



4 UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Efficient provision of high quality utilities and community facilities boosts property values, controls taxes, and contributes to many aspects of the quality of life within Taylor County. Local features such as parks, schools, utilities, and protective services help define a community. These services require substantial investment supported by the local tax base or user fees. Thus, the level of services is generally determined by the community's ability to pay for it and interest in having it. In addition to the current demand for services in Taylor County, the future development of services must also be considered.

Overview

In order to estimate the future utility and community facility needs of Taylor County, an inventory of existing conditions was conducted. This portion of the plan chapter presents the results of that inventory. The locations of various utilities and community facilities are shown on the maps at the conclusion of this chapter. Please note that the information in this chapter regarding utilities, community facilities and services are not intended to be all-inclusive.

4.1 DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING PUBLIC UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Sanitary Sewer and/or Water Service

Within Taylor County there are seven public sanitary sewer service providers. The providers include the Village of Gilman, Village of Lublin, Village of Rib Lake, Village of Stetsonville, City of Medford, Chelsea Sanitary District and the Westboro Sanitary District.

Chelsea Sanitary District – The Chelsea Sanitary District was established in 1995 due to failing septic systems in the town. The Chelsea Sanitary District currently serves 45 homes with room for expansion. The district is designed to take 11,000 gallons/day, and is currently at 2,600 gallons/day. Individual private wells serve town residents with water.

Village of Gilman – Gilman installed their sewer and water system in 1962. Major improvements since then include installing two aeration ponds/wetlands. The system is designed to handle 125,000 gallons/day, and is currently handling approximately 35,000 gallons/day. The Village operates one water tower (45,000 gallons) and two public wells with a pumping capacity of 316,000 gallons per day. Future plans to the system include building a new treatment plant in 2008 and the repair of the water tower when funds are available.

Rib Lake Utilities – The Rib Lake sanitary sewer system was established in 1948. Major updates since 1948 include the replacement of many new sewer mains and manholes. The system is a Walker Process activated sludge plant where the sludge is aerobically digested. Currently, the system handles approximately 105,000 gallons/day with a capacity of 200,000 gallons. Future expansion to the sewer system is uncertain at this time.



The public water system in Rib Lake consists of 2 operating wells with a pumping capacity of 640,000 gallons/day with a water tower that can hold 200,000 gallons of treated water. There are currently no future plans to extend the water system.

City of Medford – The City of Medford provides sanitary sewer service within its municipal limits. The Medford Wastewater Treatment plant is designed to treat a flow of 1.45 million gallons per day (mgd) (receiving an average of 1.01 mgd), while serving a population of nearly 4,400. Approximately 27% of the flow originates from industrial sources. Wastewater used in the city moves from homes, businesses, institutions and industries via a sanitary sewer system to the wastewater treatment facility. The wastewater treatment facility removes wastes from the water before it's discharged into the Black River. The last major plant renovation was completed in 1988. A chlorination and dechlorination building was added in 1990 and ferric chloride phosphorus removal was added in 1999.

The City of Medford water utility provides water service to approximately 2,072 customers located within the city limits. Residential customers consume approximately 45% of total annual water sales with the remaining portion being consumed by commercial, industrial and public users. The water system consists of five wells and two water towers with a well capacity of 1,584,000 gallons/day, excess capacity of 910,810 gallons/day, a storage capacity of 900,000 gallons and 310 fire hydrants. In 1997, the city installed a system to monitor its five wells and one water tower. In 1999, the city developed well #11 a new well and established a new test bench for testing meters. In 2003 the city erected its second water tower.

Village of Stetsonville – The main sewer system in the Village of Stetsonville was installed in the early 1960's. The treatment plant was upgraded in 2000 along with one mile of main sewer system. The system is a Sand Filter System, which consists of one aerated cover pond and a 300'X100' sand filter. The treated water is discharged into the west branch of the Deer River. Currently, the system handles an average of 60,000 gallons/day with a capacity to handle 88,000 gallons. There are no future plans to expand the sewer system. Residents in the Village of Stetsonville obtain their water through individual private wells.

Town of Westboro Sanitary District #1 – The sanitary sewer district was installed in 1977 with two major upgrades in the last 20 years. The system is a re-circulating and filter system, with the treated effluent discharged into Silver Creek. The district is designed to handle 20,000 gallons per day, but currently uses an average of approximately 7,000 gallons. In 2007, there is a \$1.35 million facility expansion planned. The public water system in Westboro was installed in 1987-88. The system consists of two wells with pumping capacity of 864,000 gallons per day. There are no future plans for expansion of the system, but upgrades are possible.

Village of Lublin Sanitary District – The Lublin Sanitary District serves residents of the community and has available expansion capacity. Individual private wells serve village residents with water.

