CHAPTER 4: UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

One responsibility of a community is to maintain a certain level of community services. To achieve it, the Town of Alto must continuously maintain, upgrade and expand existing facilities in a cost effective manner based on future growth projections and the desires of the community.

Wisconsin Smart Growth Legislation requires the Utilities and Community Facilities Element to be a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs to guide the future development of these facilities in the Town of Alto. An inventory of the current situation is required; more importantly, the Legislation requires this element to provide guidance as to how the Town can meet projected needs at the appropriate time and in the appropriate manner.

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES VISION

The Town of Alto will continue to provide effective emergency services to all residents within the jurisdiction. Community facilities will be maintained in an appropriate manner with regular review and periodic update. Access to local facilities will remain positive characteristics of the township and residents will continue to utilize existing community facilities for local gatherings and events.

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal CF1: Maintain vitality of local public and semi-public facilities.

Objective:
- Continue to update community center facilities on an as-needed basis.

Goal CF2: Reduce the burden of public maintenance of privately operated cemeteries in the jurisdiction.

Objectives:
- Work with area cemetery associations to determine the best way to keep these organizations operating.
- Encourage “adoption” of local cemeteries by local benevolent organizations, churches, civic groups, or individuals to perform regular maintenance.

Goal CF3: Maintain sufficient emergency services.

Objectives:
- Continue to provide appropriate levels of volunteers and equipment to ensure proper operation of the Alto Volunteer Fire Department.
- Continue EMS through Lifestar, or other appropriate entities, to ensure adequate service provision for all residents.
• Continue to support the Fond du Lac County Sheriff’s Department.
  • Explore installation of an emergency siren at the Fire Station locale.

Goal CF4: Maintain quality and quantity of groundwater.

Objectives:
• Encourage capping of abandoned wellheads.
• Promote safe agricultural practices to reduce the possibility of groundwater contamination.
• Encourage private monitoring of water levels and quality.

Goal CF5: Maintain power transmission line access and facilities.

Objectives:
• Continue cooperative efforts with Alliant Energies to provide sufficient service.
• Continue to recommend appropriate easements to ensure appropriate delivery of electric service.

Goal CF6: Explore possibility of sanitary sewer service in unincorporated Alto.

Objectives:
• Determine support for public sanitary sewer service provision within the blocks contained within the “village” of unincorporated Alto.
• Establish a dialogue with the Saputo Cheese USA, Inc. to inquire about the possibility of developing a joint sanitary sewer service (public/private endeavor).
• Explore various funding devices to aid in the development of a public system.

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES POLICIES

• The Town will maintain the longevity of current community facilities until the development of new facilities is warranted.
• To maintain quality groundwater, the town will encourage private property owners to engage in best management practices to limit the possibility of groundwater contamination.
• Alto will provide sufficient emergency services in the most cost effective manner appropriate.
• Alto will cooperate with utility providers to ensure adequate delivery of service.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The following section provides an inventory of utilities and community facilities that serve the Town of Alto. The analysis of facilities is based on generalizations and predictions and is no
substitute for detailed engineering or architectural studies, which should be completed before municipal funds are expended on specific projects.

**Wastewater Collection and Treatment**

Private on-site wastewater treatment systems, or POWTs, serve all residents in the Town. Fond du Lac County maintains records for private, on-site sanitary permits in the Town. Fond du Lac County also implements a POWTS maintenance program. Depending on the size of the septic tank, pumping is required from one to three years. POWTs consist of conventional or at-grade or mound systems, in all there are 672 active on-site systems in the Town.\(^1\) Saputo Cheese USA Inc., in the unincorporated village of Alto has an industrial WPDES wastewater discharge permit and treats wastewater onsite.\(^2\)

**Stormwater Management**

There is a limited local storm sewer system in unincorporated Alto where curb and gutter exists. These facilities consist of streets with curb and gutter collecting storm water via storm inlets. The inlets lead to storm sewer piping which ultimately discharges to a tributary creek, which in turn feeds into the South Branch of the Rock River.

