

CHAPTER 4 Utilities and Community Facilities Element

66.1001(2)(d) Wis. Stat.:

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. They are the framework of a community's life and without them, present day standards of living could not exist. The decisions made for the Town of Amherst 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 and Analysis

A. Sanitary Sewer Service

There is no sanitary sewer service in the Town of Amherst. Residents in the Town utilize private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS), otherwise known as private septic systems, as regulated by the Portage County Private Sewage System Ordinance and Department of Commerce Administrative Code (COMM 83). The Portage County Planning and Zoning Department administers the permitting and management of POWTS County-wide.

The Village of Amherst has a wastewater treatment facility and sewage collection system, but there are currently no plans for extension of services into the Town.

B. Water Supply

Town residents rely entirely on private wells and groundwater for their water supply. Water is generally plentiful throughout the Town, with potential pumping yield rates of 500-1000+ gallons per minute. Please see the groundwater section of the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Chapter of this plan 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 have 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, including the County Landfill located on County Road QQ, have been closed. According to Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR) 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 4.2.

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 Amherst 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 Roads within the Town of Amherst, while the Town maintains any ditches along Town roads. Ditches along Town roads vary in size, ranging up to 4 feet in width.

D. Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities

The Town of Amherst contracts with Harter Disposal for solid waste and recycling pickup. The Town is charged a fixed dollar amount per residence that is then assessed on the tax bill. Waste is trucked to a landfill in Marathon County. Recyclables are taken to the Portage County Material Recovery Facility in the Village of Plover. Solid waste is picked up weekly and recyclables are collected weekly. The Town is satisfied with the current level of service, but will review alternatives as conditions change.

An old landfill exists in the Town southeast of the Town Hall. It lies west of County Road Q on private property (Map 4.2). Nelsonville, Amherst Junction, and the Town of Amherst deposited waste there until 1991 (File Re: SW Lic#181). There is no clay liner or monitoring wells associated with the site. WisDNR plans to do nothing about this landfill unless wells in the area begin to show contamination.

Another landfill exists in the Town on County Road T near the intersection of County Roads T and B. This facility, owned by the Village of Amherst, is still active for yard waste and inert construction material.

E. Corporate Utilities

1. Telecommunication Facilities - The Town does not own or manage telecommunication facilities. However, three telecommunication towers are located in the Town, one at the end of Mill Road, another south of Old Hwy 18 west of Amherst Junction, and the third at the northeast corner of the intersection of Packer Avenue and Fairgrounds Road. These facilities were placed to maximize exposure to the U.S. Highway 10 facility. There is a fourth communications tower on County Road T south of State Highway 161 on the east side of the road midway between County Road SS and State Highway 161. Ordinances governing the placement and construction of these facilities are administered by the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department (See map 4.1).
2. Power Generating Plants and Transmission Lines – The Town of Amherst does not have any electric generation plants. However, it does have a substation located near Konkol Lane northeast of Amherst Junction. One 69kV electrical transmission line runs east-west through the Town.

4.1 Community Utilities

Map 4.2 Community Facilities

3. Pipelines – A 36” gas pipeline, owned by ANR Pipe Line Company, a subsidiary of El Paso Corp., was laid prior to 1969. It enters the Town State Highway 161 and parallels USH 10. Then it crosses north of the Village of Amherst and continues to parallel USH 10 until it exits just south of County Road T and County Road V.
4. Telephone and Internet Services – Phone service is currently offered through Amherst Telephone Company out of Amherst, Wisconsin. Cell phone and internet services are available through a number of private providers.
5. Other facilities – Gordondale Farms, near the Village of Nelsonville, generates enough energy to serve a number of homes through the production of methane from their dairy operation. The surplus electricity is sold back to Alliant Energy and the left-over solids from the manure digestion process are re-used as livestock bedding. This digestion process waste is also resold for use as fertilizer and soil material for garden applications.
6. Wind Turbines (WEGTs) – Private wind electrical generation towers (WEGTs) are allowed in all agricultural zoning districts, in the Commercial and Highway Commercial Zoning districts, and in the Rural Ltd. District, according to the regulations in the Portage County Zoning ordinance. The Plan Commission and the Town Board shall be given the opportunity to review the site analysis prior to the issuance of a zoning permit. Site analysis shall provide, but not be limited to setbacks, location to residences, location to public and private airport-landing strips, other WEGTs, and Town recommendation. Commercial WEGTs must be approved by the Portage County Board of Adjustment as a special exception. Commercial wind farms are controlled by the State of Wis.

