

D. PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

The purpose of this section is to:

1. Describe Whitneyville's public facilities in terms of their extent, capacity and use;
2. Assess the adequacy of those systems in handling current demands; and
3. Predict whether additions and improvements to public facilities or services will be needed to accommodate projected population.

FINDINGS

Existing public facilities in Whitneyville have been well maintained. With continued maintenance, existing facilities and services are projected to be adequate for the needs of Whitneyville’s projected population over the next 20 years. Whitneyville proactively coordinates with neighboring communities to provide municipal services in the most efficient and cost effective manner. Maintenance of Whitneyville’s public facilities also benefits from the dedicated service of citizen volunteers.

Capital investment needs are detailed in the Capital Improvement Plan; see *Chapter K. Fiscal Capacity*.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The town of Whitneyville was incorporated on February 10, 1845. Whitneyville is a small, rural community. The town meeting form of government continues to work well for our community. The annual town meeting is usually held in September. Whitneyville has a three-member Board of Selectmen, assisted by a part-time town clerk and various boards and committees (see below). The town office is located in the Hillgrove Community Building at 42 South Main Street.

Whitneyville Town Boards & Committees

Selectpersons	3 members	Elected
Superintending School Committee	3 members	Elected
Planning Board	3 members	Appointed
Board of Appeals	3 members	Appointed
Recreation Committee	4 members	Appointed

Elected and Appointed Town Positions

Property Tax Collector	Elected	Assessor	Appointed
Excise Tax Collector	Elected	Fire Chief	Appointed
Treasurer	Elected	Emergency Management Director	Appointed
Town Clerk	Elected	Code Enforcement Officer	Appointed
Registrar of Voters	Elected	Plumbing Inspector	Appointed
Fire Warden	Elected	Animal Control Officer	Appointed
Deputy Warden	Elected		

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MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Hillgrove Community Building

The Hillgrove Community Building is a single-story building on Main Street that serves as Whitneyville's town office and a multi-purpose community center. The Community Building was built in the 1960's and served as a local grade-school until 1986. A dedicated office space for use by the town clerk and selectmen was added in the 1990's.

Whitneyville's town office is open for regular office hours on Tuesday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00. The town office houses municipal records and is used for meetings of the selectmen and other town committees as needed. Town meeting, voting and other community functions occur in the multi-purpose room.

Overall the building is in good shape. The town of Whitneyville recently invested in a new roof, a replacement furnace, and a new well pump for the facility. With regular maintenance and care, the Community Building will continue to serve our community well over the next 10 to 20 years.

No major capital invest is foreseen. However, the kitchen will need to be renovated and replacement windows would increase the building's energy efficiency. These items are included in the Capital Improvement Plan; see *Chapter K. Fiscal Capacity*.

Whitneyville Public Library

The Whitneyville Public Library is run as a private nonprofit. The town of Whitneyville supports the library with an annual appropriation (\$2,500 in recent years). The library currently occupies a town-owned building that served as Whitneyville School from 1868 to 1966. The Whitneyville Library Association has a capital campaign underway to construct a new library building adjacent to the existing Greek Revival schoolhouse.

The building itself continues to serve the library well, but is in need of some attention. Notably, the chimney needs to be replaced. Current plans are that when the new library is completed, the Library Association will continue to use the first floor of the existing building for book sales. The second story, which is not ADA accessible, will be used primarily for storage.

Former Whitneyville Fire Department Building

The structure formerly occupied by the Whitneyville Volunteer Fire Department is a single-story wood-frame structure on Main Street. Although the town has not invested much in maintenance recently, the building is still structurally sound and in relatively good shape. It is used primarily for storage. With basic maintenance, the building should continue to be adequate for that purpose over the planning period. No capital investment is foreseen.

Town Cemetery

The town-owned cemetery is located on Main Street just south of the main portion of the village. The cemetery occupies approximately 3 acres of a 10-acre parcel. The Whitneyville Cemetery Association oversees maintenance of the cemetery with the assistance of a small annual appropriation from the town.

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Whitneyville recently added a tax-acquired parcel to the cemetery. There is ample room to accommodate new lots. The Whitneyville Cemetery Association maintains its own capital reserve account. No significant municipal investment in the cemetery is anticipated over the next 10 to 20 years.

Basketball Court & Baseball Field

A town-owned basketball court is located on Middle Street; and a town-owned baseball field is located on Cross Street. Maintenance of both facilities is overseen by the Recreation Committee with the support of dedicated volunteers. Both facilities are maintained. Some municipal investment in the basketball court will likely be needed over the planning period. These facilities are discussed in greater detail in *Chapter E. Recreation*.

PUBLIC WORKS

The town of Whitneyville does not maintain a Public Works Department. Public works functions, including road maintenance, plowing, and operation of a municipally-owned clustered septic system are overseen by the Selectmen.

Municipal Clustered Waste Water System

The town of Whitneyville has one municipally owned clustered waste-water system that serves approximately 30 households along Main Street. Individual households on the system have on-site septic tanks that feed into a municipally owned and operated leach field. The system is operated as a utility: households on the system pay a user's fee. In recent years, users' fees have been sufficient to cover the cost of operating the system.

The selectmen work closely with users, the system operator and the DEP to ensure that the system works smoothly. Over the planning period, the town anticipates that at least one of the pumps will need to be replaced using funds from a designated capital reserve account.

The town has also identified a need to formalize a written Sewer Policy governing use of the municipal clustered waste water system that clearly identifies which maintenance functions are the responsibility of the town and which maintenance functions are the responsibility of individual system users. The Sewer Policy should also address how to equitably recapitalize the capital reserve account when current funds have been expended.

