

Chapter 5: COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Population and housing growth often result in an increase in the demand for community services and infrastructure systems. Planning for this growth is important in order to spread the cost of large capital expenditures over a long period of time. Because the population of Ossipee increases significantly in the summer, planning must take into account the increased demand for services created by the influx of seasonal residents and tourists.

There have been many changes and improvements in community services and facilities in the last twenty years. Some have been dictated by the state and others have been in response to the large population increase.

To prepare this chapter, in each case a copy of the information in the 1983 Master Plan was given to the person or people most knowledgeable about that service or facility at this time. They were asked to update the information. They were also asked to look ahead through the next ten years and predict what changes need to be made to meet the public need.

The services included in this chapter are the library, police services, fire and emergency services, highway department, recreation, solid waste facility, town hall and Ossipee Concerned Citizens. Public infrastructure systems include public water supply, wastewater treatment and septic disposal.

LIBRARY

The Ossipee Public Library, located at 74 Main Street in Center Ossipee, was constructed in 1935 by a memorial gift. An addition completed in 1990 has expanded the size of the building to over 7000 square feet. The building complies with ADA requirements. The library now consists of a children's area, an adult area, an audio-video room, a reference room, a periodical room and a spacious meeting room. Recently expanded parking space for 23 cars was accomplished by swapping some land with the school district. The grounds contain perennial flowerbeds, a "butterfly" garden and a Shakespearean herb garden.

The library's collection is composed of over 21,000 volumes, including adult, children, juvenile and young adult fiction and nonfiction. There are over 40 periodicals, a large "browser" paperback collection, and reference materials. Non-print materials and materials for handicapped patrons include music audiocassettes, "books on tape", large print books, videos and DVD's. Recent technology enables the library to participate in inter-library loans and "Article Express" through the State Library System. The NHSL van comes twice a week, on Monday and Thursday.

There are four computers with Internet access in a computer room and a networked computer lab with eight computers for public use. The computer lab was obtained through a grant written by the Ossipee Economic Development Committee. Computer classes are available.

The library employs one full-time Library Director and six part-time aides. The library also has a strong corps of volunteers and an active "Friends" group. The library is open 36 hours per week: Monday 3PM-8PM, Tuesday and Wednesday 10AM-8PM, Friday 10AM-5PM, and Saturday 9AM-1PM. In 2005 the library added an assistant librarian and additional hours.

Programs include a children's summer reading program, craft classes, computer classes, adult literacy programs, story telling, music programs, puppetry, author talks and other speakers and story time for preschool and school-age children. These programs are held in the library's meeting room. The room is also used for community organizations' meetings, programs and displays.

In 1980 the circulation figure was 6,972, according to the old Master Plan. In 1996 the figure was 17,825, and in 2002 the circulation figure had risen to 21,937, and 28,416 in 2005.

Implementation Recommendations for the Ossipee Public Library

Indoor Lighting - Upgrade the lights for better vision and cost efficiency.

Technology - Increase the Internet capacity for patrons from the present nine computers.

Maintenance - Replace the second heater with a new one. The first one was replaced in 2002.

Study - Set up a committee and do a study of the community needs for library services.

FIRE and EMERGENCY SERVICES

There are three fire departments in Ossipee, one for each of the three fire precincts: West Ossipee, Center Ossipee and Ossipee Corner. Each precinct has its own budget, building, set of commissioners and voters.

WEST OSSIPEE FIRE PRECINCT

The West Ossipee Fire Precinct currently has two fire stations. One is located at 2380 Rt. 16. It is a 40'x60' three bay metal building constructed in 1976. This replaced a small two bay station that is now the recreation department office. A two bay substation built in 1971 is located at 15 Jewel Hill Rd.

The following is a list of the Apparatus and Equipment in West Ossipee:

Engine 1 1992 International 1250 gpm pump, 750-gallon tank. This engine was built to fit into the substation.

Engine 3 1987 Spartan 1500 gpm pump 900-gallon tank

Rescue 1 1998 International Heavy rescue

Tower 1 1980 Mack/Baker 75' tower ladder

Car 1 1998 Dodge 3/4 ton 4x4 pick-up

Boat 1 2001 Rivercraft 16' air/rescue boat

Forestry 1 1981 AM General 2 1/2 ton 6x6 700 gallon tank.

150-gpm forestry pump (on loan from NH Forestry)

Forestry 2 1952 Dodge Power Wagon 200-gallon tank 80-gpm forestry pump (on loan from NH Forestry)

MCI Trailer 2002 16' Wells Cargo Trailer set-up for 40+ victims of mass casualties

OHRV 2003 Polaris sportsman 6x6 ATV with rescue trailer

Problems

Things have changed drastically since the 1983 Master Plan. In 1984 WOFD responded to 64 calls. In 2003 WOFD responded to 226 calls. This 350% increase is due to growth in the precinct, as well as, the town of Ossipee and surrounding towns. The Fire Department is also responsible for more types of emergencies than ever before. They include snowmobile, OHRV, boat accidents, Hazmat, Terrorism, Homeland Security and medical aid. With this increase comes the need for specialized equipment. A replacement engine is on order for the 1992 engine. The present engine is a two-door unit that can only transport two firefighters and limited water. The new engine can transport six firefighters. It has a larger tank and a compressed air foam system, as well as added safety features for motor vehicle accidents.