Section 4.3 Community Facilities Inventory and Analysis

A. Municipal Buildings

Municipal buildings in the Town of Amherst include the Town Hall and Town Garage, located at 4023 County Road Q. The Town Hall contains a meeting room, office, small storage room, and bathroom. The 3-bay Town garage provides storage for the Town’s road maintenance equipment. Public parking at these facilities is adequate. The town also owns the block building next (south) to the Town Hall and uses it for seasonal storage of equipment. The Town also recently added .8 acres to the existing land used for the Town facilities in 2013.

B. Police, Fire, Rescue, Emergency Response

1. Sheriff Patrols and Policing

The Portage County Sheriff’s Department provides protective services for the Town of Amherst through random patrols and on a “call-out” basis. Portage County is divided into 3 districts for patrol purposes. The district in which Amherst is located is bounded by State Highway 66 to the north, 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.

2. Fire Department Services

An agreement to create the Amherst Fire District was signed January 1, 1993 by representatives of the villages of Amherst, Nelsonville, and Amherst Junction, and the Town of Amherst. In addition to serving these areas, the District also contracts with parts of

Lanark and Stockton for fire services. Volunteer firefighters, recruited from the area served, are dispatched via pagers by Portage County 911.

The Amherst Fire Department (AFD) is comprised of 3 distinct branches of service, Fire/Rescue, First Responders and Ambulance. All branches of the AFD are staffed by local members working as Paid on Call and Paid on Site employees. The Amherst Fire District strives to keep pace with the anticipated needs of the local emergency responders and is continually working towards the future through advanced training, planned capital improvements and member retention and recruitment.

3. Ambulance

A contract has been signed by the Amherst Fire District that will result in a higher level of service and an expanded role of the Amherst-based ambulance. This is a 3-way agreement between Portage County, the city of Stevens Point and the Amherst Fire District. On July 1, 2011 the Amherst based ambulance began operating at an "intermediate" level, running with one paramedic and one advanced EMT on board during each 12-hour shift. This allows the crews to administer pain medication and cardiac drugs. The Amherst ambulance has a 21 member roster, with 10 of them being at the paramedic level. The station is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with crews working 12 hour shifts.

4. Fire Rescue

Amherst Fire District fire and rescue personnel respond to any call for assistance within the district, including structure, grass, brush, and forest fires, all types of rescue situations, calls for emergency medical assistance, carbon monoxide alarms, missing citizens, down power lines, traffic control at accident scenes, and even the occasional stuck cat.

The Amherst Fire District operates three fire engines. One engine (Engine 10) is equipped with a 65 foot aerial boom. To support the engines on rural fires, where there are no fire hydrants, we also operate two water supply tenders. These tenders provide the initial water supply and are the ongoing water source for rural fires (they will carry water from the designated water source to the scene for the duration of the incident).

For rescue responses, the Amherst Fire District operates two rescue squads. Rescue 1 is equipped for general rescue (vehicle, farm, ice and cold water, etc.). Rescue 2 is equipped for specialized rescue such as confined space, high angle, collapse and more.

Normally, the rescue company is supported by at least one engine company during rescue responses. A "company" in fire terminology means a specific apparatus (such as an engine or a rescue squad) with a three or four person crew. The specific response order of equipment will depend on the nature of the incident.

