

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 Linwood regarding the utilities and community facilities will impact all present and future residents.

This chapter will list the existing utilities and community facilities serving the community and outline future desires and needs for Town residents.

Maps: Community Utilities (Page 34) - Community Facilities (Page 35)

Section 4.2 Public Utilities and Community Facilities Inventory

A. Sanitary Sewer Service

There is no sanitary sewer service in the Town of Linwood. 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. Currently Portage County Zoning does not allow for holding tank installation in new home construction.

B. Water Supply

The Town relies entirely on private wells for water supply. Please see the groundwater section of the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources chapter of this Comprehensive Plan for further information (Page 40).

Since potable water is obtained primarily from groundwater, consideration should be given to possible sources of contamination. One possible source is landfills. Other possible sources are private septic systems, uncapped wells, and subdivisions (due to the high concentration of septic systems). 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, including the County Landfill located on County Road QQ, have been closed. According to the 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. There is an abandoned landfill located in the Town of Linwood, at 1662 West River Drive West.

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 Linwood is split between Portage County and the Town. Storm water facilities consist mainly of ditches along the road network. Portage County is currently working on a County-wide Storm Water Management Plan. Town of Linwood is currently regulated by the Department of Natural Resources, Corp of Engineers, and Portage County Planning and Zoning Department.

D. Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities

The Town residents are responsible for the pick-up of solid waste and recycling from their individual residences and businesses. The Town of Linwood offers a recycling drop off to the residents the first Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to noon at the Town Hall/Garage. Town-wide solid waste/recycling pickup may be reviewed in the future.

E. Corporate Utilities

1. Telecommunication Facilities – The Town does not own or manage any telecommunication facilities.
2. Power Generating Plants and Transmission Lines – As of the writing of this Plan, there is one generation plant operated by Consolidated Power & Light Company and Transmission Lines served by WI Public Service Corporation.
3. Telephone and Internet Services- Telephone and internet service is currently provided to residents, depending on where they live, by a variety of carriers.
4. Waste Water Treatment Facility – NewPage (Papermill) operates a Waste Water Treatment Facility located in the Town of Linwood at 2690 West River Drive West.

Section 4.3 Community Facilities Inventory and Analysis

A. Municipal Buildings

Currently, the only municipal building in the Town of Linwood is the Town Hall located at 3160 Mill Creek Drive. This facility includes administrative offices, public meeting space, and municipal garages for vehicle maintenance and storage.

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.

The Town currently contracts with the Rudolph Volunteer Fire Department for fire protection and first responder services. Sub Station "2" is located in the Town of Linwood, 1785 West River Drive West.

The Town of Linwood is currently served by the Portage County Rescue Department, with ambulance service provided by Portage County. Most patients are transported to St. Michaels Hospital in Stevens Point. However, patients can also be transported to medical facilities in other cities. (Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, Wausau, and Waupaca)

The Town of Linwood developed an Emergency Response Plan, to provide procedures to respond to various types of emergencies and disasters.

C. Schools

The Town of Linwood is served by the Stevens Point School District. There are nine elementary schools, one senior high, two junior highs, located within the district.

The Stevens Point Area Catholic Schools also serve the area, this system consists of one high school, one junior high, three grade schools, and one pre-school.

There are several other private schools located in the Stevens Point Area School District.

Post-secondary education opportunities for town residents are available at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Mid-State Technical College, in Stevens Point.

D. Parks

There are several small County parks located along the Wisconsin River on West River Drive West in the Town of Linwood. Portage County also has a preserve (approximately 83.66 acres along Little Chicago Road and Rocky Run Road), “Rocky Run Preserve”, with an entrance on Rocky Run Road. The Town also contains one privately owned golf course. There are three public boat landings located in the Town. Hunting, fishing, and boating are three of the important recreational activities available in Linwood.

E. Cemeteries

The Town currently has two cemeteries and one burial site, they are located as follows:

- Union Cemetery, Mill Creek Drive
- Veterans Cemetery, Cemetery Road (Town of Linwood has a list of civil war veterans)
- Burial Site, West River Drive West

F. Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities located within the Town of Linwood. The closest facilities to Linwood are: St. Michaels Hospital Ministry Health Care/ Rice Medical Center in Stevens Point and the Aspirus and Rice Clinics in the Village of Plover.