**Water Supply**

Although water may seem to be plentiful in Wisconsin, it is not an infinite resource. Providing safe, clean, and reliable water can and has become a challenge for many communities throughout the state. The Town of Alto is served by private wells. As such, groundwater is the source of drinking water within the Town. Throughout the Town residents have identified an average depth to water of 160 to 200 feet below groundwater. Many private water systems use water softeners and iron filters, but water quality is overall quite good.\(^3\) Saputo Cheese USA Inc. has a local system for onsite water provision.

**Solid Waste and Recycling**

The Town of Alto does not provide garbage pickup services\(^4\). Most residents make their own arrangements with Waste Management or Advance Disposal. The Town provides access to a central recycling facility (fee paid by Town) located in the City of Waupun at 513 Fond du Lac Street.

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Energy Supply and Transmission

Electricity

Alliant Energies supplies electricity to the Town of Alto. Two transmission lines: a 345 kv and a 69 kv are present in the Town. In addition, the Alto substation is located in the unincorporated village of Alto (Map 4-1).

Natural Gas

Alliant Energies supplies natural gas to the Town of Alto. A hazardous liquid pipeline intersects the southeast corner of the Town. The pipeline is owned by Flint Hills Resources, LC. Hazardous pipelines transport crude oil, refined petroleum products, chemicals and natural gas liquids.

Telecommunication Facilities

Telephone

Residents have a number of choices for local phone service. The advancement of telecommunications technologies, such as cell phones, has greatly increased the need for towers to provide receiving and sending capabilities. The federal government recognized this need with the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This is one cell tower registered with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the Town of Alto (Map 4-1). The cell tower is located on Amity Road, north of Hill Road. Effective January 14, 2019, the Federal Communications Commission employed new preemptions of local authority over small cell wireless facility deployment and management of local right-of-ways.

Internet

Broadband or high-speed internet is available in the Town of Alto. Fixed broadband includes all wireline and fixed wireless technologies. Speeds vary greatly in the Town. Download speeds vary from 25 Mbps and greater east of Amity Road extend (north-south) to 10 Mbs west of Amity Road extended. Upload speeds vary from 3 Mbps and greater east of Amity Road extended to 1 Mbps west of Amity Road extended. This could affect the Towns ability to attract businesses to certain areas of the Town or residents wanting higher internet speeds.

Parks and Recreational Facilities

Local parks and recreational facilities are intended to provide primarily short-term active recreational opportunities. As a rule, the number of park sites and the diversity of available

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recreational facilities they provide correspond with the size of the community. Within the Town of Alto there are no outdoor park and recreation facilities. However, the Alto Community Center contains a gymnasium that provides a venue for organized recreation activities. Nearby park and recreational facilities in other communities include the Waupun County Park (City of Waupun), the Rock Golf Club (City of Waupun), numerous park and recreational facilities in the City of Waupun and community parks in the villages of Brandon and Fairwater.

**Snowmobile Trails**

Snowmobilers in Alto have access to a network of snowmobile trails. Local snowmobile clubs handle trail set up, maintenance, signage and grooming. Fond du Lac County also administers the annual DNR snowmobile trail grant for trails within Fond du Lac County. Within Dodge County, County trails are administered by the Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Department through State DNR funding derived from a gas tax formula and snowmobile registration fees.

**Cemeteries**

There are five cemeteries located within the township. These include Alto Community Cemetery, Oak Mound Cemetery, Wood Cemetery, West Alto Cemetery, and Calvary Cemetery (Map 4-2). Descriptions of both Wood, and Oak Mounds cemeteries are provided below.

Alto Community Cemetery is located in the unincorporated village of Alto. The cemetery is owned and maintained by a cemetery association, it’s open for burials.

Oak Mound Cemetery is located in section 14 of the town of Alto, adjacent to the Zion Congregational Church on Amity Road, one mile north of the unincorporated village of Alto. The cemetery is owned by the Zion Congregational Church and is maintained by a cemetery association; it is open for burials.

