

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 the present day standard of living could not exist. The decisions made for the Town of Belmont regarding the utilities and community facilities will impact 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

There is no sanitary sewer service in the Town of Belmont. 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. The Town is comfortable with the County handling all private onsite wastewater issues.

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 of this Comprehensive 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. The locations of many of the smaller, private dumps, however, 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 within Portage County, 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 Belmont 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 Belmont, while the Town maintains any ditches along local Town roads. Ditches along Town roads vary in size, ranging from 0 to 4 feet in width.

D. Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities

The Town currently contracts with Wittenberg Disposal Service out of Wittenberg, WI for the pick-up of solid waste and recycling from individual residences. Solid waste is taken to the Portage County Landfill in the Town of Stockton, while recycling is taken to the Portage County Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in the Village of Plover. The Portage County Landfill is scheduled to close in 2006, after which the waste will be trucked to a landfill in Marathon County.

E. Corporate Utilities

1. Telecommunication Facilities – The Town does not own or manage any telecommunication facilities. Currently, there are no telecommunication towers located within the Town of Belmont.
2. Power Generating Plants and Transmission Lines – As of the writing of this plan, there are no generation plants or substations located within the Town. One high voltage transmission line runs along the very southeastern edge of the Town. Electrical service is supplied through Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, Alliant Energy, or Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative.
3. Telephone and Internet Services – Telephone service is currently provided to residents, depending on where they live, by a variety of carriers. Residents also obtain Internet access through a variety of private carriers.

Section 4.3 Community Facilities Inventory and Analysis

A. Municipal Buildings

Currently, the only municipal building in the Town of Belmont is the Town Hall, located at 9110 16th Road. This facility includes administrative offices and public meeting space. The Town does not have a municipal garage for vehicle storage, therefore, Belmont contracts with T & C Pavement Maintenance Inc. out of Waupaca for snow plowing and some road maintenance.

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 Belmont is located is bounded to the north by STH 54 and the Wisconsin River, and the Portage County line to the east, west, and south. 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 Town currently contracts with Almond, Waupaca, and Wild Rose for fire protection. The Almond Fire Station was built in 1992 and is located within the Village of Almond on Main Street. This department serves the Town of Almond and parts of the Towns of Belmont and

Map 4.1: Community Utilities

Buena Vista with fire, rescue, and first responder services. As of 2003, there were 8 vehicles within the 6,400 square foot fire station including:

- 1 engine/pumper which has a 1,000 gallon capacity and 1,000 gallon per minute pump rate
- 1 engine/pumper which has a 750 gallon capacity and 500 gallon per minute pump rate
- 3 tankers having a 1,500 gallon, 1,600 gallon, and 3,200 gallon capacity
- 1 pumper/tanker which has a 2,400 gallon capacity
- 1 brush rig which has a 250 gallon capacity
- 1 first responder truck
- 1 snowmobile rescue sled

These vehicles are replaced every 10 to 12 years. The 750-gallon capacity engine is due for replacement in the near future. Water for these vehicles can be pumped from numerous irrigation wells within the fire district. There are 30 volunteer firefighters and 13 first responders in the district. These services are currently considered adequate.

The Waupaca Fire District, located in Waupaca and Portage Counties, covers 145 square miles. This includes the City of Waupaca, Townships of Waupaca, Farmington, Dayton, Lind (Waupaca County) and portions of the Townships of Lanark and Belmont (Portage County). This is a volunteer department with 35 trained firefighters. The department has the following equipment:

- 4 engines/pumpers
 - 1,000 gallon per minute pump rate with a 750 gallon capacity with an 800 foot, 5-inch large diameter hose
 - 1,000 gallon per minute pump rate with a 750 gallon capacity
 - 1,500 gallon per minute pump rate with 1,250 gallon capacity
 - 750 gallon per minute pump rate with a 500 gallon capacity
- 1 ladder truck with a 1500 gallon per minute pump rate and a 200 gallon capacity, 400 foot, 5-inch diameter hose, with ladder elevations of -5 to 75 degrees
- 2 tankers each having a 3,000 gallon capacity
- 2 utility/grass fire vehicles
- 1 rescue vehicle

Water for these vehicles is usually pumped from the water hydrants located in the City of Waupaca.