5. EMR First Responders

The Amherst Fire District First Responders are emergency medical responders that respond directly from home to all types of emergency scenes. On emergency medical calls the First Responders typically will arrive in advance of the ambulance and begin scene stabilization and patient care. Once the ambulance arrives patient care will be transitioned to the ambulance crew, with the First Responders assisting. All of the First Responders are trained to at least the EMT-Basic level of training.

Normally, the First Responders will remain in the area and available while the ambulance transports the patient to one of our receiving hospitals (normally St. Michael's Hospital in

Stevens Point, WI or Riverside Medical Center in Waupaca, WI). While our ambulance is involved in the transport, the First Responders are available to respond. If another ambulance call is received while our ambulance is involved in the transport of a patient, our First Responders will respond and work with an ambulance from a neighboring community.

If needed, one of the First Responders will “join” the two-person ambulance crew at the scene and remain with the ambulance through the entire treatment and transport process. This allows for two personnel to care for the patient during the transport to the hospital while a third drives the ambulance.

On other emergency scenes, the First Responders will provide patient care as needed, support operations, or provide care and support for fire/rescue personnel. First Responders are on call for 12 hours shifts, using either a department vehicle or their personal vehicle. During the 12 hour shift, the on-call First Responders must stay within the response area and be available to respond.

6. Amherst Fire Department Fire Station and Equipment

The Fire Station has a NFPA compliant breathing air compressor and fill station. In 2004 a washer extractor was added and up-dating of the interior by painting and constructing workstations in the offices took place. A new marquee to identify our fire station was also added.

In 2005 a Plymovent Vehicle Exhaust system was added to the truck room for better air quality. A new training room and storage room to accommodate our growing numbers of members was added. The AFD purchased an additional acre of land adjacent to station and now includes all of the land on the north east corner of Fair Ground Road and Packer Avenue. This purchase gives the Fire District access to two streets and allows us better access to our entire property. The AFD is constantly working to meet the changing needs of the fire district.

The following is a list of equipment operated by the Amherst Fire Department. Each vehicle listed provides its primary assignment and the special equipment used with it. All of the equipment is stored at the Amherst Fire Station at 4585 Fairgrounds Road.

All engines are equipped with: 2-1 3/4" attack lines (both preconnected), 2-2 1/2" attack lines (1 preconnected), 5" LDH supply hose, various hose fittings, positive and negative pressure ventilation fans, chain saw or "K12" saw, utility ropes, salvage covers and equipment, self contained breathing apparatus, hand held radios for all crew members, "Streamlite" flashlights, Class B foam, eductors, and nozzles, electrical generators and lights, chimney fire equipment, fire extinguishers, and hand tools.

- Engine 10 – Is a 2003 Pierce 1250 GPM pumper with 61' "Skyboom" aerial. It is not due for replacement until about 2028.
 - Primary assignment: 1st out engine
 - Special equipment: Aerial master stream, On board Class A foam system, Thermal Imaging camera, Gas detector, Cribbing, High angle rescue ropes and harnesses
- Tanker 15 - 2000 Freightliner/Monroe 2000 gallon tanker It is not due for replacement until about 2025
 - Primary assignment: 1st out tanker
 - Special equipment: 3000 gallon "portable drop tank", 2-290 GPM portable pumps