Wood Cemetery is located in section 5 of the town of Alto adjacent to County Highway JJ (Liner Road), just across the town line from Metomen. It is 4½ miles SW of Brandon on the south side of the highway, 1½ miles SE of Fairwater. The stones reflect a mixture of Town of Alto and Village of Fairwater residents. The cemetery is closed for burials and is maintained by the Town of Alto.

West Alto Cemetery is located on Marshview Road, between Lake Maria Road and CTH AS. The cemetery is closed for burials and is maintained by the Town of Alto.

Calvary Cemetery is located on the north side of Lake Maria Road between Oak Grove Road and Radio Road. The cemetery is closed for burials and is maintained by the Town of Alto.
Health Care Facilities

Hospitals and Clinics

Alto has no current health care facilities. However, Waupun Memorial Hospital, located at 620 W. Brown Street in Waupun is a 25 bed general medical surgical hospital. Other hospitals within 40 minutes of Alto include; St. Agnes; Ripon Medical Center, Ripon (16 beds); St. Agnes Hospital, Fond du Lac (139 beds); and Aurora Medical Center, Oshkosh (72 beds).

Nursing Homes

There are no nursing homes located within the Town of Alto. According to the Directory of Licensed Wisconsin Nursing Homes, dated August 15, 2019, Fond du Lac County has 8 nursing home facilities with 608 licensed beds, while Dodge County has 14 nursing home facilities with 899 licensed beds. Only one facility is located in the City of Waupun (50 licensed beds).

Childcare Facilities

With the increased prevalence of dual-income households, the importance of reliable and affordable childcare plays a critical role in maintaining the present economy. Under Wisconsin law, no person may provide care and supervision for 4 or more children under the age of 7 (not related) for less than 24 hours a day, unless that person obtains a license to operate a childcare center from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. There are no licensed or certified childcare facilities in the Town of Alto.

Public Safety and Emergency Services

Police Service

Police service to the Town of Alto is provided by the Fond du Lac County Sheriff’s Department, as needed. The department is located at 180 S. Macy Street in the City of Fond du Lac. According to the Town of Alto, this arrangement is working fine.

Correctional Facilities

The jail along with the sheriff’s office was remodeled in 2005. The jail currently has a capacity of over 300 beds and houses short-term state inmates. The sheriff’s office operates a secure detention facility for youth. It has a rated capacity of 27 juveniles and serves as a facility for

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juvenile offenders from throughout the county, as well as other counties in need of juvenile placement for secure detention.

Fire Services and Emergency Management

The Alto Volunteer Fire Department, started in 1955, provides fire protection to properties located in the Town of Alto. The fire department, located at W12765 CTH AS, Waupun, has 20 trained volunteer members on call. The department owns a pumper truck, water truck, rescue truck, brush truck and a trailer and UTV. The department is part of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), which is a mutual aid measure used to deploy fire, rescue and emergency medical services in a multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-agency response side town boundaries. Calls are dispatched through the Fond du Lac County 911 call center. The Town contracts with a third party of fire inspections. The Town is satisfied with the level of fire protection it receives.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) Incorporated collects information on municipal fire protection efforts throughout the United States. Using the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS), ISO assigns a Public Protection Classification (PPC) from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO minimum criteria. The Alto Volunteer Fire Department has an ISO rating of 9, which is common in small rural communities. For information on the building housing the fire department, please see below under Municipal Buildings.

Emergency Medical Services, including ambulance services, are provided Lifestar Emergency Medical Services, located at 1200 S. Watertown Street in the City of Waupun. Lifestar Emergency Medical Services maintains a fleet of three ambulances and covers an area of 200 square miles out of the Waupun location. Lifestar provides emergency service to the Town of Alto, the City of Waupun, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections in Waupun; the towns of Trenton, Chester, Oakfield, Waupun, Springfield (part) and Metonen; and the villages of Oakfield and Brandon. The Town is satisfied with the level of ambulance protection it receives.

Fond du Lac County Emergency Management. The Fond du lac County Communications and Emergency Management Office is charged with coordinating response and recovery in the event of natural or technological disasters, county-wide. The agency works with local communities, including the Town of Eldorado, to prepare their citizens and staff for disasters through training exercises, reenactments, and planning.