The headquarters for the Wild Rose Area Fire District is located approximately five miles south of the Town's southern boundary at 720 Main St., Wild Rose, Wisconsin. As of 2003, the staff consisted of 30 paid-on-call members, 7 EMTs, 1 HAZMAT specialist and 5 HAZMAT technicians. Equipment for the fire district includes:

- 2 pumpers, each with 1,000 gallon tanks
- 3 tankers with tank capacities of 4,000, 3,500, and 1,000 gallons
- 2 mini-pumpers with tank capacities of 350 and 300 gallons
- 1 rescue vehicle
- 1 back-up rescue vehicle
- 2 portable generators

The Town of Belmont is currently served by the Portage County Rescue Department, with ambulance service provided by Portage County. The Portage County Rescue Department covers approximately 810 square miles, and is the primary responder in the area. The department has 4 ambulances staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Most patients are transported to St. Michael's Hospital in Stevens Point. However, patients can also be transported to medical facilities in other cities. The rescue equipment includes the following equipment:

- 5 medic vehicles
- 1 rescue air boat

There are two (2) First Responders units that serve the Town of Belmont, one in Almond and one in Wild Rose (Waushara County).

C. Schools

The Town of Belmont is divided between three School Districts: Wild Rose, Almond-Bancroft, and Waupaca (see Map 4.2).

1. Wild Rose School District

The Wild Rose School District has three schools located within the Village of Wild Rose in northern Waushara County. The district's two elementary schools and middle school/high school (grades 6-12) serves approximately 750 PreK-12 grade students. There are 62 staff and 3 administrators in this district.

2. Almond-Bancroft School District

The Almond-Bancroft School District has schools located within the Village of Almond and the unincorporated community of Bancroft. The Bancroft elementary school has approximately 30 students in early childhood through kindergarten. The Village of Almond elementary school (1st – 5th grades) has approximately 200 students and the high school (6th – 12th grades) has approximately 300 students. Both the elementary and the high school grades are located in one building in the Village of Almond.

3. Waupaca School District

The Waupaca School District is approximately 160 square miles in size, and includes the City of Waupaca and surrounding Towns, and parts of the Portage County Towns of Lanark and Belmont. There are four elementary schools, one middle school, one accelerated learning center, and one high school located within the district, serving approximately 2,925 students, grades K-12.

A number of post-secondary education opportunities for Town residents are available. State Universities include: the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, in Stevens Point; the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County, located in Wausau; the University of Wisconsin-Wood County/Marshfield in Marshfield; and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, in Oshkosh. Technical Colleges include: Mid-State Technical College, in Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids; North Central Technical College, in Wausau; and Fox Valley Technical College, with locations in Appleton, Oshkosh, and Waupaca. All of these facilities are within approximately one hour of Belmont.

Map 4.2 Community Facilities

D. Parks

There are no Town or County parks in the Town of Belmont. However, Emmons Creek State Fishery and DNR lands adjacent to Pickerel Lake are located in the Town, as well as a portion of Hartman Creek State Park.

- Wildlife Management Lands (Emmons Creek, Pearl Creek, Murry Creek, Pickerel Lake) are undeveloped lands along streams and lakes. These lands are owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and total over 1,600 acres within the Town of Belmont. These lands provide opportunities for hiking, fishing, and wildlife viewing.
- Hartman Creek State Park is a 1,417-acre regional park facility that offers a range of year-round amenities, including: hiking, biking, swimming, camping, and horseback riding. Approximately 340 acres of the park are in the Town of Belmont.

