

## 7. Utilities and community facilities

**A**dequate 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. Decisions made by the Town of Marshall regarding utilities and community facilities will have an impact on all present and future residents. This section describes the existing utilities and community facilities serving the community, and outlines future desires and needs for Town residents.

### Infrastructure

**Water supply.** The Town relies entirely on private wells for water supply. Please see the groundwater section of the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources section for further information. The well driller is responsible for obtaining a permit through the Department of Natural Resources and submitting a well log report to the DNR.

**Sanitary sewer system and waste water treatment.** The Town of Marshall does not provide municipal sewer service. Residents must utilize private Onsite Waste Treatment Systems (POWTS) to dispose of household and commercial wastewater in the Town. Residents throughout the Township use a number of different POWTS including septic tanks with a soil absorption field located on the same parcel, holding tanks and mound septic systems.

**Storm water management.** The Town does not have a formal storm

water management plan. Storm water facilities consist mainly of ditches along the road network. The Rusk County Highway Department maintains the ditches along the portions of County Highways with Marshall, while the Town maintains any ditches along Town roads.

**Solid waste disposal and recycling.** Residents can bring waste to the recycling/waste disposal facility located on Pitt Road. The Town has a year to year contract with Waste Management that provides garbage services at the Town recycling facility. The nearest licensed landfill is Timberline Trail RDF located at N4581 Hutchinson Road in the Town of Stubbs.



**Power supply and power plants.** Residents in the Town of Marshall currently receives their electric power from Xcel Energy as well as Jump River Electric.

**Telephone and internet services.** CenturyTel provides local telephone service to the Town of Marshall residents and businesses. Multiple companies are available to provide long-distance telephone and internet services. While Rusk County has no zoning restrictions for essential services such as cell phone towers, at this time wireless carriers are not looking at deployment of additional towers to provide better service for their customers utilizing today's technology.

Instead, they are looking at retaining their capital dollars for deployment of 4G/LTE which is the next generation of wireless/broadband. The 4G technology has the potential to cover a larger geographic area than current technologies, thus reducing the need for additional cell towers to be placed. Along with further distance capabilities it has the potential for higher bandwidth which will allow broadband access to many unserved and under-served communities.

Concerning high speed internet access, since last spring additional high speed internet access points have been deployed throughout the northwestern, northern, and northeastern sections of the Township. In the near future, deployment is expected in the west and southwestern corner of the Town of Marshall during the first quarter of 2010. This will provide availability of high speed internet access to between 90 and 95% of Township residents.

## **Community facilities**

**Municipal building.** The Town of Marshall has an agreement with the Village of Sheldon to use the Sheldon Community Center for municipal meetings and elections. Town meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Fire protection.** Since 1979, the Town of Marshall has been a part of the Sheldon Fire Protection District, which provides services to all, or parts of the Village of Sheldon and the Town of Marshall in Rusk County, the Town of McKinley in Taylor County, and part of the Town of Ruby in Chippewa County. There is a formal agreement between all parties that are part of this district to which the Town of Marshall pays an annual fee for fire protection.



**Town garage.** The Town garage is located at the Recycling Center on Pit Road and houses Town vehicles that include a John Deere road grader, a Ford dump truck with a plow on the front and a sander on the back.



**Emergency medical services.** These services are provided by Rusk County and fees that are charged for this service.

**Law enforcement.** Police protection is provided by the Rusk County Sheriff's Department, located at 311 Miner Avenue in Ladysmith. All 9-1-1 emergency calls are dispatched through the County Sheriff's Office.

**Libraries.** The Town of Marshall is served by the Rusk County Community Library, located at 418 Corbett Avenue, W. in Ladysmith. The library offers a number of programs and services to residents.

**Child care facilities.** Rusk County Human Services Department keeps record of certified and licensed childcare providers in Rusk County. The childcare provider list is continuously updated by the Human Services Department.

**Health care facilities.** Rusk County Memorial Hospital is a well-equipped 25-bed hospital, and currently has a 50-bed attached nursing home. The hospital is located in Ladysmith and serves the Rusk County area. The Marshfield Clinic is a 18,500 square foot facility adjacent to the Rusk County Memorial Hospital and also serves the Rusk County area with their current staff of 17 physicians or allied health professionals plus 16 consulting specialists that provide care.

**Schools.** Most Town of Marshall residents are served by the Flambeau School District which is centrally located at N4540 County Road I in the Town of Grow and provides Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education for area children with an elementary, middle and high school in a common facility. There is also the Whitetail Academy and another public Charter School as part of the district.

A small number of children and youth from the Township also attend

the Holcombe and Ladysmith School Districts and private Amish and Mennonite schools in the area.



**Parks.** While there are no parks in the Town of Marshall, the Haley Park in Sheldon on the Jump River is accessible and available for use to Town residents.

**Recreation trails.** The Managed Forest Land and Forest Crop Lands in the Township are available for recreational use including hiking and snowmobiling. Other Information about recreational trails is covered under the Transportation section in this document.