All areas not served by municipal sewer depend on Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS), commonly known as septic systems. The Wisconsin Department of Commerce (DOC) and Wisconsin Counties are jointly responsible for the regulation and



monitoring of POWTS. In July of 2000, the DOC completed major revisions to the state Plumbing Code (Comm 83) with the intent of allowing the use of more diverse technology in the design of POWTS. Soil conditions dictate the types of POWTS that are suitable for use in any given site. Taylor County Zoning is responsible for permitting and certifying installation and completion of residential and commercial systems in all townships.

Stormwater Management

The goal of stormwater management is to prevent runoff from delivering pollutants or sediment to lakes, rivers, streams, or wetlands. Commonly applied stormwater management tools include: ditches, culverts, grassed causeways/waterways, rock chutes, retention basins or settling ponds, curb and gutter, storm sewer, and construction site erosion control. State law requires certain construction sites, municipalities, and industrial sites to obtain Stormwater Discharge Permits from the WDNR. Incorporated communities with a population less than 50,000 are not required to obtain a permit. Industrial sites are categorized based on their potential for contamination of stormwater runoff.

Ditches, culverts, and local topography are the primary stormwater management tools, for the majority of Taylor County. None of the cities or villages in Taylor County currently holds a Stormwater Discharge Permit from the WDNR.

Telecommunication Utilities

Local telephone service within Taylor County is provided by six providers including CenturyTel, Midway Telephone Company, Rhinelander Telephone Company, Powercom Corporation, Trinsic Communications Inc., and Verizon North Inc. Multiple companies are available to provide long distance telephone and Internet services.

Electric & Gas Utilities

A number of electric utility providers serve Taylor County residents and businesses. Major providers include Jump River Electric Cooperative, Clark Electric Cooperative, Taylor Electric Cooperative, Xcel Energy, and Medford Electric Utility. Smaller providers include Chippewa Valley Electric and Price Electric Cooperative. See Map 4.1 for Taylor County Utilities.

Power Plants/Pipelines/Substations/Transmission Lines

Currently, there are no power plants (hydro, coal, or nuclear) but there are 14 substations, two pipelines, and electrical transmission lines in Taylor County. See Map 4.1 for substations, pipelines, and electrical transmission line locations.

Pipelines - Enbridge Pipelines Inc. operates the Lakehead System pipeline that enters Taylor County in Pershing and extends southeast through Aurora, Gilman, Ford, Roosevelt, Maplehurst and into Clark County. This line is used to transport oil and petroleum related products from Canada to the U.S. A major expansion of the pipeline began in 2007 and is projected to conclude in 2008.

Substations - Substations are installations at which electricity is received from one or more power stations for conversion from alternating to direct current, reducing the voltage, or



switching before distribution by a low-tension network. There are 14 substations (▲) located in Taylor County with their location shown on Map 4.1.

Arrowhead to Weston 345 kV Transmission Line - The main element of this project is the construction of a high capacity 345kV transmission circuit to help strengthen the bulk transmission system serving the North Central region of the US and Central Canada. The line would be built between the strong electrical systems of Central Wisconsin and Northeastern Minnesota and would provide a second high capacity route for electric energy to traverse the Wisconsin/Minnesota transmission system.

The proposed Arrowhead-Weston power transmission line is being developed by the American Transmission Corporation (ATC) and will bisect the southwest corner of Taylor County and follow the current pipeline path. Taylor County and municipalities in the county on the route of the Wausau to Duluth transmission line will be paid fees associated with the construction and on-going maintenance of the transmission line. The Wisconsin Legislature approved payment of both one-time and annual impact fees to counties and municipalities through which high-voltage transmission lines are routed.

Based on information currently available to local governments, the ATC has proposed to provide a one-time environmental impact fee of \$1,610,014 and an annual impact fee of \$96,600 to be split 50/50 between Taylor County and all of the municipalities in which the line passes. Table 4-1 details the impact fee breakdown.

The one-time environmental impact fee distributes 5 percent of the total cost of the project between the counties and municipalities affected by the line. The money must be used for park conservancy, wetlands or other similar environmental programs, or other approved activities.

Table 4-1, American Transmission Impact Fee Disbursements

American Transmission Company Impact Fee Disbursements			
Municipality	Miles of Transmission Line	One-Time Fee	Annual Fee
Aurora	5.4	\$207,992	\$12,479
Ford	2.5	\$96,293	\$5,778
Lublin	0.8	\$30,814	\$1,849
Maplehurst	0.3	\$11,555	\$693
Pershing	4.9	\$188,734	\$11,324
Roosevelt	7.0	\$269,619	\$16,177
Taylor County	20.9	\$805,007	\$0
Source: ATC 3/2006			

Solid Waste Disposal

There are no open solid waste landfills within Taylor County. There are 32 closed waste disposal sites within the county, which includes the city and villages. Map 4.2 depicts abandoned and closed landfill sites in Taylor County. It is likely that many of these closed landfills are contaminated to some degree and therefore could be potential sources of



groundwater pollution. According to NR812.10(2), any well constructed within 1,200 feet of the edge of a landfill, must first obtain a variance from the DNR.