E. Cemeteries

The Town currently has 4 cemeteries that will adequately serve Town residents through this planning horizon. They are located as follows:

- ELMWOOD CEMETERY, Section 10, Township of Belmont, Portage County, WI, on County Road D, east of the intersection of 16th Road and County Road TT.
- FIRST BELMONT CEMETERY, Section 20, Portage County, WI, on County Road D, between 2nd Avenue and County Road AA.
- GREENVALE CEMETERY, Section 36, Portage County, WI, on State Highway 22, south of County Road AA.
- HOPE CEMETERY, Section 33, Portage County, WI, on Akron Rd.

F. Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities located within in the Town of Belmont. The closest facilities to Belmont are: the Chain O' Lakes Family Clinic and Thedacare, located approximately 15 miles east of the Town in Waupaca; and the Wild Rose Community Memorial Hospital, located approximately 8 miles south of the Town in Wild Rose. Other area facilities include St. Michaels Hospital and Rice Medical Center located in Stevens Point, approximately 25 miles northwest of Belmont.

G. Child Care Facilities

There are no licensed childcare facilities in the Town of Belmont. The closest facility in Portage County is located in the Village of Almond. 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 closest library facility available to Town residents within Portage County is the Almond Branch of the Portage County Library System, located approximately 8 miles from the center of Belmont at 122 Main Street in the Village of Almond. Hours for the Almond Branch can be obtained by calling 715-366-2151. More detailed information about the Portage County Public

Library System can be obtained via the internet at: <http://library.uwsp.edu/pcl/> or by calling the Library System at: **1-800-264-0766**.

Other library facilities available to Town residents include the Patterson Memorial Library located in Wild Rose (Waushara County) and the Waupaca Area Library located in Waupaca (Waupaca County). Patterson Library is associated with the Winnefox Library system and is open Monday through Friday. More information regarding this facility can be obtained on the internet at: <http://www.wildroselibrary.org/> or by calling **920-622-3835**. The Waupaca Library is associated with the Outagamie Waupaca Library System and is open Monday through Saturday. The library maintains Sunday hours October through April. More information regarding this facility can be obtained on the internet at <http://www.waupacalibrary.org/> or by calling **715-258-4414**.

Section 4.4 Summary of Future Needs

The Town of Belmont, as indicated in the Issues and Opportunities chapter, is projected to increase its population by only 141 residents by 2025. As such, many of the existing utilities and facilities, including schools, libraries, hospitals, and transmission lines will adequately serve current and future residents.

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

On-going evaluation of police and rescue services will be take place based on citizen input. 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 Identified by the Plan Commission

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

- Increased usage of Fountain and Pickerel Lakes has resulted in increasing concerns regarding personal safety and more garbage at these sites. To what extent can the Town promote personal responsibility and the proper maintenance of these sites for present and future generations?
- Increased usage of the Emmons Creek area is resulting in more cars parking along roads associated with that area. To what extent should the Town address the need for more parking and the ability to ensure public safety along roads in the Emmons Creek area?
- How can cell phone service and emergency management communications be improved without the unnecessary proliferation of towers?
- The Town has identified a need for improved response time to personal injuries. What can the Town do to encourage more residents to participate in the First Responders program?

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, including Fountain and Pickerel Lakes, in Belmont.

Policy 1.1(a): Use Conservancy Zoning in designated areas to protect public green space and water resources in 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): Periodically meet with appropriate governmental units and agencies to review the sharing or expansion of services and facilities as the need arises.

Policy 1.3(b): Work with appropriate agencies to improve public safety near state owned facilities within the Town.

Objective 1.4: Increase the presence of emergency services in the area.

Policy 1.4(a): Work with Portage County to improve emergency response time.

Policy 1.4(b): Encourage the establishment of a satellite ambulance station in eastern Portage County.

Policy 1.4(c): Recruit volunteers for First Responder services.