

5.0 UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

General Overview

The quality of life of the residents of the Town of Tilden depends greatly on the type and extent of the facilities and services available in the community. The residents generally are concerned about health, safety, education and recreation. In order to sustain the reputation of the community and to make it attractive to potential new residents, citizens must have a good understanding of current conditions.

This element examines a variety of factors in making a community of high quality. The intent is to acquaint individuals with specific factors that currently exist. This baseline information can then be used to provide direction for utility, facility and service growth as the population increases in the coming years.

Objectives of the Element

The intent of this element is to provide information on the facilities and services currently available to the Town. This information should help identify what additional facilities are needed to obtain the level of the quality of life desired for the community in the future.

The structure and content of this element is based on the following objectives:

- Identify and describe the range of community services currently provided in the Town.
- Identify the capacity of community services currently provided.
- Identify and describe the range of public facilities currently provided in the Town.
- Identify what public facilities need to be expanded.

Existing Public Facilities and Services

Water Facilities

There is no public water system in place within the Town. Residents get potable water from private wells. The nearest public water system is in the City of Chippewa Falls.

Wastewater Facilities

There is no public sanitary sewer system in place within the Town. Resident's sanitary sewer needs are met through private septic systems. The nearest public sanitary sewer system is in the City of Chippewa Falls.

Storm Water Management Facilities

A public storm sewer system is not available in the Town. Storm water is dispersed using the natural contours of the land in most sections of the township with drainage flowing down feeder streams to Duncan Creek. One exception is a set of holding ponds that were constructed to collect runoff in the

“Hidden Ridge Addition”. Other private storm water management facilities are regulated by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Where roads and other construction have disturbed the terrain, ditches, culverts and bridges have to be used to allow continued drainage. These facilities have been constructed following state and county specifications. In rough terrain where heavy rains could cause washing of unprotected soil, catch basins and/or rock rip-rapping have to be installed to slow water flow and prevent damage.

Solid Waste Disposal/Recycling

The Town is part of the Chippewa County Solid Waste management and recycling program. Residents take their garbage and recyclable materials to the Town recycling center which is located behind the Town Hall (10790 100th Ave.). Residents may also elect to pay for curbside service which is available through a local carrier.

Glass, metal cans, newspaper, cardboard and scrap metal are collected at the center and are sorted by the contracted service provider for further recycling. Garbage is collected and sent to an appropriate landfill. Appliances may be processed at the recycling center as well. The Town cannot accept all appliances at this time.

Recreational Facilities and Area Attractions

Several outdoor recreational activities are available in the area. These include hunting, fishing, hiking, golfing, biking, cross country skiing and snowmobiling. Several major attractions that are located close to the Town include Irvine Park, Lake Wissota State Park and Lake Wissota. These venues offer the following:

- Irvine Park is located in the City of Chippewa Falls and offers a zoo, picnicking, hiking and cross country skiing.
- Lake Wissota State Park is located east of the Town and offers a wide variety of outdoor activities including camping, hiking, cross country skiing, nature trails, and swimming.
- Lake Wissota is a 6,024 acre reservoir that is part of the Chippewa River system. The lake offers swimming, boating and fishing. It has a number of public access points including several improved boat launches. In the winter, the lake is also used by snowmobilers.
- The “Duncan Creek Campground” and the “Villa Campground” are located in the Town of Tilden and are privately owned facilities that offer camping to the public.

The area also has a number of golf courses which are located within easy driving distance from the Town. In addition, organized adult softball, baseball, and volleyball are offered at privately owned businesses located within the Town. A public shooting range which is operated in cooperation with Chippewa County is available to gunners wanting to practice their shooting skills. The range is located on 130th Avenue. Archery ranges are also located in the town. There is an active snowmobile club within the Town who help maintain numerous snowmobile trails.

Library Service

There are two public libraries located in close proximity to the Town. The Chippewa Falls Public Library located in Chippewa Falls and the Bleskacek Memorial Public Library located in the City

of Bloomer offer full library services. The Chippewa Falls Library is a member of the Federated Library System.

Law Enforcement Protection

The Chippewa County Sheriff's Department provides 24-hour law enforcement services to the Town. The primary divisions include:

- **Field Services Division:**

This division is responsible for all uniformed patrol activities, process service and investigations. The Field Services division includes one captain, one lieutenant, 5 investigators, two patrol sergeants, 14 patrol deputies, one process server, and one recreational officer. This division is responsible for all field services throughout the County.

- **Support Services Division:**

This division is primarily responsible for the jail. The division includes one captain, one lieutenant, five sergeants and 19 jail/correctional officers. This division is further supported by clerical, medical and part time transport personnel.

- **Communications:**

This division is responsible for the Communication/911 center. This is the answering and dispatch center for the Sheriff's Department as well as for police, fire and EMS throughout the County. This division includes one lieutenant and 10 telecommunication operators.

Fire Protection

The Tilden Fire Department provides protection for the Township. The Department is staffed with all volunteer members, including a Chief.