Primary providers of solid waste and recycling facilities and services include Waste Management and Veolia. According to the DNR, the majority of solid waste produced in Taylor County goes to either the Cranberry Creek Landfill operated by Veolia in Wood County or the Chippewa Falls Landfill operated by Waste Management. Waste haulers throughout the county also offer recycling collection as part of their garbage pickup schedule.

4.2 EXISTING COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Recycling Facilities

The Taylor County Zoning Office administers the recycling program for specific municipalities within Taylor County. As the ‘Responsible Unit’ for seventeen municipalities (Browning, Chelsea, Cleveland, Deer Creek, Ford, Goodrich, Greenwood, Grover, Hammel, Jump River, Little Black, Lublin, Maplehurst, McKinley, Pershing, Roosevelt, Stetsonville and Taft) Taylor County Zoning Department manages and runs the recycling program. This entails writing grants, administering recycling ordinances, tracking expenses and revenues, maintaining and servicing trailers, and providing recycling information to the public. The Department also monitors tonnages moved, costs, number of haulers working in the area, oversees overall performance of the solid waste system, conducts mobile hazardous waste Cleansweeps and other collection programs as needed.

The Taylor County Zoning Department acts as the Responsible Unit for the City of Medford, Village of Rib Lake, Town of Rib Lake and the Town of Greenwood. However, the department does not manage their entire program, only the fiscal reporting elements are the responsibility of the Department as each local government coordinates and manages their own collection operations and events. Municipalities not included as part of the county’s Responsible Unit work with the WDNR to run separate recycling programs.

The Cleansweep program in Taylor County has been extremely successful. In 2006, four separate collections were held where residents brought in 9,413 pounds of household hazardous wastes. Locations for these events vary by year, with recent collections being held in Taft, Lublin, Stetsonville, Medford, Hannibal, Rib Lake and Westboro. Taylor County contracts with Northwest Cleansweep who provides valuable technical assistance to households, farms, businesses, schools and municipalities in the region regarding the use and appropriate disposal of hazardous materials.

Schools

Schools not only serve as a place for education, but also provide recreational areas and opportunities for use by communities and other groups and a place for employment. Taylor County is served by seven public school districts and a number of private/parochial schools. Map 4.3 displays the public school district service areas in Taylor County. The largest school district service areas include Medford, Gilman, and Rib Lake respectively. Table 4-2 displays



the name of each school district serving the county and the size of the district within Taylor County.

Table 4-2: School Districts, Taylor County

School District	Square Miles in Taylor County	% of County
Flambeau	15.73	2.0%
Gilman	314.73	32.0%
Owen-Withee	28.49	3.0%
Medford	345.99	35.0%
Rib Lake	256.59	26.0%
Stanley-Boyd	9.62	1.0%
Thorp	12.49	1.0%
Totals	983.64	100.0%

Source: NWRPC

All enrollment figures were obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction unless otherwise noted. Decreases in enrollment have been seen in all school districts within Taylor County over the last ten years. Decreases can be attributed to a number of factors. Families having fewer children than in the past are one main factor. This trend is validated by the reduction in persons per household figures seen in the *Issues and Opportunities Chapter*. What follows is a brief description on each of the seven school districts in Taylor County.

The **Flambeau School District** consists of the Flambeau Charter School, Flambeau Elementary, Junior High, and High School all located in one facility at N4540 CTH I in Tony, Wisconsin (Rusk County). In Taylor County, the district covers most of the eastern half of the Town of McKinley. According to school district representatives, there were approximately 650 enrolled students in school year 2005-2006. ¹Since the 1996-1997 school year, enrollment has dropped from 710 to 670, a 5.6% decrease.

The **Gilman School District** is a PreK-12 school consisting of one building made up of the Gilman Elementary, Junior High, and High School. In Taylor County, all or parts of the Towns of Aurora, Cleveland, Grover, Jump River, Maplehurst, McKinley, Pershing, Roosevelt, Taft, and the Villages of Gilman and Lublin make up the district. According to school representatives, enrollment was approximately 500 students for the 2005-2006 school year. ¹Since the 1996-1997 school year, enrollment has dropped from 667 to 457, a 31.5% decrease.

The **Owen-Withee School District** encompasses three-quarters of the Town of Maplehurst and a very small portion of the southeast corner of the Town of Roosevelt in Taylor County. The one large, modern, one-story building consists of the Owen-Withee Elementary, Junior High, and High School, located in Clark County between the communities of Owen and Withee. According to the Wisconsin Department of Instruction, enrollment was 650 for the 2005-2006 school year. ¹Since the 1996-1997 school year, enrollment has dropped from 699 to 649, a 7.2% decrease.

¹ Statistics taken from WI Department of Instruction



The **Medford Area School District** is the largest school district in Taylor County and includes all or part of the Towns of Browning, Chelsea, Deer Creek, Goodrich, Grover, Hammel, Holway, Maplehurst, Little Black, Medford, Molitor, the Village of Stetsonville and the City of Medford. The district has four separate facilities, which include the Medford Elementary School, located at 1065 W Broadway St., Medford Middle School, located at 509 Clark St., Medford High School located at 1015 Broadway St., and the Stetsonville Elementary School located at 5338 CTH A near the Village of Stetsonville. According to the Wisconsin Department of Instruction, the school enrollment for the 2005-2006 school year was 2,235. ¹Since the 1996-1997 school year, enrollment has dropped from 2,565 to 2,235, an 12.9% decrease.

