

## **CHAPTER 4 Utilities and Community Facilities Element**

66.1001(2)(d) Wisconsin Statutes:

***Utilities and Community Facilities Element.** A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development of utilities and community facilities in the local governmental unit such as sanitary sewer service, storm water management, water supply, solid waste disposal, on-site wastewater treatment technologies, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunications facilities, power-generating plants and transmission lines, cemeteries, health care facilities, child care facilities and other public facilities, such as police, fire and rescue facilities, libraries, schools and other governmental facilities. The element shall describe the location, use and capacity of existing public utilities and community facilities that serve the local governmental unit, shall include an approximate timetable that forecasts the need in the local governmental unit to expand or rehabilitate existing utilities and facilities or to create new utilities and facilities and shall assess future needs for government services in the local governmental unit that are related to such utilities and facilities.*

### **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 regulated 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 exclusively 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 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 and recycling materials. Consequently, many citizens contract with private waste haulers to accomplish that task.

### 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 Telephone 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. Fiber optic internet service is available depending on the address. Tomorrow River Internet Services also provides 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. 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 Office 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.

Portage County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provides County-wide EMS services through contracts with the Stevens Point Fire Department and Amherst Fire District. 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. Three County ambulances are operated by the Stevens Point Fire Department, with locations on Franklin Street (Station 1) and Industrial Park Road (Station 2), both in Stevens Point. One County ambulance is operated by the Amherst Fire District from their location on Fairgrounds Road in Amherst.

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 Area First Responders in the northern half of the Town while Amherst Fire District First Responders respond to calls in the southern half of the Town.

### 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 572 Pre-Kindergarten -12<sup>th</sup> grade 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 Pre-K-5), Rosholt Middle (grades 6-8), and Rosholt High (grades 9-12). This district consists of 48 teachers, 44 41 support staff and 3 administrators.

#### 2. Tomorrow River School District

The Tomorrow River School District serves approximately 992 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 district employs 90 teachers, 53 support staff, and 4 administrators. A single facility in the Village of Amherst houses Amherst Elementary School (grades Pre-K- 4), Amherst Middle School (grades 5-8), and Amherst High School (grades 9-12).

The Tomorrow River School District also contracts with the Tomorrow River Community Charter School, located at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station in Amherst Junction, to provide schooling for children in Pre-Kindergarten - 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The school, which opened its doors in 2013, is the first Waldorf-inspired public charter school in Wisconsin. The Waldorf method of teaching is an educational philosophy which pairs academics with a focus on a child's social, emotional and behavioral development. The curriculum includes hands-on projects and integrates subjects like math with science, language arts with history and social studies, rather than teaching them separately.

#### 3. Iola-Scandinavia School District

The Iola-Scandinavia School District serves approximately 712 Pre-Kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade students in two facilities located in Iola, Wisconsin. The Elementary School, which houses the district administrator, administers Pre-K-6<sup>th</sup> grade and special needs students. The Middle and High School serves 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. The staff of the school district is made up of 60 teachers, 106 support staff, and 9 administrators.

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 200 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 2015, the facility celebrated 40 years of environmental education.

#### D. Parks

There are no Town parks located in New Hope. Sunset Lake Park is owned by the County. This 18 acre park is located on the east side of Sunset Lake and consists of a beach, picnic area, an open shelter, boat ramp, and 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. Saint Michael's Hospital, located approximately 15 miles southwest in Stevens Point, is the largest facility in the county. Other health care services located in the Stevens Point urban area include dental, chiropractic, sports medicine, and podiatry. Point Place Dental, located north of New Hope in the Village of Rosholt, is available to Town residents. Services south of New Hope in the Village of Amherst include the Amherst Clinic, Wessell Dental Care, Amherst Chiropractic, and Roberts and Associates Physical Therapy. Health care facilities in Waupaca, located approximately 18 miles southeast of New Hope, include the Chain O' Lakes Family Clinic and Thedacare Medical Center. Various other clinics specializing in dental, eye health, orthodontic and chiropractic care are located in Waupaca and serve Town residents.

**Map 4.1      Community Utilities**

## 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 child care resource and referral agency at:

Childcaring Inc.  
1107 West Grand Avenue  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495  
Phone: (715) 423-4114

## 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://www.uwsp.edu/library/Pages/otherLibraries.aspx>

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.iolalibrary.org/> 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 (2040). 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:

- 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 is concern regarding the consumptive withdrawal of ground water for high capacity wells. 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 and 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:** Monitor the number of high capacity wells within the Town, and their annual withdrawals.

**Objective 1.2:** Share services across County or municipal borders whenever possible.

**Policy 1.2.a:** Work with Portage County to improve stormwater management and road infrastructure associated with County Roads.

**Policy 1.2.b:** Periodically meet with appropriate governmental units and agencies to review the sharing or expansion of services and facilities as the need arises.

**Objective 1.3:** Provide information to Town residents related to the scope of services and utilities provided to a rural community.