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9 Chief Kok, personal communication, 1/3/2020.
Library

There are no public library facilities in the Town of Alto. The closest library is located in the City of Waupun at 123 S Forest Street. Over the years the library facility and services have evolved to meet the changing needs of the community. The library provides a multitude of services including reference services, interlibrary loan, a homebound program, adult programs on varying topics throughout the year, book clubs, summer reading programs, wired and wireless Internet access and meeting room space. The Waupun Public Library is a member of the Monarch Library System which provides patrons with direct access to 33 libraries in Dodge, Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Washington counties.

Schools

Three public school districts provide education to Alto residents (Map 4-2). The Waupun Area School District covers the majority of the Town, while the Rosendale-Brandon School District is found in the northern tier. The northwest corner of the Town is included in the Markesan District Schools.

The Waupun Area School District’s 1,947\textsuperscript{12} students attend one of five schools: Meadow View Primary (Waupun), Rock River Intermediate (Waupun), Waupun Area Junior/Senior High School (Waupun) or Sages (Fox Lake). Since the 2014-2015 school year, enrollment has increased by 64 students or 3.4 percent. Four year old kindergarten is available in five locations within the school district: Alto Reformed Church (N3697 CTH E), Meadow View Primary School, SAGES, Waupun Preschool Education, Inc. (114 S. Forest Street) and Wee Care Child Care Center (1 West Brown Street). According to the school district, the schools are not nearing capacity at this time.

The Rosendale-Brandon School District’s 1,047 students, who live in Alto attend one of three schools: Brandon Elementary School, Brandon Middle School and Laconia High School. Since the 2014-2015 school year, enrollment has fluctuated between 1,079 (2015-2016 school year) and 1,013 (2016-2017 school year).

The Markesan School District’s 814 students attend one of two schools: Markesan Elementary School and Markesan High/Middle School. Since the 2014-2015 school year enrollment has fluctuated from a high of 828 (2015-2016 school year) to a low of 782 (2017-2018 school year).

Private Schools

Private schools play an important role in educating students. Private (non-public) school enrollment data for the 2018-2019 school year was obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

The following schools are listed for the Waupun Area School District:

- Central WI Christian School, Waupun (K4 through grade 12), enrollment: 311
- St. John's Ev. Lutheran Grade School, Fox Lake (PK though grade 8), enrollment: 43.

There are no private schools listed for the Rosendale-Brandon School District.

The following schools are listed for the Markesan School District: Faith Lutheran Church, Markesan (K4 through 8), enrollment: 21.

**Post-Secondary Education**

The Town of Alto does not have any institutions of higher education. Adult educational opportunities within close proximity to the Alto include college course work, vocational and technical courses. The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and Fond du Lac campuses, Marian College, Ripon College and Moraine Park Technical College are all located just a short commuting distance from Waupun.

**Post Office**

As in most rural townships, there is no local post office. The nearest facilities are located in the City of Waupun at 400 E. Franklin Street, Village of Brandon at 120 N. Commercial Street and the City of Markesan at 735 N. Margaret Street.

**Other Municipal Buildings**

**Alto Community Center**

The Alto Community Center is located at W12785 CTH AS in the unincorporated community of Alto. The facility was built in 1971 and is used for Town and community events and activities. Facilities include a gym, kitchen, meeting space and restrooms. The center is available to residents and non-resident for a small fee. The facility is meeting the needs of the community and no upgrades or renovations are planned.

**Alto Fire Department**

The Alto Fire Department is located at W12765 CTH AS, Waupun. Facilities include two bays, meeting room/office and restroom. The facility is generally meeting the needs of the department.

**UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES ISSUES RAISED DURING PLANNING PROCESS**

The following issues were raised during the comprehensive plan update:

**Limited budgets and a shrinking tax base.** Wisconsin cut shared revenue to Wisconsin communities a number of years ago. Shared revenues are state funds that are directed back to communities and can be used to lower property taxes and provide money to fund a level of
basic services. At the same time, Wisconsin has prohibited communities from raising property taxes. In addition, the number of unfunded mandates has increased and the cost of doing business has continued to rise. This has placed a burden on communities to continue to provide the same level of services that residents are accustomed to.

**UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES ACTIONS**

This section provides actions that will help the Town of Alto continue to provide adequate services to the local community, and plan for increased efficiency and capacity.

**Actions:**

CF1.1: Perform periodic review of existing community facilities to identify areas for repair or possible upgrade.

CF1.2: Initiate an annual 5-Year Capital Improvement Program to plan and budget for needed improvements to public infrastructure.

CF2.1: Meet with area cemetery associations to discuss the long-term plans and funding options of the associations. This may include developing a strategy to recommend “adoption” of cemeteries by local organizations, churches, civic groups, or individuals to ensure proper upkeep of the facilities.

CF3.1: Continue to recruit volunteers for the Alto Volunteer Fire Department to ensure the longevity and performance of this service.

CF3.2: Continue contracting through appropriate channels to ensure appropriate levels of emergency ambulance service throughout the jurisdiction.

CF3.3: Work with Fond du Lac County to determine the best way to inform residents of storm warnings. After installation of an emergency siren, local distribution of NOAA emergency radios may be considered to reach outlying residents. Alto should inquire also if grants are available to offset the local costs of these devices.

CF4.1: Continue to encourage best management practices by private landowners to ensure availability of high quality groundwater. The town should also encourage sealing of abandoned wells to reduce risk of groundwater contamination.

CF 5.1: Continue to work with Alliant Energies to allow sufficient easements or access to necessary locations within the jurisdiction.

CF6.1: Determine public support for public sanitary sewer service within the unincorporated “village” of Alto. This may include working with Alto Dairy to develop (or expand) the
current Alto Dairy system to include a public/private partnership for maintenance and repair of the facility.

FORECASTED UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITY NEEDS

Table 4.1 provides a list of forecasted utilities and community facilities needs as identified by the Town of Alto.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Utilities/Facilities</th>
<th>Approximate Timeframe</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Center</td>
<td>Long-Term</td>
<td>No immediate needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Department</td>
<td>Long-Term</td>
<td>No immediate needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
<td>Explore increased local enforcement of regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMT/Rescue</td>
<td>Long-Term</td>
<td>Current arrangement with Lifestar, negotiated by County, is adequate for current needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemeteries</td>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
<td>Local cemeteries not municipally operated, may necessitate Town maintenance in the future</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Short-Term: approximately 1-4 years in the future
Mid-Term: approximately 5-8 years in the future
Long-Term: approximately 9+ years in the future

IMPLEMENTATION

The following recommendations pertaining to utilities and community facilities will be moved to the implementation chapter.
Utilities and Community Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF1.1.1: Perform periodic review/inspection of existing facilities</td>
<td>Town Board, Inspector</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF2.1.1: Meet with cemetery associations to discuss long-term plans/funds</td>
<td>Town Board</td>
<td><strong>Ongoing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF3.1.1: Continue recruitment efforts for Alto Volunteer F.D.</td>
<td>Town Board</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF3.2.1: Review contracts for ambulance service on periodic basis</td>
<td>Town Board</td>
<td>Annual</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Determine use of additional storm warning devices (siren, NOAA radios)</strong></td>
<td>Town Board</td>
<td><strong>Immediate</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF4.1.1: Encourage best management practices to protect groundwater</td>
<td>Town Board</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF5.1.1: Continue cooperative practices with Alliant Energies</td>
<td>Town Board, Plan</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>CF6.1.1: Analyze need for public sewer in unincorporated Alto</td>
<td>Plan Commission</td>
<td>2008</td>
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</tbody>
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Map 4-1
Town of Alto
Utilities

Source:

PREPARED NOVEMBER 2019 BY:

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Map 4-2
Town of Alto
Community Facilities

Source:
Base data by Fond du Lac County 2018.
Community data by ECRWRP 2017.

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ECWRPC

Community Center
Fire Department
Railroads
Markesan Schools
Rosendale-Brandon School District
Waupun Area School District