

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 in New Hope. 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 regarding the utilities and community facilities will impact all present and future residents.

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

Section 4.2 Public Utilities Inventory

A. Sanitary Sewer Service

There is no municipal sewer service available in the Town. 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

The Town relies 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 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 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

Responsibility for storm water management within the Town of New Hope is split between Portage County and the Town. Management mainly consists of ditches along the road network. Portage County maintains the ditches along the portions of County Roads within New Hope, while the Town maintains any ditches along Town roads. Ditches along Town roads vary in size, ranging from 1 to 4 feet in width.

D. Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities

Residents in the Town of New Hope are responsible for disposing of their own solid waste materials. Consequently, many citizens contract with private waste haulers to accomplish that task. Recyclables can be dropped off once a month at the Town Hall. These materials are then taken to a recycling facility by a private contractor.

E. Corporate Utilities

1. Telecommunication Facilities – The Town does not own or manage telecommunication facilities. As of the writing of this plan, there are no commercial telecommunications towers within the Town.
2. Power Generating Plants and Transmission Lines – There are no electric generation plants, substations, or high voltage transmission lines located in the Town. The Town currently receives its electric service from Alliant Energy out of Manawa, Wisconsin and Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op out of Iola, Wisconsin. Liquid propane gas is available through private providers.
3. Telephone and Internet Services - Amherst Phone Company, out of the Village of Amherst in the adjacent Portage County Town of Amherst, currently provides telephone and internet service for the Town of New Hope. There are substations located throughout the Town to provide better reception for these services. MS WorldNet and Tomorrow River Internet Services also provide internet services to Town residents.

Section 4.3 Community Facilities Inventory and Analysis

A. Municipal Buildings

Municipal buildings in the Town of New Hope include the Town Hall, located on 9785 Town Hall Road. This building is used for Town meetings, voting, and as a transfer station for recyclable materials. There is no Town garage and residents do not foresee a need for one.

B. Police, Fire, Rescue, Emergency Response

Police protection and ambulance 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 New Hope is located is bounded by STH 54 to the south, STH 66 to the north and west, and the Portage County line to the east. 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.

The County has 4 ambulances that are staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and can respond anywhere in the county within minutes of dispatch. The ambulance service covers the majority of Portage County (approximately 810 square miles) with the exception of a portion of the Town of Grant. 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 three ambulances, has 6-8 firefighters/EMT's and the administrative staff. Station 2 houses one 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

Map 4.1 Community Utilities

The Town contracts its fire protection services with the Iola & Rural Volunteer Fire Department, based out of the Village of Iola in Waupaca County. There are 27 volunteer firefighters that make up this department. The Town of New Hope owns a 1/5 share of the fire department equipment.

First Responder service is provided by the Rosholt First Responders in the northern half of the Town while Amherst EMTs respond to calls in the southern half of the Town. At the time this plan was written there were two First Responders living within the Town of New Hope.

C. Schools

The Town of New Hope is divided between three School Districts (See Map 4.1).

1. Rosholt School District

The Rosholt School District serves a student population of approximately 750 PreK-12 students in a single facility, located in the Village of Rosholt. The district is composed of three schools within this one facility: Rosholt Elementary – grades PreK-5, Rosholt Middle – grades 6-8, and Rosholt High – grades 9-12. This district consists of 56 teachers, 44 support staff and 3 administrators.

Recent building projects have included a \$5 million high school addition that added an auditorium, gymnasium, band room complex, lobby/commons, and 10 new classrooms; a \$2 million middle school addition; a \$600,000 high school library addition; the relocation of the bus garage; and the renovation of several other areas. The District is very proud of the quality of their facilities and the ongoing care and upgrades to the building that they provide.

The Rosholt Schools provide a comprehensive Pre-K-12 curriculum in art, computer literacy, environmental education, guidance and counseling, health, language arts, mathematics, technology literacy, music, physical education, science, and social studies. Technology education, agriculture, family and consumer education, business education, and foreign languages are also offered in grades 7-12. Students also have opportunities to participate in a wide range of high school courses offered through distance education classes on ERVING, Youth Options, and Advanced Placement Classes.

2. Tomorrow River School District

The Tomorrow River School District serves 900 students, grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12, from the Villages of Amherst, Amherst Junction and Nelsonville along with part of the Towns of Amherst, Buena Vista, Lanark, Stockton, and New Hope. The entire student population, Pre-Kindergarten through 12, is educated on one site in the Village of Amherst. The Amherst School complex consists of 86 teachers and 43 support staff.

3. Iola-Scandinavia School District

The Iola-Scandinavia School District serves 820 K-12th grade students in two facilities located in Iola, Wisconsin. The elementary school, which houses the district administrator, administers K-6th grade and special needs students. The middle and high school serves 7th-12th graders. The staff of the school district is made up of 63 teachers and 110 regular employees.

Post-Secondary educational opportunities available to residents in the Town of New Hope include: University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point (UWSP) and Mid-State Technical College in Stevens Point, University of Wisconsin- Marathon County and North Central Technical College in Wausau.

The Central Wisconsin Environmental Station, located on Sunset Lake in New Hope, is a 300 acre facility operated by the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Foundation and provides environmental education programs for students (all levels) and the general public. In 2005, the facility celebrates 30 years of environmental education.

