

CHAPTER 4 Utilities and Community Facilities Element

66.1001(2)(d) Wis. Statutes

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 standard of living could not exist. The decisions made for the Town of Sharon 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 needs for Town residents based on projections and desires.

Section 4.2 Public Utilities and Community Facilities Inventory

Below are descriptions of existing public utilities and community facilities for the Town of Sharon. There are also future needs/wants that the Town envisions for government services relating to such utilities and facilities.

A. Sanitary Sewer Service

There is no municipal sewer service available in the Town. Residents are served by on-site wastewater treatment systems (septic systems).

B. Storm Water Management

Surface drainage in the Town is characterized by an extensive system of glacial lakes and by the Plover and Tomorrow Rivers. About a third of the town is poorly drained due to numerous low and flat areas without drainage outlets and partially underlain by shallow bedrock. These conditions result in extensive wetland and wet soils areas. Flood Hazard Boundary Maps have been prepared by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1977. Preliminary 1982 Flood Insurance Rate Maps were prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and updated in 2009. The other 2/3 of the Town has sandy and gravelly well drained and excessively drained soils. When the soils are not frozen, there is little runoff. The amount of winter/spring runoff depends on snow, spring rain and melt conditions. Much of that runoff is temporarily stored in the normally dry glacial kettles in fields and forests.

Responsibility for storm water management within the Town of Sharon 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 highways within Sharon, while the Town maintains any ditches along Town roads. The ditches along Town roads vary in size, ranging from 1 to 4 feet in width. Additional information can be found in the **Town of Sharon Road Ordinance** (this Ordinance can be obtained at the Sharon Town Hall).

Improvements on existing Town roads can be made at the discretion of the Town Board while referencing the Town Road Ordinance. Any new road construction will strictly follow the Town Road Ordinance.

C. Water Supply

The Town does not have a municipal water system. The primary source of water for residents in Sharon is found in the groundwater aquifer and is obtained via private wells. The groundwater aquifer refers to a saturated, permeable geologic formation that yields significant quantities of water. Groundwater in the southwestern quarter of the Town, particularly in the Ellis area, is

generally plentiful and of good natural quality. The plentiful groundwater there is a natural environmental and economic resource that has been tapped via irrigation technology to increase the crop yields on much of these soils.

The County Health Department and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point have documented significant levels and distribution of nitrates, although nitrate levels can fluctuate seasonally. State and Federal regulations advise that nitrate levels in drinking water not exceed 10.00 parts per million (ppm) for health reasons. Portage County well data records can be viewed on **Map #038**.

Approximately 3,200 acres in the Town of Sharon, including the Ellis area, was placed within an atrazine ban area in 1982 (**see Map #037**). A ban was placed in areas throughout Portage County in the recharge portions of aquifers where contamination levels in excess of 10 parts per billion (ppb) had been detected.

The Portage County Groundwater Management Plan indicates that proper lot size is a critical factor in preventing groundwater pollution from private sewage systems. The traditional 1/2 acre lots used in many parts of the Town and County in previous years have been found to provide insufficient area to prevent degradation of groundwater quality. Lot sizes of 2 acres or more were found to be needed to minimize potential groundwater problems (**see Map #040**).

D. Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities

The Town of Sharon currently contracts with Portage County Solid Waste Disposal Dept. through contracts for solid waste disposal and collection of recyclables. Solid waste and recyclables are collected on a weekly basis and taken to the Portage County Transfer Facility in Plover.

E. On-site Wastewater Treatment Technologies

The Town of Sharon has no municipal wastewater treatment facility. Residents in the Town utilize private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS), otherwise known as private septic systems, as allowed by Wisconsin Department of Commerce Code 83.

F. Parks

Only one county facility, Becker Lake Recreation Area, is located in the Town of Sharon (**see Map #042**). It is a 40-acre natural area adjacent to Becker Lake used primarily for hunting and nature appreciation. Other county parks, adjacent to the Town, include Collins Park and Jordan Park. Collins Park is a 22-acre park located on the northern shore of Collins Lake just across CTH I in the Town of Alban. Amenities include: a beach, picnic and restroom facilities, campsites, swimming raft, playground, shelter, boat ramp, and manager's residence.

Jordan Park is a 293-acre County facility located at the intersection of STH 66 and Jordan Road and is the major public recreational facility in the Town of Hull. Primary activities at this park include camping, swimming, fishing and picnicking.

There are no town parks within the boundaries of the Town of Sharon at this time. As the Town of Sharon grows and completes their visions, the **Town Parkland Dedication Ordinance** will be used to incorporate town parks as needed. (This Ordinance can be obtained at the Sharon Town Hall.)

G. Telecommunication Facilities

There are several telecommunication towers located in the Town of Sharon. At the present time there are five towers located on the south side of 10th street between CTH J and CTH K in the Town of Stockton. The towers serve two-way radio, telephone, and other wireless customers.