- Tanker 17 - 1993 Ford/Monroe 3000 gallon tanker It is not due for replacement until about 2018
 - Primary assignment: 2nd out tanker
 - Special equipment: 3000 gallon "portable drop tank", 2000 gallon "portable drop tank", 500 GPM portable pump, 6" "Jet Siphon"
- Rescue 1 - 1995 GMC 4x4/Stahl It is not due for replacement until about 2020
 - Primary assignment: 1st out on rescue calls
 - Special Equipment: Hurst spreader, cutter, ram, and "Maverick tool", Ice/Cold water rescue equipment, Rescue rope and Stokes basket, Cribbing and stabilizing equipment, Portable generator, Rescue hand tools, High-pressure air bag set, EMS crash pack and defibrillator, "B" spill suits, Spill containment equipment-booms, pads and patching
- Brush 1 - 1985 Ford F350. It will be replaced as needed
 - Primary assignment: 1st out brush, grass, and forest
 - Special equipment: 250-gallon water tank and pump, Pre connected 1" and 1 ½" attack lines, "Back pack water cans", Wildfire hand tools
- Rescue 2 - Ford F-350 and trailer It is not due for replacement until about 2025
 - Primary assignment: Technical and special rescue
 - Secondary assignment: Department utility vehicle Special equipment: Technical and special rescue equipment Ropes, harnesses, and rigging equipment Hand tools Power tools Air tools Support struts Lumber (for blocking, bracing, and shoring)
- Utility Off Road Vehicle - 2012 Kubota It will be replaced as needed
 - Primary assignment: Off road rescue, EMS, fire attack, personnel and equipment movement.
 - Special Equipment: Stokers Basket, EMS Trauma Kit and AED, 50 gallon water tank. Custom body and Legend Air Suspension <http://legendsuspensions.com/>
- 58 A1 - 2003 International/MedTech Ambulance. It will be replaced as needed.
 - Primary assignment: All EMS calls
 - Special equipment: Fully equipped Advanced Life Support ambulance EMS trauma, medical, and pediatric crash packs Long boards, scoop stretcher, and stair chair Full splinting sets 12 lead cardiac monitor Onboard and portable oxygen Onboard and portable suction Onboard blanket and IV warmer On-dash and portable GPS
- EMS Squad 1 - Chevrolet Blazer It is not due for replacement until about 2015
 - Primary assignment: 1st out on all Emergency Medical calls
 - Special Equipment: EMS crash pack and defibrillator Oxygen and airway aids (including "combitubes") Powered airway suction EMT Med pack Pediatric care pack Long board & "C" collars Full splint set GPS

Water for the vehicles is usually pumped from the water hydrants located in the Village of Amherst. Additional water is available from four irrigation wells: 2 in the Town of Lanark and 2 in the Town of Amherst. In addition, there are a number of dry hydrants across the area. The District also has mutual aid agreements with other fire districts in Portage County to utilize their water resources, equipment and manpower if needed.

C. Schools

The Town of Amherst is served by two School Districts (Map 4.2).

1. Tomorrow River School District

The Tomorrow River School District is approximately 100 square miles in size, and includes 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, within a 193,627 sq. ft. interconnected structure in the Village of Amherst. The Tomorrow River School District employs approximately 38 teachers, 10 support staff and 4 administrators servicing 900 students in grades Pre-Kindergarten to 12 according to the school district website staff directory. The school is governed by a 5 member school board elected to three year terms.

The original high school building constructed in 1922 was 11,000 square feet in size. Additions to the school have included:

- A 7,500 square foot shop building added during the 1940's;
- A new 14,300 square foot band building in 1953;
- A 12,075 square foot elementary school addition in 1978;
- A 16,000 square foot elementary school addition in 1988. The area between the high school and elementary buildings has gradually been utilized for expansion, so that both buildings are now under one roof.
- In 2012, an \$8.5 million school expansion referendum passed for the construction of a new cafeteria and food service area. It will add five classrooms and address middle school gym locker issues of space and accessibility. A new bus loop and fire lane will be built on the west side of the building along with roadway improvements up to George Street. Funds will also be set aside to help acquire adjacent property to the south for future expansions. The gymnasium will get a new HVAC system and other fixtures and equipment will be updated.

The classroom additions will add 12,316 square feet to the school and the cafeteria expansion will add 19,311 square feet. The school structure will be approximately 193,627 square feet in size after the recent expansion is complete.