The **Rib Lake School District** contains the Towns of Greenwood, Rib Lake, Westboro and the Village of Rib Lake. The district consists of three facilities, the Rib Lake Elementary and District Office located at 1236 Kennedy St., the Rib Lake Middle School located at 1296 North St., and the Rib Lake High School located at 1200 North St. According to school officials, enrollment was approximately 545 for the 2005-2006 school year. ¹Since the 1996-1997 school year, enrollment has dropped from 656 to 459, a 30.0% decrease.

The **Stanley-Boyd Area School District** covers a small area in the west-southwest corner of the Town of Taft. The district is a Pre K-12 district consisting of the Stanley-Boyd Elementary/Middle/High School located at 507 East 1st Avenue in Stanley and the Boyd Elementary School located at 303 Park St. in Boyd. According to the school district website, enrollment was 982 for the 2005-2006 school year. ¹Since the 1996-1997 school year, enrollment has dropped from 1,201 to 971, a 19.2% decrease.

The **Thorp School District** covers a small area in the southeast corner of the Town of Taft in Taylor County. One facility located at 605 South Clark St. in Thorp houses the Elementary-Middle and High School. According to the Wisconsin Department of Instruction, enrollment for the 2005-2006 school year was 623. ¹Since the 1996-1997 school year, enrollment has dropped from 668 to 623, a 6.7% decrease.

Colleges

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) represents a 10-county district with its central campus located in Wausau. NTC has a regional campus located at 624 E College in Medford, which is the only college located in Taylor County.

University of Wisconsin-Extension

Through cooperative agreement between Taylor County and the University of Wisconsin, the Taylor County Cooperative Extension Department assists and provides educational programs in agriculture and agribusiness, community and economic development, natural resources, family living and youth development. Additional UW-Extension “Specialists” are also available to assist residents and businesses in Taylor County.



Libraries

There are five public libraries in Taylor County. Library names and locations are listed below. It should be noted that some residents in far-reaching areas of Taylor County patronize libraries located in other counties.

- **Francis L. Simek Memorial Library** – 400 North Main Street, Medford
- **Jean M. Thomsen Memorial Library** – 105 N. Gershwin Street, Stetsonville
- **Rib Lake Public Library** – 655 Pearl Street, Rib Lake
- **Westboro Public Library** – N4941 Center Street, Westboro
- **Western Taylor County Public Library** – 4th & Main Street, Gilman

Parks, Recreation & Trail Facilities

Taylor County has made a commitment to continue to provide and maintain an excellent countywide park system that provides a wide variety of recreational activities and facilities. The following is a list of County Parks in Taylor County. Municipal parks and associated facilities are also located in Medford, Rib Lake, Jump River, Stetsonville, Gilman, Chelsea, and Westboro. For more information on these facilities, as well as for recommendations for new developments and/or improvements to these facilities, reference the *Taylor County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2004-2008*.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| ■ Diamond Lake Park | ■ Miller Dam/Lions Park |
| ■ Perkinstown Winter Sports Area | ■ Spruce Lake |
| ■ Sackett Lake | ■ Shearer Lake |
| ■ Chelsea Lake | ■ Goodrich Dells Park* |
| ■ Wood Lake | ■ Education Center Park |
| ■ Gertsberger Park | Development |
| ■ Wellington Lake | ■ South Harper Lake |
| ■ Camp 8 | ■ Big Spirit Lake |
| ■ Miller Dam Boat Access (Dam Facility) | ■ Esadore Lake |

* not yet developed

Other Recreational Resources

Taylor County has a diverse, natural resource base providing a variety of recreational opportunities such as camping, hiking, picnicking, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, ATV and snowmobiling, swimming, sightseeing, and wildlife observation. The county maintains an excellent forest and park system including 17,500 acres of county forestlands. What follows is a brief overview of some major recreation opportunities that complement the county park system.

- **Pershing Wildlife Area**
Established in 1953, the Pershing Wildlife Area consists of two large and separate tracts, encompassing approximately 7,400 acres of three distinct habitat types (wetlands, brush-prairie, and forests), which are intensively managed for the production of Sharp-tailed Grouse and waterfowl. The Fisher River and associated tributaries, which support several rare, threatened and endangered species, runs through the area. The property contains 15 flowages and gravel trails, as well as an osprey, cormorant and heron rookery.