D. Parks

There are no Town parks located in New Hope. Sunset Lake Park is managed by the County under a lease from the North New Hope Lutheran Church. This 18 acre park is located on Sunset Lake and consists of a beach, picnic area, an open shelter, boat ramp, and pit toilets. This park draws a substantial number of visitors from surrounding communities. Heavy use of the park has led to on-going issues including overcrowding and parking problems.

E. Cemeteries

The Town currently has six cemeteries with four of them being public. These cemeteries are projected to adequately serve Town residents for the next twenty years. They are located as follows (Map 4.1), including the two private sites:

- Grothe Family Cemetery, Section 34, Township of New Hope, Portage County, WI, on County Highway T near the South New Hope Cemetery.
- Kankrud Cemetery, Section 16, Township of New Hope, Portage County, WI, on the Kostuch Farm off County Highway A.
- Nelsonville Cemetery, Section 32, Township of New Hope, Portage County, WI, on the corner of State Highway 161 and County Highway ZZ, west of the Village of Nelsonville.
- North New Hope Cemetery, Section 22, Township of New Hope, Portage County, WI, on the corner of County Highway T and MM, northwest of the Village of Nelsonville.
- Our Savior's Lutheran Cemetery, Section 34, Township of New Hope, Portage County, WI, on Benson Corners, just northwest of the corner of County Highway T and Trout Creek Road.
- South New Hope Cemetery, Section 34, Township of New Hope, Portage County, WI, just southwest of County Trunk T and Trout Creek Road, northeast of the Village of Nelsonville.

F. Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities of any kind in the Town. Residents travel to Stevens Point, Amherst, Rosholt, or Waupaca for their health care needs. St. Michael's Hospital and Rice Medical Center, located approximately 15 miles southwest in Stevens Point, are the largest facilities in the county. Rosholt Family Practice, located north of New Hope in the Village of Rosholt, has one doctor on staff. Services south of New Hope in the Village of Amherst include the Amherst Family Medical Center, Amherst Family Dental, and two chiropractors. Health care facilities in Waupaca, located approximately 18 miles southeast of New Hope, include the Chain O' Lakes Family Clinic and Thedacare.

G. Child Care Facilities

There are no licensed child care facilities located in the Town of New Hope. The closest facilities exist in the Villages of Amherst, Amherst Junction, and Rosholt. For a complete list, 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 Portage County Library System has a branch in the Village of Rosholt at 137 North Main Street that provides library services to residents. Hours for the Rosholt branch can be obtained by calling 715-677-4512. Residents also utilize the Charles M. White public library in Stevens Point. Public internet service is available at all Portage County library locations. A complete list of facilities and services can be obtained on the internet at: http://library.uwsp.edu/pcl/index_4.htm.

In addition, the Lettie W. Jensen Public Library located at 278 North Main Street in the Village of Amherst, a member of the South Central Library System, is also available to Town residents.. The Library offers internet access, various computers programs, interlibrary loan, large-print books, audio books, videos, magazines, a local history room, a copy machine, Story time kits, a book discussion group, and a weekly preschool story hour.

Other area libraries are located in the Village of Iola and City of Waupaca, both in Waupaca County. A complete list of facilities and services can be obtained on the internet at: <http://www.owls.lib.wi.us/ivl/> for the Iola Public library and <http://www.waupacalibrary.org/> for the Waupaca public library.

Section 4.4 Summary of Future Needs

All 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 and low population density, the Town does not anticipate the need for a municipal wastewater treatment facility.

It is also likely that requests for more telecommunications towers may occur; 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

The following issues regarding utilities and community facilities were identified through the planning process:

- There is concern about the location or placement of cell towers. To what extent can the Town regulate the number and placement of communication towers?
- How will the Town deal with issues relating to increased usage of Sunset Lake?
- How can the Town help to lessen the impact of higher volume and faster traffic to Sunset Beach?

- There has been increased use of Poncho Creek for birding and hunting. How can the Town ensure this natural resource isn't degraded?
- There is concern regarding the consumptive withdrawal of ground water for bottled water companies. To what extent can the Town protect its water resources?
- How can the Town improve stormwater management in certain areas? – (roads/shoulders washing out)

Section 4.6 Utilities and Community Facilities Goals/Objectives/Policies

Goal 1: Ensure adequate public services and facilities to meet present and future needs.

Objective 1.1: Protect public green space and water resources in New Hope.

Policy 1.1.a: Use Conservancy Zoning in designated areas to protect public green space and water resources in the Town.

Policy 1.1.b: Recommend against the siting of any commercial water bottling plants that extract groundwater within the Town.

Objective 1.2: Design standards are used to enhance rural character.

Policy 1.2.a: Work with Portage County to maintain or strengthen existing ordinances concerning the siting of cell towers.

Objective 1.3: Share services across County or municipal borders whenever possible.

Policy 1.3.a: Work with Portage County to improve stormwater management and road infrastructure associated with County Roads.

Policy 1.3.b: Periodically meet with appropriate governmental units and agencies to review the sharing or expansion of services and facilities as the need arises.

Objective 1.4: Provide information to Town residents related to the scope of services and utilities provided to a rural community.