H. Power Generating Plants and Transmission Lines

The Town currently receives its electric service from three different companies. The northern portion of the Town is served by Central Wisconsin Electric Coop, out of Iola, WI, and Alliant Energy, while the southern portion is served by Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPSC) out of Plover, WI. Some residents also receive gas service from WPSC. There is no generation plant located in the Town; however, there are four substations located in the Town as follows: 1) In Polonia, 2) near Twin Lakes, 3) at the intersection of Deer Road and Merryland Drive, and 4) on Woodland Road 2 miles north of STH 66.

I. Cemeteries

The Town currently has two Cemeteries. One is located across from Sacred Heart Church of Polonia on Church property and is maintained by the Sacred Heart Church Parish; the other Town Cemetery is located west of Polonia at the old St. Martin's Church site also owned and maintained by the Sacred Heart Church Parish (see **Map #020**).

J. Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities of any kind in the Town. Residents travel primarily to neighboring communities for their health care needs.

K. Senior/Child Care Facilities

As of 2010, there is one senior care facility located in Sharon to assist handicapped persons. The Housing Authority of Portage County provides subsidized rental units to qualifying tenants. Under this program the HAPC has an apartment located in the Village of Rosholt, which has 4 two-bedroom units and 6 one-bedroom units.

Other senior care facilities, including Community Based Residential Facilities, Adult Day Care and Hospice care, are located in the Stevens Point Urban Area approximately 12 miles from the center of Sharon.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services, no person may for compensation provide care and supervision for 4 or more children under the age of 7 for less than 24 hours a day unless that person obtains a license to operate a child care center from the Department. This does not include a relative or guardian of a child who provides care and supervision for the child; a public or parochial school; a person employed to come to the home of the child's parent or guardian for less than 24 hours a day; or a county, city, village, town, school district or library that provides programs primarily intended for recreational or social purposes. Child care centers are licensed by the state from one of five regional licensing offices. There are 2 different categories of state licensed child care; they depend upon 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. It is not required to be located in a residence.

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.

There are currently (2016) no licensed Group Child Care facilities located in the Town. There is one licensed Family Child Care facility located on Butterfield Road, and a number of providers in the Stevens Point urban area. For a complete list of providers, contact the local child care resource and referral agency at:

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

L. Police

The Town of Sharon is served by the Portage County Sheriffs Department.

M. Fire and Rescue

The Town of Sharon shares in a fire district with the Village of Rosholt and the Town of Alban. A future fire substation may be needed in the Town as growth and development dictates. The Rosholt Fire District also has mutual aid agreements for fire protection with surrounding communities which are approved by the Town.

N. Emergency Medical Services

Through mutual agreement between the city of Stevens Point and Portage County, the countywide ambulance service plan will continue to provide the Town of Sharon with ambulance service. Additionally, the Town provides first responder service to its residents which is managed by the Rosholt Fire District.

O. Libraries

There are no libraries within the boundaries of the Town of Sharon. However, the Portage County Library, located in the city of Stevens Point on Main Street, is supported by all the municipalities in the County and is available for the Town resident's use.

P. Schools

The Town of Sharon is served by public and private schools in Stevens Point, Rosholt, and Portage County. (See Map #021.) Additionally, Sacred Heart School with Grades 1-6 is located in the Town next to the Sacred Heart Church of Polonia. Higher education choices exist in the area.

Q. Other Governmental Facilities

The Town of Sharon Town Hall is located on STH 66, ¼ mile west of Ellis. The Town Garage is located on Grader Lane in Polonia.

Section 4.3 Utilities and Community Facilities Issues

The following major issues were brought about as a result of public input taken at Plan Commission meetings:

- How can we address the potential future need for water and/or sewer service in the Polonia area?

- How can we obtain improved cell phone and broadband service in the Polonia area?
- How can we provide recreational opportunities for local youth?
- How can we reduce the overall cost of fire insurance for town residents?
- How can we enhance our ambulance and first responder service?
- How can we obtain improved energy transmission and distribution?

Section 4.4 Utilities and Community Facilities Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 1: Consider a plan for future development to be placed in such a way as to facilitate economical use of utilities as future needs arise such as in the Polonia area.

Objectives:

- Plan for future lot sizes that will make sewer service affordable through subdivision layout, i.e., building placement on a lot to allow for future lot split.

Policies:

- Allow for multi-residence communal septic system as technology develops per Wisconsin Department of Commerce rules pertaining to private on site waste treatment systems.

Goal 2: Provide for limited telecommunication service development.

Objectives:

- Allow for use of existing structures for cell towers.
- Consider plan for future towers to be added to enhance the Town’s communication capabilities.

Policy: Consider developing an ordinance for telecommunication towers/wind towers.

Goal 3: Encourage privately sponsored activities for local youth.

Objectives:

- Work with area civic and church groups.
- Promote community involvement to provide facilities.

Policies:

- Work with area civic and church groups.
- Promote community involvement to provide programs and facilities.

Goal 4: Implement cost effective procedures for added fire protection.

Objectives:

- Maintain our mutual aid agreements.
- Implement protection districts within the overall district so they relate to insurance costs for residents.

Policy: Work to establish a fire protection substation within the Town boundaries if economically feasible.

Goal 5: Provide for increased safety protection.

Objectives:

- Consider mutual aid agreements.

- Promote involvement in first responder program.

Policy: Consider ideas that are economically feasible to offer quicker and better safety protection when it arises.