- **Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest**
The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest covers one-third or approximately 123,000 acres in north central Taylor County and offers lakeshore campgrounds, recreational trail systems, and picnic and water access facilities. There are seven established campgrounds with different facilities at each one. They include: Chippewa, Eastwood, Kathryn Lake, North Twin Lake, Picnic Point, Spearhead Point and West Point.
- **Chequamegon Waters Flowage**
This 3,000-acre flowage boasts some of the best bass fishing to be found. The Chippewa Campground is located on this flowage, which offers multiple amenities.
- **Mondeaux Flowage**
As a summer recreation site, the Mondeaux Flowage has a sand beach for swimming, a playground, shelter, historic concessions stand, public picnicking and boat landing. Camping is found at Spearhead Point. Hiking trails include the Ice Age Trail and the Mondeaux Nature Trail.
- **Ice Age National Scenic Trail**
This scenic segment of the Ice Age Trail runs diagonally across Taylor County. A segment approximately 40 miles long traverses the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.
- **Rib Lake Ski & Snowshoe Trail**
The Rib Lake area ski trails feature a 20K community trail. Access to the trail is on Little Rib Road in Rib Lake, where the trail begins.
- **Perkinstown Motorized Trail**
From the trailhead located about 14 miles west of Medford on State Highway 64, this two-way traffic trail winds for 20 miles through the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest's Perkinstown Hills to its northern terminus, located approximately one mile from the Chequamegon Waters Campground.
- **Perkinstown Winter Sports Area**
Located in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, this winter park provides 22 miles of cross-county ski trails and inner tubing. Facilities include a warming chalet offering food and beverages along with cross-country ski rentals.
- **Snowmobiling**
One of the most popular winter sports in Taylor County, there are over 300 miles of well-groomed snowmobile trails that crisscross the county and connect to the network of Wisconsin trails.
- **Pine Line Recreational Trail**
This 26.1 mile recreational trail was once a rail line and named such because of the Eastern White Pine shipped on the route. The Medford to Prentice Rail/Trail or “Pine Line” winds



its way between the City of Medford in Taylor County (16 miles) and north to the City of Prentice in Price County. The Pine Line is open for free non-motorized use (April 1-November 30) and motorized use (snowmobiling and ATV’s December 1-March 31).

■ Camp 8 ATV Area and Trail System

The trailhead is located 5.5 miles east of Rib Lake where 12 miles of trail are situated on 17,600 acres of County Forest property in Northeast Taylor County. An added attraction at Camp 8 is the Wood Lake Campground.

Fire Departments

Fire protection within Taylor County is provided by nine fire departments (seven in Taylor County) as shown by Map 4.4. Table 4-3 indicates the total square miles covered by each department. Fire departments with the largest service areas in the county include Medford, Gilman, Rib Lake and Westboro.

Table 4-3: Fire Departments, Taylor County

Fire Department	Square Miles
Gilman	180
Jump River	36
Jump River & Sheldon	18
Lublin	60
Medford	298
Medford & Stetsonville	12
Owen	16
Rib Lake	131
Sheldon	18
Stetsonville	90
Westboro	125

Source: NWRPC

The **Gilman Rural Fire Department** is located at 365 E McSloy St. in the Village of Gilman and serves the Village of Gilman and the Towns of Aurora, Cleveland, Ford, Pershing, and Taft. The department is staffed by 38 volunteer fire fighters, responds to approximately 30 calls per year, and has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of ¹8. Department equipment includes: 701-Pumper with 1500 GPM-1000 gallon. Booster, 702-Tanker with 500 GPM-1250 gallon Booster, 703-Pumper with 500 GPM-1000 gallon Booster, 704-Tanker with 250 GPM-100 gallon Booster, and 706-Tanker with 250 GPM-3150 gallon Booster. All dispatch is through the Taylor County Sheriff’s Department and there are mutual aid agreements with all neighboring departments. The department has future plans to rehabilitate the existing fire hall with a new roof, and the department recently received an “assistance to fire fighters” grant to replace and improve safety equipment.

¹ The ISO rates fire protection service for communities across the United States. The rating system scale is based on a 1-10 scale with 1 being the best.



The **Lublin-Area Volunteer Fire District** fire hall is located at N1217 Railroad St. in the Village of Lublin and serves the Village of Lublin, Town of Roosevelt and the western one-half of the Town of Maplehurst. The department is staffed by 30 volunteer fire fighters, responds to approximately five calls per year, and has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 8.5. Department equipment includes: one 2,200 Gal. Tanker, one 1,800 gallon Pumper/Tanker, one 750 gallon Pumper, and one brush truck. All dispatch is through the Taylor County Sheriff's Department and there are mutual aid agreements with all neighboring departments. There are currently no future plans to expand the Lublin-Area Volunteer Fire Department.

The **Medford Area Fire Department** is located at 844 W Broadway Ave. in the City of Medford. The department covers 310 square-miles and has contracts for fire services with the City of Medford and the Towns of Browning, Chelsea, Goodrich, Grover, Hammel, Molitor and Medford. The department is staffed by 29 volunteer fire fighters, responds to approximately 65 calls per year, and has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 4. The department has a special mutual aid agreement with the Stetsonville Volunteer Fire Department (See Map 4.4 Fire Districts). This special mutual aid district consists of a 12 square mile area extending from CTH O to the north, Apple Avenue to the south, CTH E to the west and the Marathon County border to the east. In instances where a call is received from within this area for a structural fire, both departments are dispatched to respond. Other tasks the department assists in are ice rescue, auto-extraction, DNR wildfire suppression and public education.