2. Iola-Scandinavia School District

The Iola-Scandinavia School District serves approximately 820 K-12th grade students in two facilities located in the Village of Iola, in Waupaca County.

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 75 teachers 8 teachers aids, 23 support staff, and 6 administrators.

3. University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point (UWSP)

UWSP is home to four colleges (fine arts and communication, letters and science, natural resources and professional studies) and enrolls approximately 9,500 students. Its academic programs offer 128 majors and minors plus 13 graduate programs.

The 400 acre main campus includes seven 15 academic and administrative buildings including Old Main, UWSP's administrative building, the University Centers and 13

residence halls housing over 3,500 students. North campus includes Schmeeckle Reserve, a 280-acre nature area with a 24-acre lake, nature center and trails that are part of the Portage County 26-mile Green Circle Trail. The Stevens Point campus is part of the University of Wisconsin System that includes 13 four-year campuses, 13 two-year centers and the University of Wisconsin-Extension. The University of Wisconsin system represents one of the finest educational institutions in the world. Access to information and research on virtually any topic is available on the internet.

4. Mid-State Technical College

Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) is one of 16 publicly supported colleges in the Wisconsin Technical College System. The Wisconsin Bluebook states that there were Approximately 11,055 full and part-time students enrolled during 2009 and 2010. MSTC offers technical training in nearly 44 programs by granting one- and two-year technical diplomas and two-year associate degrees in four areas: Business and Information Technology, Service and Health, General Education, and Technical and Industrial certificates. The Mid-State Technical College District includes full-service campuses in Marshfield, Stevens Point, and Wisconsin Rapids; a center in Adams; and several outreach sites.

In addition to these facilities in Stevens Point are: Fox Valley Technical College, located in Waupaca, and UW- Marathon County (2 year college) and North Central Technical College, located in Wausau.

Fox Valley Technical College (Waupaca Regional Center)

The Waupaca Regional Center provides credit courses that can be applied to associate degree, technical diploma programs or certificates. Numerous non-credit courses are offered for continuing education as well as for self-enrichment.

The Waupaca Regional Center provides focused training for Business Technology and Emergency Medical Service.

Detailed information on the achievement scores by school for each district can be found at (http://reportcards.dpi.wi.gov/rc_districts).

D. Parks and Recreation

There are no Town parks in the Town of Amherst. However, there are 2 parks that are owned and maintained by Portage County. Lake Emily Park is a 143-acre park located on the northern and eastern portions of Lake Emily. It features swimming, picnicking, fishing, camping and motor boating, with utilities, enclosed shelters, two playgrounds, a fishing pier and swimming raft including 51 camping sites and the new south campground has 15 campsites. The park is also available for passive day use activities.

The other County Park is Cate Park, a 9-acre undeveloped park located on the eastern shore of the Amherst Mill Pond. The main activities at this facility include fishing and picnicking with access provided to the 48 acre water body (Map 4.2). The park also provides access to the State bicycle and pedestrian trail system at Kale park. There is a place to park vehicles and easy access to the trails.

A number of boat launches within the Town are available to provide access to various water bodies. Portage County owns an unimproved boat launch on the south side of Lake Meyers on west Lake Meyers Road, an unimproved boat launch at Cate Park, north of the Village of

Amherst, and an improved boat launch on the east side of Lake Emily. There is also access to Ebert Lake through an unimproved boat launch at Edgewater Drive and Lime Lake Road. Ebert Lake is the only lake in the County that does not have any Eurasian Water Milfoil. Entrance to the lake is through crick that feeds the lake.

In addition to the named locations of lake access, the Town sports several more unimproved primitive access boat launches throughout the Town. These may span the range from gravel launch site for small fishing boats, to a primitive track through grass and woods to the water's edge. Parking at these locations is limited.

