

4 Community Utilities & Facilities

This element includes background information, goals, objectives, and recommendations to guide the future development of utilities and community facilities in the Town of Brigham. It describes current facilities and includes recommendations for future utilities needs, upgrades, and considerations.

4.1 Utilities

4.1.1 Water Supply

The Town's water supply comes entirely from groundwater, primarily through private wells. The water supply in the County, as well as most of Wisconsin, is truly an invaluable treasure.

4.1.2 Sanitary Sewer Service

The disposal of waste water in the Town is handled through the use of Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS), often referred to as septic systems. POWTS are regulated by Wisconsin Administrative Codes Comm 81-85, and are administered through county governments.

The Wisconsin Department of Commerce (COMM) regulates the siting, design, installation and inspection of most private on-site sewage systems. Recent changes to the State's Plumbing Code (COMM 83) allow for both conventional and advanced pre-treatment systems for residential development. The changes allow properties that have soil depths or soil types that were once unsuitable for conventional septic systems to now be developed and serviced by advanced pre-treatment sewage systems. This could result in widespread areas of scattered non-farm related residential development in the Town. If not properly located or maintained, on-site sewage disposal systems can significantly pollute groundwater.

4.1.3 Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities

The Town's solid waste and recycling is handled through a contract with Town & Country Sanitation. The Town is encouraging residents to recycle and has acquired a grant from the State of Wisconsin to help defray the costs of recycling. In order to maintain eligibility for the grant, the Town must recycle 26% of all waste products, according to the Town's website.

4.1.4 Stormwater Management

The Town has a stormwater and erosion control ordinance to help protect the natural slopes that define the area as development continues to occur within the Town. A land owner is required to submit a permit for development or movement of soil when exceeding 1,000 cubic yards. This permit will be reviewed by the Town Building Inspector and approved by the Plan Commission.

4.1.5 Telecommunications Facilities

There are two telecommunication towers within the Town of Brigham. A US Cellular tower is located on the southwestern boundary of the Village of Barneveld and the Midwest Family Broadcasting facility is on the Russell Moyer farm.

The residents within the Town obtain local and long distance phone service from Verizon and Mount Horeb Telephone Company, while cellular service can be obtained from a variety of providers. At this point high-speed internet is only available in certain parts of the Town (through a variety of means including satellite).

4.1.6 Power Plants, Electricity, and Transmission Lines

Electricity is provided to the Town by Alliant Energy. There are no power plants or transmission lines within Brigham.

4.2 Community Facilities

4.2.1 Libraries

There are no libraries located within the Town of Brigham. The Southwest Wisconsin Library System provides library services to Town residents. There are four locations, including Barneveld, Dodgeville, Mineral Point, and Cobb.

4.2.2 Schools

The majority of school age children within the Town of Brigham attend the Barneveld School District. This K-12 district enrolled 440 students in the 2005-2006 school year. The one school location is centrally located in the Village of Barneveld. There is a small portion of the Town that is incorporated in the Pecatonica School District. This school district has an elementary school and a middle and high school facility. Enrollment in 2006 was 530 students for this district. The elementary school is located in Hollandale and the middle and high school is in Blanchardville.

The University of Wisconsin Extension Iowa County Office is located in Dodgeville. There is a branch of the Southwest Technical College located in Iowa County. The Fennimore location is located in Grant County. University of Wisconsin Platteville and University of Wisconsin Madison are both within 40 miles of Brigham. The UW-Madison campus is 30 miles east of Brigham, while UW-Platteville is 40 miles southwest of Brigham.

4.2.3 Police, Fire, and Rescue

The Town of Brigham is served by the Iowa County Sheriff's Department, which is based in Dodgeville, and serves the entire county.

The Barneveld-Brigham Fire Department provides fire protection and rescue service to the Town (pictured on right).



4.2.4 Health Care Facilities

There are no health care facilities located within the Town of Brigham. The closest clinic is in the Village of Barneveld. In addition, Town residents have access to the Upland Hills Health Hospital in Dodgeville or Saint Mary's, Meriter, or University Hospital in Madison. The closest Veteran's Hospital is located in Madison.

4.2.5 Child Care Facilities

Residents in the Town of Brigham have access to private in home child care providers in Barneveld, Dodgeville, and Mt Horeb. Additionally, there are private care facilities in Dodgeville and Madison.