The department owns and maintains a number of pieces of equipment including: #375-1980 Ford/Pierce with Telesquirt 75' Aerial Ladder & 1000 gpm midship pump, #305-1982 Ford/Pierce with 750 gpm midship pump and 1000 gallon tank #325- 1985 Chevrolet with 250 gpm pump & 100 gallon tank, Federal Surplus Unit, #350-1990 Ford L-8000 with Marion 18 foot walk-in rescue body, 11kW generator & Hurst Tools, #304-1995 International Tanker with 2000 gallon tank, #301-1998 Freightliner with Custom Fire Body with 1250 gpm pump, 1250 gallon tank and Class A & B Foam #307- 2003 International 7400 with Custom Fire Body with 1250 gpm pump, 1250 gallon tank and Class A & B Foam, #390-All-Terrain rescue vehicle, 2003 ATV rescue unit trailer & Command Post, and #306-Internationsl tandom 600-500 gpm, 3000 gall. Future plans for the Medford Area Fire Department include getting Federal dollars to become a satellite Task Force 6 Heavy Structural Collapse Rescue Team.

The **Stetsonville Volunteer Fire Department** fire hall is located at 532 E. CTH A in the Village of Stetsonville, and serves the Village of Stetsonville and the Towns of Deer Creek, Holway, and Little Black. The department is staffed by 35 volunteer fire fighters, responds to approximately 25 calls per year, and has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 7 within a five-mile radius and a rating of 10 outside of that. Department equipment includes: one pumper, one pumper/tanker, three tankers, one equipment van, and one personal van. All dispatch is through the Taylor County Sheriff's Department and there are mutual aid agreements with all neighboring departments. One special mutual aid agreement the department has is with the Medford Fire Department. This consists of long narrow area between Medford and Stetsonville (see yellow area on Map 4.4). Both departments are dispatched and respond if a call is received from this area. Any future plans to expand the Stetsonville Volunteer Fire Department are unknown at this time.



The **Rib Lake Fire Department** is located at 658 McComb Ave. in the Village of Rib Lake and serves the Village of Rib Lake, and the Towns of Greenwood, Rib Lake, and part of the Town of Hill and Spirit in Price County. The department is staffed by 26 volunteer fire fighters, responds to approximately 25 calls per year, and has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 7. Department equipment includes: two pumpers, two tankers, one rescue truck, one 6X6 Polaris Ranger and an ATV Fire & Rescue Unit. All dispatch is through the Taylor County Sheriff's Department and there are mutual aid agreements with all neighboring departments. Any future plans to expand the Rib Lake Fire Department are unknown at this time.

The **Jump River Fire Department** is located on STH 73 in Jump River and serves the Town of Jump River, one-half of the Town of Lawrence in Rusk County, and has a mutual aid agreement to respond to calls in the eastern half of McKinley with the Sheldon Fire Department. The department is staffed by 20 volunteer fire fighters, responds to approximately 10 calls per year, and has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 8 or 9. Department equipment includes: two pumpers, two tankers, and one rescue truck. All dispatch is through the Taylor County Sheriff's Department and there are mutual aid agreements with all neighboring departments. Any future plans to expand the Jump River Fire Department are unknown at this time.

The **Westboro Volunteer Fire Department** fire hall is located at N4941 Center St. in Westboro, WI. The department provides fire emergency services to the Town of Westboro, is staffed by 22-25 volunteer fire fighters, responds to approximately 12-20 calls per year, and has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 8 or 9. Department equipment includes: two pumpers (one 1,250 gal./min. and one 1,000 gal./min.), two tankers (one 2,000 gal. and one 2,250 gal.), and an equipment van. All dispatch is through the Taylor County Sheriff's Department and there are mutual aid agreements with all neighboring departments. Future plans are to build a new fire hall within the next five years.

The **Owen-Withee-Curtiss Fire Association** provides fire protection and emergency services to a 16 square mile area in portions of Maplehurst and Holway townships in Taylor County. The fire association is a merger of Owen and Curtis fire departments with fire halls located in each village. The Owen Fire Department has 31 volunteer fire fighters and an ISO rating of 4 and the Curtis Fire Department has 10 volunteer fire fighters and an ISO rating of 5. The Association is dispatched to approximately 25 fire-related calls per year with dispatch going through the City of Neillsville. The Owen-Withee-Curtis Fire Association has mutual aid agreements with all surrounding fire departments.

Police Departments

Three municipal police departments and the Taylor County Sheriff's Department provide law enforcement services in Taylor County. Below is a description of each department.