**Cemeteries.** The Woodlawn Cemetery is located in the Town of Marshall and is managed and run by a separate Cemetery Board that includes Town of Marshall residents/landowners overseeing and regulating use of the cemetery.



## Findings from the surveys

**Town of Marshall.** Table 8.1 summarizes findings concerning utilities and community facilities in the Township.

Cemeteries	74%	12%		8%	7%
High speed internet access	29%	6%	19%	24%	22%
Cell phone service	18%	20%	39%	11%	12%
Town administration	50%	15%	5%	24%	7%
Education (PreK-12)	64%	12%	3%	12%	9%

Township residents/landowners were asked their opinions about eco-friendly practices. Concerning the Township's promotion of the use of alternative energy, 63% agreed, 15% disagreed, and 22% didn't know. When asked if the Township should promote recycling practices, 83% agreed, 6% disagreed and 11% indicated they didn't know. And when queried if they thought the Township's solid waste and recycling facility was adequate (e.g., hours of operation, user feeds, services offered, etc.) 50% agreed, 8 % disagreed, and 42% said they didn't know.

In the utilities and community facilities comments section of the survey, a common concern was the *"need for more cell phone towers in the area."* One person commented, *"Get someone to access some of this stimulus dollars to upgrade town's access to internet and to build a tower for better cell phone coverage."*

## Discussion of the findings

Town of Marshall residents for the most part, are generally quite satisfied with most categories within this element, especially with the ambulance service (82% which was rated as excellent/good) and fire protection (81%). The cemetery also received high ratings (74%).

Item	Ex/Gd	Fair	Poor	Not sure	N/A
Town meeting place	66%	8%	1%	15%	10%
Police protection	52%	23%	11%	10%	4%
Fire protection	81%	4%	1%	9%	4%
Ambulance service	82%	6%		8%	4%
Solid waste/recycling	63%	16%	13%	7%	1%
Parks	49%	25%	2%	9%	15%

The utility category that received the lowest rating was cell phone service with only 18% indicating this was excellent/good, 20% rating this as fair and 39% as poor. Twenty-three percent indicated they were either not sure or this was not applicable, indicating that perhaps there is a large percentage of residents in the township who do not use cell phones.

Another utilities category that received a low rating had to do with high speed internet access with 29% rating this as excellent/good and 19% rating this as poor, whereas 46% indicated they were not sure or this was not applicable. This large number is perhaps also an indication of those in the township who do not yet use the internet. But for those that use the internet, it has been relatively problematic. However, since the service was administered, there have been improvements for many residents in their ability to access high speed internet service. And as indicated above, by the first quarter of 2010, 90-95% of all Town residents will have access to high speed internet service.

Another category that received relatively high ratings had to do with “eco-friendly” practices and policies. A large majority (63% or nearly 2/3rds) of the residents/landowners believe that the Town should promote alternative energy usage. While 15% disagreed, and one person commenting, “*it is inefficient to be promoting the use of alternative energy,*” 22% or nearly 1/4 indicated that they didn’t know. With the rising costs of energy, perhaps this is something that the Township might explore a little more in-depth.

A large majority (83%) also believed that the Town should promote recycling practices. While only half of those who responded to the survey indicated that they thought the Town’s solid waste and

recycling facility was adequate, and a small number (8%) disagreeing, the fact that 42% indicated that they “don’t know,” raises a red flag. Given this large number, possible questions that might be asked include:

1. Are residents/landowners aware of, and following the state statutes (Wisconsin Statute, Chapter 287) that govern solid waste reduction, recovery and recycling); and
2. Is there a need by the Town, to educate the public about restrictions concerning recycling and solid waste practices?

### Recommendations

The following table lists goals, objectives and policies concerning utilities and community facilities.

<b>Table 8.2 Utilities and Community Facilities Goals &amp; Objectives</b>
<b>Goal 1:</b> Adequate community services are provided to Town residents.
<b>Objective 1.1</b> Seek continued involvement in the shared services of fire, first responders, solid waste, recycling and road repair on boundary roads. <b>Policy 1.1 (a)</b> Continue to coordinate the following services with cooperating municipalities: 1) fire, 2) first responders, 3) solid waste and recycling, 4) road repair on boundary roads. <b>Objective 1.2</b> Share services across municipal borders whenever possible. <b>Policy 1.2 (a)</b> Set guidelines with adjacent municipalities to share services and facilities for emergency events.
<b>Goal 2:</b> Alternative energy options are encouraged.

**Objective 2.1** Educate and inform residents of State and Federal programs with tax incentives or rebates available for installation and equipment costs.

**Goal 3:** Positive environmental recycling practices are promoted.

**Objective 3.1** Inform the public and find alternative ways to publicize restrictions concerning recycling and use of recycling facility. **Objective 3.2** Publicize alternative sites for recycling.