The County Fairgrounds, owned and managed by the non-profit Portage County Fair Association, is a 32-acre facility located between U.S. Highway 10 and Western way on Packer Avenue, west of the Village of Amherst in the Town of Amherst. It is currently a car racing track utilizing the dirt surface and is about .28 miles in circumference. It contains viewing stands, stables, and exhibition buildings. In addition to hosting the yearly fair, the fairgrounds are the site for the Little Britches Rodeo, the 4th of July activities and fireworks, flea markets, and assorted other activities. The buildings can be rented for other purposes including boat storage during the winter. In May of 2013 the Amherst Fairgrounds were approved through the Board of Adjustment to allow weekly auto racing.

More information regarding hiking and bicycling facilities in the Town can be found in the Transportation element of this plan.

E. Cemeteries

There are four cemeteries in the Town of Amherst that will adequately serve the residents through the time frame of this plan. They are located as follows:

- LOWER AMHERST CEMETERY, Section 27, near the intersection of Buchholz Road and U.S. Highway 10. This 3.5 acre cemetery is not affiliated with a church; it is operated and funded by a corporation with ties to the Fleming family. The corporation would like to procure the property on which the old Fleming School sat at some point in the future.
- BICKEL CEMETERY, Section 20, Amherst Township, Portage County, WI on County Road B, 1 mile west of Highway 10. This small but still active cemetery is owned and operated by St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the Village of Amherst.
- OAK GROVE CEMETERY, Section 22, Amherst Township, Portage County, WI on County B, ½ mile east of Amherst. This active cemetery is owned and maintained by Peace Lutheran Church, Village of Amherst.
- PORTAGE COUNTY POOR FARM CEMETERY, Section 08, Amherst Township, Portage County, WI on Lake Drive, just north of Hwy 10. This is an inactive cemetery that was once part of the Portage County Poor farm. Residents indicate that more bodies were buried in this area but the graves are unmarked. The Town would welcome a historian to further research this information in the future.

F. Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities located in the Town of Amherst. The closest facility is the Amherst Family Medical Center located near the center of the Town in the Village of Amherst. This clinic, associated with Ministry Medical Group Health Care, provides primary care services

for patients in the surrounding area. Normal business hours for this facility are 8:00a – 5:00p Monday through Friday.

The Village of Amherst also has the Roberts and Associates physical therapy facility. This facility treats for manual physical therapy, worker’s compensation, aquatic therapy, trigger point dry needling, and lower back pain.

The next closest facilities are in the cities of Stevens Point, Iola and Waupaca, each approximately 12 miles on either side of Amherst.

Marshfield Hospital has a clinic at the northeast intersection of U.S. Interstate 39 and State Highway 66. An Aspirus Health Clinic is operating at the northeast corner of U.S. Interstate 39 and County Highway HH.

Major hospitals utilized by residents include Riverside Hospital in Waupaca, Ministry-St. Michaels Hospital in Stevens Point, St. Joseph’s Hospital in Marshfield, and Riverview Hospital in Wisconsin Rapids. Other regional hospitals are found in Wausau and the Fox Valley.

G. Child Care Facilities

There are no licensed day care facilities in the Town of Amherst. However, there are several licensed facilities located in the Village of Amherst, and one licensed facility in the Village of Amherst Junction.

There are 2 different categories of state licensed child care, determined by 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.

There are no licensed Family Child Care Centers in the Town of Amherst, Village of Nelsonville, or Amherst Junction.

- 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.

The village of Amherst has two Licensed Group Child Care Centers:

1. Amhersts Own Child Care Inc at 235 Lincoln St, Amherst, Wi 54406. They have a State of Wisconsin Youngstar rating of 3 stars.
2. Sarahs Family Day Care, 202 High St, Amherst, Wi 54406. They have a State of Wisconsin Youngstar rating of 3 stars.

The Licensed Group Child Care Center is located south of the Town of Amherst in the Town of Lanark. It is included because it is located near the Town of Amherst:

1. Little Angels Daycare, 9387 County Road D, Amherst, Wi 54406, They have a State of Wisconsin Youngstar rating of 3 stars.