The **Taylor County Sheriff's Department**, located at 224 S. Second St. in Medford, provides the majority of law enforcement services to approximately 967 square miles of Taylor County, particularly within the towns and unincorporated areas. The department employs 43 full-time staff with no part-time employees on the force. Staff includes a sheriff, chief deputy, juvenile/DARE officer, two investigators, three sergeants, administrative assistant, data records, court officer, K-9



unit, 11 road (patrol) officers, and 20 jailors/dispatchers. One state Trooper and one DNR Game Warden are stationed in Taylor County. The Taylor County Sheriff's Department also provides ATV and snowmobiling patrolling duties. The Sheriff's Department is dispatched to all calls unless a municipal department is responding. All 9-1-1 emergency calls are dispatched through the County Sheriff's Office; no municipal department has its own dispatch.

Medford Police Department, located in the same building as the Taylor County Sheriff's Department, provides a 24 hour/day seven day a week police protective service in the City of Medford. The department consists of nine sworn officers, who include a chief, sergeant, detective, investigator, school liaison officer, and five patrol officers. The department also has one administrative assistant. All 9-1-1 emergency calls are dispatched through the County Sheriff's Office.

Gilman Police Department, located at 115 W Davlin Street in the Village of Gilman. The department is currently staffed with one full-time 40 hours/week Police Chief who is deputized. Dispatch is handled through the Taylor County Sheriff's Department. The department currently has no plans for increased staff, equipment, or facilities.

Rib Lake Police Department, located in the Village of Rib Lake at 655 Pearl St., includes one full-time officer who is a 40-hour a week employee with one patrol car. Police service is limited to the village limits. The department also has anywhere between 1-3 part-time officers to work weekends and special events in the village. Dispatch is handled through the Taylor County Sheriff's Department. The department currently has no plans for increased staff, equipment, or facilities.

Health Care Facilities

Memorial Health Center is a 25-bed, not-for-profit, primary care hospital and clinic organization serving primarily Taylor and southern Price counties in north-central Wisconsin. The hospital, which was completely remodeled in 2006, is located in Medford with branch clinics located in Gilman, Medford, Prentice and Rib Lake. The hospital administers the Taylor County Ambulance Service, which is available 24 hours a day.

Child Care Facilities

Taylor County Human Services Department keeps record of certified and licensed childcare providers in Taylor County. Currently there are nine licensed family providers, two licensed group providers, fifteen regular certification providers and one provisional certification provider. The childcare provider list is continuously updated by the Human Services Department.

Rescue

The Taylor County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the Taylor County First Responders provide rescue services in Taylor County. The Taylor County EMS Office is operated through the Memorial Medical Center and located in the City of Medford. Rescue services are provided to most of Taylor except in the Maplehurst area where the Owen-Withee Fire and Ambulance is responsible and the McKinley area where the Sheldon Ambulance is summoned. The Taylor County EMS also serves parts of Hill and Spirit Townships in Price County. Ambulances are



located in Medford (3), Gilman (1), and Rib Lake (1). The Taylor County First Responders have command centers in Jump River, Lublin, and Stetsonville. In the future, a first responder unit is planned in the Rib Lake area.

Cemeteries

Cemeteries are an important historic resource in any community. Management of cemeteries throughout Taylor County ensures that existing and future cemeteries will be maintained and made available for future memorials. There are currently thirty-five (35) known cemeteries spread throughout Taylor County. Table 4-4 lists current cemeteries in Taylor County and their location.

Table 4-4: TAYLOR COUNTY CEMETERIES			
Municipality	Cemetery Name	Location	Section #
Chelsea	Chelsea/Pilgrim's Rest	Hwy. 13 & Cemetery Ave.	1
	Whittlesey Catholic/Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Between Settlement Rd. & Hwy. 13, east of Whittlesey	26
	Trinity Lutheran	Dassow Ave.	35
Cleveland	Hannibal	Cemetery Rd., east of Hannibal	17
Ford	Meadowbrook Lutheran	Co. B at Shadow Ave., south of Gilman	24W
	Meadowbrook Catholic/St. Peters & Pauls	Co. B, south of Gilman	25W
Goodrich	St. Andrew Lutheran	Hwy. 64 at Lemke Dr., west of Goodrich	27
Greenwood	St. Ann Catholic	Brehm Ave.	9W
	St. Peter/Greenwood Lutheran	Co. C, south of Wood Creek Ave.	19E
Grover	Perkinstown	FR 121 at Red Wine Rd., south of Perkinstown	3S
Holway	Amish	Wren Dr.	11
	Holway Lutheran/Our Savior's	Nelson Ave.	12
	Holway		22
	name unknown	(private)	28
	St. Mary Catholic	Elm Ave. at Larson Dr.	29
Jump River	Mt. Nebo	Nebo Ave., south of Jump River	18
Little Black	Little Black/St. Mary's Catholic	Birch Dr., south of Nelson Ave.	8
	Sacred Heart Catholic	Co. A, west of Stetsonville	24
	Stetsonville Public	Hwy. 13	25
	Zion Lutheran/God's Acres	Hwy. 13	25
Maplehurst	First Apostolic	Hwy. 64 at Co. T	5
	Maplehurst	Co. A-T, east of jct. with Buffalo Dr.	33
Medford	Evergreen 1/Catholic	Hwy. 64, east of Medford	26
	Evergreen 2	Hwy. 64, east of Medford	26
Molitor	Molitor/St. Anthony's	Division Dr.	33
Pershing	name unknown	East Loop Rd.	10
	Donald	Co. M, west of Donald	18
Rib Lake	Lake View	Timber Dr., east side of Rib Lake	26W
	name unknown	Fawn Ave., west of Co. C	36W
Roosevelt	St. Stanislaus	Co. F, west of Lublin	15
	Holy Assumption Orthodox	Co. F, NE of Lublin	15