Road Maintenance & Plowing

The town of Whitneyville is responsible for some or all maintenance functions on approximately 8 miles of roadway. The town typically awards a three-year contract for municipal plowing. For the past few years, Whitneyville has worked with the neighboring town of Marshfield to coordinate the contract for municipal plowing at a cost savings to both communities.

The selectmen act as Road Commissioners for summer maintenance, awarding contracts for services as needs arise.

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Salt & Sand

The town of Whitneyville shares a municipal salt and sand pile with the neighboring town of Marshfield, where the sand pile is physically located. Selectmen from the two communities coordinate salt and sand purchases. No capital investment in the salt and sand facility is anticipated over the planning period, but the two towns should develop a Memorandum of Understanding to govern use of the shared facility.

Stormwater Management System

Stormwater management systems in Whitneyville consist primarily of roadside ditching. A small number of catchment basins are located on town road in the village (on Middle Street and Washington Street). The catchment basins are currently in good working order. Transportation related capital investments are dealt with in more detail in *Chapter J. Transportation*.

Solid Waste Management

The town of Whitneyville is member of the Bay Area Transfer Station located in Machias. Operation of the Transfer Station is overseen by the Town of Machias. Costs are shared among member municipalities on a population-based formula.

The Bay Area Transfer Station accepts municipal solid waste and demolition debris on a pay-as-you-throw basis. The Transfer Station also accepts universal waste (e.g. electronics and white goods) as well as a range of recyclables.

The town of Whitneyville does not pay for municipal trash or recycling collections. Residents are responsible for delivering their own solid waste to the transfer station. Trash bags can be purchased at the Whitneyville Town Office, Library or at the Transfer Station. At \$15,000 annually, Whitneyville's solid waste costs come out to an estimated \$60 per person – about \$10 per person less than the statewide average.

Overall, the town of Whitneyville is very satisfied with operation and management of the Bay Area Transfer Station. That said, the town would like to see more transparency in the budget process and the establishment of a more robust governance structure.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Law Enforcement

Whitneyville does not have its own public safety department. Law enforcement is provided by the Washington County Sheriffs' Office and the State Police. The Washington County Sheriff's Office provides dispatching services for emergency services – including police, fire and EMS – through the Regional Communication Center (RCC) in Machias.

The town of Whitneyville is reasonably satisfied with available law enforcement coverage. The Town does not foresee making any changes in the current arrangement over the next ten years.

Fire Protection

Whitneyville does not have its own fire department. The town makes an annual appropriation to the Machias Fire Department to provide contract fire response service. Over the past several

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years, the town of Whitneyville has appropriated \$6,000 annually to the Machias Fire Department for fire response services. Whitneyville has an appointed Fire Chief who also serves as the Emergency Management Director and Town Fire Warden.

The town of Whitneyville is reasonably satisfied with current fire response; and does not foresee making any changes in the current arrangement over the next ten years.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Whitneyville does not have its own emergency medical service. The town makes an annual appropriation to the Machias Ambulance Service to provide EMS coverage. Over the past several years, the cost to the town for EMS coverage has been around \$1,200 annually.

The town of Whitneyville is reasonably satisfied with EMS coverage provided by Machias Ambulance Service. The town does not foresee making any changes in the current arrangement over the next ten years.

EDUCATION

The town of Whitneyville currently has 23 grade school aged students (Fall 2010). This is down from a historical average of around 40 students. Over the planning period, the town anticipates that the school-aged population will remain somewhere between the current level and the historic average.

Public education in Whitneyville is overseen by the Superintending School Board. Grade school students attend Rose Gaffney School in Machias. Whitneyville offers school choice for high school students. Some students choose to attend Machias Memorial High School and others attend Washington Academy in East Machias. The town owns and operates a school bus which provides daily transportation to the Rose Gaffney / Machias Memorial High School campus in Machias for both elementary and secondary students.

The town pays per pupil tuition rates to host institutions for all students attending public schools. This arrangement is expected to continue over the planning period.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The town of Whitneyville does not currently have a Public Health Officer. Responsibility for public health related functions are carried out by the Board of Selectmen.

The town is not currently aware of any significant public health concerns.

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RECOMMENDED POLICIES & STRATEGIES

Given the importance of adequate, efficient and cost effective public facilities and services, the town has developed the following policies and implementation strategies to provide public facilities and services.

Goal: Whitneyville will plan for, finance and maintain an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate current and projected needs through the development, adaptation and implementation of a capital improvement program.			
Policy	Implementation Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe
Whitneyville will efficiently meet identified public facility and service needs.	Whitneyville will budget for capital improvements outlined in the Capital Improvement Program.	Selectmen	Immediate
	Whitneyville will request a review of the governance structure for the Machias Bay Area Transfer Station that would include greater participation of member towns in the budget development process.	Selectmen	Short term (1 -2 years)
	Whitneyville will develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the town of Marshfield that formalizes the agreement between the two communities regarding use of the shared salt and sand facility.	Selectmen	Immediate
Whitneyville will continue to promote development in identified growth areas through careful maintenance of existing facilities.	Whitneyville will develop a Sewer Policy that clearly identifies maintenance responsibilities for the town and for individual system users; and that addresses the financing of capital improvements to the system.	Selectmen	Immediate
	Whitneyville will work with the Library Association to develop plans for the best re-use of the current library building when the new library facility is completed.	Selectmen	When needed