplied to the majority of residents through Wisconsin Public Service Corporation while Alliant Energy serves the far western portion of the Town.

The majority of the Town falls within the natural gas service territory of Wisconsin Public Service Corporation with the western most quarter mile being the territory of the Wisconsin Gas Company. One gas pipeline, owned by ANR Pipeline Company, passes through the southern portion of Town in an east-west orientation (Map 4.1). This pipeline does not interfere with present agricultural operations.

3. Telephone and Internet Services in the Town are currently offered by Ameritech, Wood County Telephone and TDS Telecom.

Section 4.3 Community Facilities Inventory and Analysis

A. Municipal Buildings

The Town Hall and garage are located at the intersection of Hwy 34 and Cty Rd. H. The Town Hall consists of administrative offices, public meeting space, and bathroom facilities. The garage, which is part of the Town Hall building, houses the Town's road maintenance vehicles and accessory equipment. Also attached to the Town Hall is Rudolph Fire District Station #3. Firefighting equipment and vehicles are kept in this facility. Other buildings include an additional equipment storage facility across the street from the Town Hall.

Map 4.1 Utilities

Map 4.2 Community Facilities

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 Eau Pleine is located is bounded by STH 66 to the east and the Wisconsin River to the south, and the Portage County line to the west. 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 Eau Pleine come from the Rudolph Fire Department. The combination volunteer/paid fire department is based out of Rudolph (located in Wood County) and serves mainly residential areas. There are 86 volunteer and 2 paid firefighters. They operate out of 4 stations throughout their service district, in which the Town of Eau Pleine owns one of these halls, but is managed by the Rudolph Fire Department. 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. In 2000, 23 members completed Hazardous Materials Technician training and now assist the Portage County Hazardous Materials Team when called. Other services that are provided by Rudolph include: Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency Medical Service, Vehicle Extraction, and Search & Rescue. Fire equipment includes:

- 6 Fire Engines
- 1 Truck/Ladder Company
- 7 Water Tankers
- 1 Rescue Squad
- 3 Brush/Wildland Vehicles

Ambulance service is provided by Portage County. The County has 4 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 Eau Pleine is served by two school districts (see Map 4.2).

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.

2. Auburndale School District

The Auburndale School district is located just west of the Town of Eau Pleine. Residents of the Town and surrounding area currently have the opportunity to send their children to the Auburndale school district. There has been discussion in the past of closing the Kennedy Elementary school in the Village of Junction City and it is felt that if or when this would happen, more children would attend schools in Auburndale.

The Auburndale school district consists of one of each, elementary, junior high, and high school, located in the Village of Auburndale. The elementary school houses grades PreK-6 and has 34 teaching staff. The junior high houses grades 7-9 and has 26 teaching staff while the high school houses grades 10-12 and has 29 teaching staff. The district has 17 administrative staff.

D. Parks

The Town does not currently maintain any land as a Town park, but other recreational opportunities are available to residents.

Portage County owns and manages 51 acre DuBay Park, located on the west shore of Lake DuBay on Cty Rd. E. The park offers boat launch facilities, swimming, camping, picnicking, and playground equipment. Also found in Eau Pleine is the Mead Wildlife Area, managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This 29,000 acre facility is available for wildlife viewing and hunting.

E. Cemeteries

The Town currently has two Cemeteries: Buelow Cemetery, located in Section 36 on Oak Hill Road; and Runkels Cemetery, located on Cty Rd. H. The Town has recognized their responsibility to maintain these facilities if abandoned.

F. Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities in Eau Pleine. 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 Eau Pleine residents are located in Wisconsin Rapids, approximately 20 miles to the southwest, and Marshfield, which is approximately 30 miles to the west of Town.

G. Child Care Facilities

There are no licensed child care facilities located in the Town of Eau Pleine. 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 Eau Pleine. 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. Discussion with the Village of Milladore to provide limited sewer service is likely during the planning cycle.

It is also likely that requests for more telecommunications towers will occur near the new Highway 10 facility when it is completed, however; changes in technology may actually lead to a reduction in towers.

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.

1. What should be done to ensure a quality supply of groundwater to Town residents?
2. How will public safety relating to the closing of abandoned wells be addressed?
3. How can the Town improve police presence in the community?
4. What can the Town do to encourage EMT's to live in the area?
5. How can response time to fire events be improved?
6. How can providing location information for emergency situations associated with the Mead Wildlife Area be improved?

Section 4.6 Utilities and Community Facilities Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 1: Adequate services and utilities are provided to Town residents.

Objectives:

1. Lifelong learning is an opportunity in our community.
2. Places and activities for the youth of the community are provided.
3. Design standards are used to enhance rural character.
4. Share services across municipal borders whenever possible.
5. Encourage a gas-fired power plant to locate in the Town.

Policies:

1. Maintain rural character through using minimum 2 acre lots where appropriate.
2. Maintain cemeteries when no longer privately managed.
3. Encourage the continued use of the local school (Kennedy).
4. Consider budgeting for youth programs.
5. Continue cooperating with neighboring communities for road maintenance.

Goal 2: Protect public green space and water resources.

Objectives:

1. Protect Eau Pleine watersheds through proper zoning.
2. Encourage use of cluster septic systems.

Policy: Continue participating in the Milladore Area Groundwater Guardian Program.