4.2.6 Cemeteries

The Town of Brigham has five cemeteries within its boundaries. They are: Bethel Cemetery, Middlebury Cemetery, White Church Cemetery, Jenniton Baptist Cemetery, and Jenniton Congregational.

4.3 Timetable for Expansion of Community Utilities & Facilities

Upgrades and expansions to public utilities and facilities may be warranted for a variety of reasons. In Brigham, aging facilities and the need for increased space is driving the necessity for facility improvements. See Table 4.3.1.

Table 4.3.1: Forecasted Utilities and Community Facilities Needs

Facility/Utility	Need	Approximate Timeframe	Comments
Fire and Emergency Services	Expansion	Immediate	The fire and emergency services require additional space.
Municipal Building	Relocation	Immediate	Barneveld and Brigham are exploring options to provide more office space. These options include renting space, purchasing and adding on to an existing building, and constructing a new building. The present municipal building would be entirely devoted to the fire and emergency services.
Barneveld Public School	Renovation or Relocation	Short-Term	A consultant has been hired to perform a needs assessment on the current facility. The school has been expanded several times and is in need of additional maintenance. The extent of renovation will depend on community growth and the need for increased facilities. School officials would prefer not to continue retrofitting the current facility as it has numerous problems. Expansion or renovation will likely be subject to a public referendum in the near future.

Immediate: as soon as possible

Short-Term: approximately 1-4 years in the future

4.4 Community Utilities and Facilities Goals & Objectives

Goals and objectives identify what the plan should accomplish. Goals are statements that describe a desired future condition, often in general terms. Objectives are statements that describe a specific future condition to be attained, to reach the established goals. This plan provides brief goal(s) followed by an objective statement.

4.4.1 Continue to maintain community safety.

Community safety is an important factor contributing to the Town’s quality of life and well-being. Maintaining sufficient volunteers for emergency services, assisting law enforcement efforts, promoting safe living and enhancing quality of life are paramount to Brigham’s future. Brigham officials are expected to maintain an open community dialog with residents and to protect and make the community aware of potentially harmful conditions and to respond accordingly.

4.4.2 Continue to maintain low public service and facility costs.

In order to ensure that Brigham residents and businesses are adequately served by desired public utilities and facilities in a cost-effective way and in a manner that promotes a high quality of life, Brigham will work to respond to community needs. This includes coordinating capital improvements with development, efficiently managing resources, and seeking grants and other revenue generating ventures as deemed appropriate by the Town Board. Keeping sufficient levels of service may require Brigham to work with other jurisdictions to identify cost-sharing or cooperative agreements to lower costs.

4.5 Community Utilities & Facilities Recommendations

Recommendations identify the action necessary to achieve goals and objectives. For this reason, recommendations should be actionable, attainable, and specific. Not all recommendations can be achieved in the short-term, so they should be specific enough so that any individual or group wishing to achieve a stated goal can take action.

The following recommendations were jointly developed by the Town of Brigham Plan Commission and its consultants.

- 4.5.1** Work with the Barneveld-Brigham Fire Department and Barneveld Area Rescue Squad to ensure sufficient levels of volunteer staff. Enable safe and efficient operation of emergency services through annual funding allocations.
- 4.5.2** Assist local and county police to promote law enforcement. Make authorities aware of problem areas including roadways for speeding, properties with suspicious activity, or other unlawful activity.
- 4.5.3** Consider developing a cost of community services survey (COCS) that quantifies the amount of services required by land use.
- 4.5.4** Ensure the cost for increased facilities development is levied to populations responsible for the need. Explore the use of impact fees, special assessments, or development review fees to ensure development pays for the improvements it requires.
- 4.5.5** Coordinate the need for long-term capital improvements with long-range land use planning activities.
- 4.5.6** Encourage residents, landowners, and businesses to practice energy conservation techniques within the town. Promote local, regional, and state programs that provide funding for farm rewiring, alternative energy planning and development, or reduced energy consumption.
- 4.5.7** Include the public in facility and utility expansion decisions.
- 4.5.8** Encourage resident participation on local and regional boards, commissions, and committees to jointly plan for and coordinate the provision of utilities and community facilities.
- 4.5.9** Coordinate long-term facilities development with adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions to identify opportunities for cost sharing or consolidation.
- 4.5.10** Work with local and regional entities to apply for state grant funding to increase recreational opportunities. Grants are available for land acquisition and capital development.