The initial response to fire calls from the Towns areas include one engine, two tanker trucks and a first responder vehicle. The Department also has a brush fire truck for grass and woods fires. Additional emergency water can be obtained from hydrants located at the Town Hall, the Tilden Pond and a privately owned pond. The Department has mutual aid agreements with all fire departments within Chippewa County.

Hazardous Materials (HAZ-MAT)

All hazardous material spills are cleaned up by the Chippewa Falls Fire Department, which provide both Class A and Class B Haz-Mat response. Because of their training and response level, this Department can provide a response to spills both under and over 25 gallons of hazardous material.

Emergency Medical Service

Emergency Medical services are provided by the Chippewa Falls Fire & Emergency Service and Bloomer Ambulance Service. Service areas have been defined to provide citizens with a reasonable response time from both agencies. Both emergency medical services provide 24-hour response. The Chippewa Service is operated at a "paramedic" level while Bloomer provides "Basic Life Support".

They are contracted by the Town on a per capita basis. The Tilden Fire Department also has a number of first responders to provide basic life support for medical emergencies. It should be noted that the Township is part owner of the Bloomer Ambulance Service.

All EMS calls are dispatched from the Chippewa County 911 communication center via pager/radios. Air ambulance service is also part of the local EMS protocols with Mayo One, Life Link and Spirit of Marshfield all providing air response when requested.

Municipal Buildings

The Town of Tilden owns a multi-purpose building which serves as the town hall, maintenance garage/storage and the fire department. In addition, there is a large steel building located behind the Town Hall that serves as the recycling center and misc. storage building.

- *Town Hall area:*

This area of the building provides space for town board meetings, annual meetings as well as committee and group meetings. This area also serves as the polling place for elections. The area is also used by citizens for private events. The town clerk's office is also located there.

- *Maintenance garage/storage:*

This area is used to garage and repair town road equipment. It also provides a limited amount of storage for seasonal equipment.

- *Fire Department:*

This area is used as the Town's fire department and houses fire response vehicles and related fire equipment. This portion of the building also has a training/meeting room.

- *Recycling center/storage building:*

This steel building serves as the recycling center. A small office and some collected recyclables are stored inside this building. In addition, a large portion of this building is used to store larger pieces of Town's equipment.

Energy Sources

Electric power is provided to the Town by Xcel Engeries (Northern States Power Company), Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, Dairyland Power Cooperative, Dunn County Electric.

Telecommunications Services

Local telephone service in the Town is provided primarily by AT&T, CenturyLink (Centurytel) and the Bloomer Telephone Company. Long-distance phone service as well as internet service is available from these service providers as well. There are a number of cellular phone companies that provide service to the area.

Health Care Facilities

Residents of the Town have ready access to health care facilities in Chippewa Falls, Bloomer and Eau Claire. St Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls, Luther-Mayo Hospital in Bloomer and Sacred Heart and Luther Hospitals in Eau Claire provide a variety of hospital needs. In addition, these hospitals are part of either the Marshfield or Mayo healthcare networks.

Each of these three communities offers an array of health care clinics to provide both general and specialty health care. Other health care services are available including dental, chiropractic, optometry and alternative health care programs. It should be noted that a new low income dental center opened their doors in Chippewa Falls in 2008.

Child Care Facilities

A number of licensed child care facilities are available in the area. These range from day care providers approved to offer care in their own homes to larger group centers located in Chippewa Falls and Bloomer. These facilities provide care from infants to children of older ages.

Cemeteries

Four cemeteries are located within the Town. These are:

- Old Tilden Church Cemetery: This cemetery was opened in 1868 and is located on County Hwy Q, just south of County Hwy B. This cemetery has not been active or used for many years.
- Lutheran Cemetery: This cemetery was created in 1886 and is located on County Hwy C. This cemetery is still in use.
- Tilden Emmanuel Cemetery: This cemetery is located on 125th AVE and is an active cemetery.
- St Peter's Catholic Cemetery. This cemetery is located behind the St. Peter's Church and is the largest found within the Town. This is an active cemetery.

Schools and Education

A number of educational facilities are available to residents in the Town of Tilden.

- St. Peter's Catholic School: This school is an elementary school serving grades 1 through 8 is located in Tilden.
- Chippewa Falls: The Chippewa Falls Public and Parochial school systems operate elementary, middle school and high schools that are located within the City of Chippewa Falls. In addition, the Chippewa Valley Alternative School provides educational opportunities to at-risk high school students.
- Bloomer: The Bloomer Public School District and the Parochial Schools provide elementary, middle school and high school educational opportunities.

The Town is also part of the Chippewa Valley Technical College District. Although the main campus is located in Eau Claire, there is a satellite campus located in the City of Chippewa Falls.

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and University of Wisconsin-Stout (Menomonie) offer higher education degree programs. Both are in easy driving distance from any point within the Town. Lakeland College and Globe University offer post secondary education.

Future Needs

According to the service providers listed in this section, serving the projected growth in this area through routine expansions is expected. None of the providers expressed a concern regarding limiting future services.

Goals

Goals relative to this section include:

- Foster good public services for the residents of the Town.
- Cooperate with utility providers such that expansion of services does not place an undue strain on the environment.
- Promote a visual environment that makes the Town an appealing and desirable place to live, work and visit.