Table 4-4: TAYLOR COUNTY CEMETERIES			
	St. Mary Polish National	Co. F, west of Lublin	22
Taft	Taft	Jct. Pinewood Dr. & Meridian Dr.	33
Westboro	Northside		12EC
	Mt. Olive	Co. D, west of Westboro	14EC

4.3 FUTURE NEEDS FOR UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

This chapter has identified and provided information on existing utilities and community facilities serving Taylor County. In order to access future needs for services related to utilities and community facilities, Table 4-5 provides details on the need to expand, rehabilitate, or provide new facilities/utilities in Taylor County and a timeframe that forecasts the needs to deal with the future needs for services in Taylor County that are related to utilities and community facilities.



Table 4-5: Future Utilities and Community Facilities Timetable							
	2007-2017			2018-2027			Comment
	Expand	Rehab	New	Expand	Rehab	New	
Sanitary Sewer Service		x			x		During the planning horizon, it is anticipated sanitary districts will continue to maintain equipment and infrastructure.
Storm Water Management							
Water Supply							
Solid Waste Disposal							
Recycling Facilities		x			x		Continued educational efforts and programs will be provided to residential customers as needed.
Communication Facilities							
Power Plants and Trans. Lines							
Cemeteries							
Pipelines							
Health Care Facilities							
Child Care Facilities							
Law Enforcement		x	x		x	x	Departments will continue to upgrade equipment to ensure safety and other measures are met.
Fire		x	x		x	x	See fire department summaries for comments.
Rescue							
Libraries							
Schools							
Parks		x			x		Maintenance will continue at the existing parks.
Trails		x			x		Maintenance will continue at the existing parks.
Town Hall/Garage							
Other Govt. Facilities							



4.4 PROGRAMS & POLICIES TO GUIDE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF UTILITIES & COMMUNITY FACILITIES

In order to expand on the future utilities and community facilities timetable above, this plan also recommends the following policies and programs:

- 1) Encourage Compact Development** – This plan supports local planning efforts that direct growth to planned areas that are easily provided with community services and utilities where available. Where development is planned in the County’s rural areas, this plan encourages subdivision and development practices that preserve large parcels of natural undeveloped land. This conclusion is partially drawn from the fact that nearly 60 percent of survey respondents favored subdivision and development practices that preserve large parcels of natural undeveloped land through public policies and ordinances. (See survey results – Question #2 (Housing))

- 2) Promote Joint Service Agreements** – In the rural areas of Taylor County, the key public services provided to town residents and property owners include public education and school busing, police and fire protection, emergency medical service, road maintenance, and recycling services. This plan encourages local governments to explore or extend joint service agreements with neighboring communities and Taylor County where consolidating and coordinating services can result in future cost savings. This is evident by the fact that over 60 percent of respondents to the countywide survey support sharing equipment or personnel with neighboring and/or overlapping municipalities if it afforded a cost savings. (See survey results – Question #3 (Intergovernmental Cooperation))

- 3) Promote Long-Range Infrastructure Planning** – It is critical to coordinate future land use development with planning improvements to public sanitary sewer systems. Taylor County and local municipalities can partner to promote long-range sewer system planning. These include:
 - Helping guide development into areas with public sanitary sewer systems.
 - Support the study of potential extensions of municipal sanitary sewer lines.
 - Assist in creating new sanitary or utility districts.
 - Provide information to property owners considering group or community waste treatment facilities.

The majority of Taylor County residents feel that new homes and businesses should be encouraged primarily in or next to communities where sewer and water utilities are available. (See survey results – Questions #1 & #2 (Utilities & Community Facilities))



4.5 SUMMARY

The presence and provision of public and private utilities, facilities, and services within Taylor County are closely linked with the growth and development patterns that the County experiences. The type and quality of services provided to residents and visitors of Taylor County are among the most important reasons why people and businesses are attracted to and choose to remain within the County. Taylor County should continue to monitor all services provided to the County to ensure continued delivery of those services in the most cost-effective manner possible consistent with its long-term goals, trends, and projections.

Table 4-5 does not list all new, rehabilitation, or expansion projects that may be possible within the components represented, due to the county not being a responsible agent/entity. However, coordination with the county on future activities by responsible agents/entities is encouraged. This coordination could result in streamlined processes and greater opportunities to partner on joint projects.