Senior and disabled residents of the Town of Linwood are served by several programs that are administered and operated by Portage County. The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Portage County at the Lincoln Center, 1519 Water Street, Stevens Point, Wisconsin provides answers to issues regarding hospice care, nursing, home-delivered meals, and transportation needs for those individuals who are in need. Several out-of-home dining sites are located throughout the county and an adult day care center is also located at the Lincoln Center. In addition, the Portage County Interfaith Caregivers offers transportation services through the Lincoln Center. More information and assistance is available at 715-346-1405.

G. Child Care Facilities

There are no public childcare facilities at this time located in the Town of Linwood. There are privately operated day care facilities in the town.

H. Libraries

The closest library facility available to Town residents within Portage County, is the Portage County Public Library 1001 Main Street, Stevens Point. Hours for the public library can be obtained by calling (715) 346-1223. More detailed information about the Portage County Public Library System can be obtained via the internet at: "<http://library.uwsp.cdu/pcl/>" or by calling the library system at: 1-800-264-0766.

Section 4.4 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:

- The Town is in need of a more convenient emergency shelter, in case of a natural disaster. Currently Kennedy School in Junction City is listed as the emergency shelter for the Town of Linwood.
- 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 for personal emergency medical services. How can the Town of Linwood ensure the quality response times of emergency medical services?

Section 4.5 Vision for Utilities and Community Facilities

Public Facilities

The Town of Linwood residents will enjoy a network of high quality, efficient public facilities while living in Portage County. With services provided in Portage County and our closeness to these areas, our roadways make it easy for us to get to these areas.

Key Vision Ideas for Public Facilities:

- A. Encourage consideration of cost efficient utilities where available and appropriate.
- B. Continue to have quality education facilities in the Stevens Point Area School District.
- C. Portage County coverage for emergency services will continue to improve response times and Rudolph Volunteer Fire Department first responders will continue their reasonable response times.
- D. Places in Portage County and Town of Linwood will be available for activities for the youth of our community.
- E. An elementary school should be located in close proximity to the Town of Linwood.

Section 4.6 Utilities and Community Facilities Goals, Objectives, and Policies

A. Goal:

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

B. Objectives:

1. Structural design standards are used to enhance rural character.
2. Share services across county or municipal borders whenever possible.
3. Increase presence of emergency services in the area.

C. Policies:

1. Work with Portage County to maintain or strengthen existing ordinances concerning the siting of cell towers, radio towers, wind energy systems, and solar panel stations.
2. Periodically meet with appropriate governmental units and agencies to review the sharing or expansion of services and facilities as the need arises.
3. Work with appropriate agencies to improve public safety near all facilities within the town.
4. Work with Portage County to improve emergency response time.
5. Encourage the establishment of a satellite ambulance station in Stevens Point and Rudolph Volunteer Fire Department (Station #2).
6. Work with the Emergency Management Office to look at the possibility of using Jackson Environmental Center as a emergency shelter for the Town of Linwood.

Section 4.7 Utilities & Facilities in the Town of Linwood

Wisconsin Public Service P.O. Box 19001 Green Bay, WI 54307-9001
24 Hour Customer Service: 1-800-450-7260

Koch Petroleum Group LP P.O. Box 64596 St Paul, Minnesota 55164-0596
Non-Emergency: 1-651-480-3936
Call before you dig: (Wisconsin) 1-800-242-8511

Charter Communications 123 W State Street Medford, WI 54451
1-800-581-0081

AT&T P.O. Box 8105 Aurora IL 60507-8105
Repair Service: 1-800-288-2020
AT&T Long Distance: 1-800-288-2020
Automated Billing/Payment Arrangements: 1-800-538-0503

Solarus 440 East Grand Avenue P.O. Box 8045 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8045
1-800-421-9282 (715) 421-8111

NewPage Water Renewal Center 2690 West River Drive West Stevens Point, WI 54481

Linwood Community Utilities Map

Linwood Community Facilities Map