

CHAPTER 5

Community Services, Facilities, and Transportation

Water and Sewage Disposal Systems

Two public water systems are available in West Traverse Township, one owned and operated by the City of Harbor Springs and the other by West Traverse Township. The City of Harbor Springs system serves approximately 105 residential customers primarily located on Harbor Point, Pine Trail and Forest Beach Drive. In an area west of State Road and adjacent to the City of Harbor Springs, the West Traverse Township system serves approximately 150 residential customers. Due to the number of public water customers, the Township is installing a water storage facility on the publicly zoned property on Hughston, west of the end of Quick Road. Additionally, a few areas are served by private community water systems, these include Birchwood Farms, Windward and the area zoned commercial-industrial east of State Road and north of the City of Harbor Springs.

Portions of West Traverse Township are served by two separate sewer systems, which are operated and maintained under contract with the Harbor Springs Sewer Authority. The Harbor Point area is served by the City of Harbor Springs system as of January 2008. Pine Trail, and Forest Beach Drive are served by the West Traverse Township sewer system. A limited number of developments provide private community septic systems in the Township, including one such system at Birchwood Farms. However, most Township residents rely on on-site private wells for domestic drinking water and individual septic systems for disposals. All private drinking water wells and septic systems are regulated by the Emmet County Health Department.

There are a few residential developments, which have community wells, but have individual septic systems. This is the approach taken with the Windward development, and allows for development on small lots where achieving the required isolation distance between individual wells and individual septic fields would have been difficult.

Two important determinants for siting a septic system are soil suitability and depth to bedrock. Chapter Three – Natural Resources discusses the geology and soils of the Township, and Figure 3-2 shows areas with potential septic limitations.

Transportation and Road Maintenance

Public roads within the Township are categorized as follows:

State Route	approximately 5.6 miles in length
County Primary Hardtop	approximately 8.1 miles in length
Local Hardtop	approximately 16.6 miles in length
Local Gravel	approximately 2.2 miles in length
Seasonal Roads	approximately 1.4 miles in length

The only state route through the Township is M-119, which is the north/south route which approximately parallels the shoreline of the Township. It is a state highway under the

jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Transportation and is designated as a Scenic Heritage Highway, due to the natural beauty along the route. The total distance of M-119 passing through West Traverse Township is approximately 5.6 miles.

The county primary routes are hardtop roads, covering just more than 8.1 miles in length. Lake Road, State Road, Quick Road and Middle Road are classified as county primary roads by the Emmet County Road Commission.

The other roads in the Township are classified as local roads, including approximately 16.6 paved miles and approximately 2.2 miles of gravel roads. Additionally, there are approximately 1.4 miles of seasonal roads in the West Traverse Township, as well as some private roads primarily located in the existing planned unit developments.

Lower Shore Drive (approximately 2.8 miles) is designated a Natural Beauty Road. This is a designation for county roads which have outstanding natural features along its borders. Qualifying criteria include native vegetation, and/or open space with scenic or natural vistas. Singly or in combination, these features set a Natural Beauty Road apart from other roads as being something unique and distinct.

Within the Township, certain public road and segments of roads have been built as all season roads to handle heavy truck traffic. These roads are designated as a Class A or All Season Roads. The following roads and road segments are designated as such:

- Lake Road (1.19 miles from Harbor Springs City Limits to M-119)
- Quick Road (from State Road east 0.76 miles)
- State Road (Harbor Springs City Limits north to Township line, 2.88 miles)
- Middle Road (State Road north 1.74 miles to Hughston Road)
- Franklin Street (0.55 miles)

The Emmet County Road Commission provides road maintenance and snow removal services on all public non-seasonal roads within the Township. Additionally, there are a number of private roads, as well as seasonal roads serving residential developments. The maintenance and repair of private roads is typically handled through a private association.

Recreation

A recreation committee was formed by the West Traverse Township Board in early 1990's. Most recently, the committee has been actively involved in developing/ updating the West Traverse Township Recreation Plan 2006-2011, which was adopted in November 2006. The Recreation Committee continues to serve in an advisory capacity to the Township Board concerning recreation matters. This committee is responsible for the updating of the 5-year recreation plan, so that the Township is eligible for grant funding. Details pertaining to recreational facilities, goals and future projects are provided in the West Traverse Township Recreation Plan.

Community Facilities

The purpose of this portion of the chapter is to inventory all Township facilities and to make recommendations as to eliminating, enlarging, maintaining, and possibly building new facilities.

With the increasing demands placed upon public budgets, intelligent Planning commissions will be expected to determine needs, priorities, and standards for a wide range of public facilities.

WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP HALL

The Township Hall is of frame construction with a concrete basement. The area around the Hall is landscaped. The parking next to the building has been paved and a parking lot has been created across Lake street. The basement has been totally remodeled with new offices, a meeting room, a rest room, and updated heating system.

FIRE PROTECTION

At the present time, fire protection is provided by the Harbor Springs Area Fire Authority. The Department is a volunteer association of several townships and the City of Harbor Springs.

POLICE PROTECTION

At the present time police protection is provided by the Emmet County Sheriff Office, headquartered on M-119 between Harbor Springs and Petoskey, and the Michigan State Police, from the Petoskey post.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Advanced life support (ALS) ambulance service is provided by Allied EMS System, Inc. Allied EMS has three stations: the closest is in Harbor Springs, a second station is located in Petoskey, and a third is located on M-119 between the primary stations in Petoskey and Harbor Springs. The two primary stations are each staffed by a two person crew, with at least one member of each crew licensed as a paramedic (Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic) and the second member licensed as an Emergency Medical Technician at the Basic level, the Specialist level or at the Paramedic level.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY

West Traverse Township appoints a person to represent the Township on the Harbor Springs Airport Authority.

HARBOR COMMISSION

Two representatives from West Traverse Township serve on the Intergovernmental Harbor Commission.