Licensed child care facilities can be found by searching the following WI, government website. You can search by location, child care name, type of child care, or by the youngstar quality. This site will also provide a rating by 5 stars of the quality of the daycare facilities and the types of violations found at the facility:

<http://childcarefinder.wisconsin.gov/Search/BasicSearch.aspx>

For a complete list of providers, contact the Regional Division of Children and Referral of Central Wisconsin at: 210 E. Jackson Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, Phone: (715) 423-4114.

H. Libraries

Although there is no library in the Town of Amherst, residents still have access to several library resources close by. The Lettie W. Jensen Public Library located at 278 North Main Street, in the Village of Amherst and is a member of the South Central Library System. 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.

The Portage County Library System has branches throughout the County. 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 Town of Amherst. There is also another branch in the Village of Plover, located at 2151 Roosevelt Drive, approximately 10 miles from the center of Amherst. 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.

I. Aging and Disability Resource Center

The Aging and Disability Resource Center, located in the Lincoln Center at 1519 Water Street in Stevens Point, provides a delivered meal program to Portage County Residents who have difficulty preparing meals, skip meals, have difficulty leaving home, or are at risk due to living alone or need a regular check for safety purposes.

The meals provide 1/3 of an adult's daily nutritional requirement, improve health, provide connections to other supportive services, and offer friendship. Most special dietary requirements can be met through the program. Deliveries are made between 10:30 and 12:30 Monday through Friday with frozen meals being delivered for non-delivery days. Residents who will not be home for deliveries are asked to call ahead and tell the Center they will not be present. A small donation to cover meals is requested but not required.

Section 4.4 Utilities and Community Facilities Issues

The following issues regarding utilities or community facilities were identified during the comprehensive planning process:

- As growth occurs, how will the Town provide adequate emergency services?
- How can the Town protect groundwater quality?
- How can surface waters be protected from run-off?
- What can the Town do to address safety concerns on and around Lake Emily?
- How can the Town enforce ordinances pertaining to recreational usage, especially on Lake Emily?
- How can the Town limit the proliferation of communication towers?
- What technologies or systems are available to replace failing septic systems?
- How can the Town monitor groundwater quality around existing or closed landfills?

Section 4.5 Utilities and Community Facilities Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 1: Ensure a range of services to meet present and future needs.

Objective 1.1: Residents are provided an adequate level of emergency services.

Policies:

1. Ask the Portage County Sheriff's Department for crash and injury data on a regular basis. Use this information to address issues of road safety.
2. Continue to address and strengthen intergovernmental agreements with the Portage County emergency dispatch and adjoining municipalities to maintain efficient emergency medical response, police and fire protection services.

Objective 1.2: The Town will continue to review proposals for new communication towers.

Policy: Continue the current method of reviewing the proposed communications tower. Provide a recommendation to Portage County Board of Adjustment for approval or disapproval.

Goal 2: Protect groundwater quality.

Objective 2.1: Encourage the use of Best Management Practices by agricultural operations to ensure a supply of potable water.

Policy: Report obvious overflows of agricultural manure to the Portage County Land Conservation Section for follow up to the event and to begin to find a method to prevent future overflow events.

Objective 2.2: Encourage the use of newer technologies to replace failing septic systems.

Policy: Maintain housing densities at a 2 acre minimum for lots not connected to sewer or water.

Goal 3: Protect and preserve Lake Emily Park, other parks, the trail and the fairgrounds.

Objective 3.1: Properly maintain recreation facilities throughout the Town.

Policies:

1. Work with the County Parks Department to mitigate negative impacts to Lake Emily Park.
2. Work with the County Parks Department and other organizations to monitor the usage of recreational facilities.
3. Work with the County to enforce ordinances designed to protect and preserve recreation facilities.
4. Continue to participate in the Portage County Outdoor Recreation Plan in order to take advantage of grants aimed at park updates or improvements that become available.