There are problems with the central station, mostly because it is too small. The station has been renovated three or four times to allow for newer apparatus. There is no storage room, and there are numerous safety issues. There are also problems with the Jewell Hill Station. The station was built to fit a new pumper back in 1971, not for future apparatus. The second bay is only large enough for the small forestry vehicle.

Implementation Recommendations:

Additional land for the Central Station has been offered to the Precinct adjacent to the current location at no cost. In 2003 a building committee was formed. The plan is for a new station in 2008 with 100'x100' apparatus bay, facilities for emergency shelter, and an emergency operation center. At the Jewell Hill Station in 2005-2006 the Firefighters' Association plans to add a two bay addition.

OSSIPPEE CORNER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Ossipee Corner Fire Department is located on Old Route 28 and currently has thirteen Members. The Department responds to Fires, Motor Vehicle Accidents and Medical Aid Calls over approximately 38 square miles of the Town. Effective May 20, 2002 the Town officially dissolved the Town's Rescue Squad. At this point the individual Fire Departments began responding to the Medical Aid Calls in their Precinct. Of the thirteen members on the Department, eleven are medically certified.

The Station currently has three bays in front, two cold storage bays in back, a hose tower, and a room in the rear of the bays that is utilized for meetings, classes, kitchen and office. The Station houses the following trucks:

- 1993 Spartan Custom Engine
 - 1000 gallons of water
 - 1250 gallons per minute pump
- 1998 Freightliner FL80 Engine
 - 1000 gallons of water
 - 1500 gallons per minute pump
- 2002 Ford 550 Rescue
 - 200 gallons of water skid tank with pump
- 1988 GMC 3500 Utility
- 1932 Ford Model B
 - Show Piece
- 1953 Forestry (Belongs to the Town's Forestry Department)
 - 200 gallons of water skid tank with pump

The 1993 Engine is the first truck to respond on all fire calls. This truck has a five-person cab with air packs built into the seats, so the fire fighters are ready when they arrive at a fire scene. The truck carries 1,200 feet of four-inch hose, has five pre-connected hose lines, has an onboard foam system, and carries some medical equipment.

The 1998 Engine responds second on all fire calls to support the 1993 Engine. This truck carries 2,000 feet of four inch hose, has four pre-connected hose lines, has an onboard foam system, has two vehicle extrication tools that are connected to a hydraulic power unit, and carries some medical equipment. This Engine responds first to all motor vehicle accidents, because it carries the extrication tools. Each tool is connected to the power unit by a one hundred foot hose reel, which allows for quick set up on scene when needed.

The 2002 Rescue responds first on all medical aid calls and with the 1998 Engine on all motor vehicle accidents. This truck carries the majority of the medical equipment and a portable vehicle extrication tool to work with or back up the tools on the Engine. Where the Rescue carries a skid tank, it can support itself at motor vehicle accidents if the Engines are out on another call.

The 1988 Utility Truck has a flatbed body with a toolbox mounted on each side to carry forestry tools and other equipment. The bed carries a portable pump, brush saw and other forestry equipment spring through fall. In the winter the bed carries a portable pump, ice auger and snow rescue sled.

The 1932 Model B has been kept as a showpiece, because it was the Precinct's first new truck.

The 1953 Forestry Truck is one of the Town's Forestry Department's trucks that they have from State Surplus. The Forestry Truck is used to go out through the woods to fight wild land fires.

The Department also owns a small aluminum boat and a 2003 Ford Explorer. The boat is used for access and rescues on our waterways. The Explorer is utilized for inspections, meetings, classes and responding to calls.

The Department's calls have more than doubled from 90 calls in 1991 to 192 calls in 2001. Then starting in May 2002 when the department began responding to Medical Calls, the Department's calls closed out at 280 for 2002, 88 calls over 2001. This year is expected to be over 300 calls.

Implementation Recommendation

Future goals of the Department are to replace the 1993 Engine within ten years and the Commissioners and Fire Department Members are currently working to address the needs and space problems at the station.

CENTER OSSIPEE FIRE PRECINCT

History

The Center Ossipee Fire Precinct was formed in the 1900's, and was called the Center Ossipee Volunteer Fire Department. The original fire station was located on Dore Street on the sharp corner in a building that is no longer there. Members of the fire department worked at local mills, local businesses and the town highway department. The firefighters were allowed to leave their jobs to answer the fire calls during these times. When there was a call, the firefighters were notified by a siren located on top of the fire station that could be heard for miles.

The firefighters were paid per call during these times at approximately twenty-five cents per call. Firefighters were fined when they failed to answer calls in the precinct. The fire precinct held an annual meeting at which time, funding was approved by the voters to operate the fire precinct. This function is still the form of government used in the precinct today.

Training

The firefighters were self-trained by the chief and the officers of the department. Considering the equipment they had to work with at that time, the firefighters did a great job. However, the equipment would be considered substandard by today's standards.

Today, the National Fire Protection Association regulates the equipment and training and the standards they provide are law. The National Fire Protection Association has a history of making changes to the rules because of incidents that involve the loss of life. The National Fire Protection Association also regulates all places of assembly by regulations that empower the fire chief to complete inspections and enforce the law.

Equipment

In 1947, The Fire Precinct purchased a new fire truck from the Maxium Fire Company in Boston, Mass. The fire truck had a five hundred gallon per-minute pump and a three hundred gallon tank. The other trucks in service at this time were old military type tanker trucks and old retired oil trucks. All of these trucks were in still service until the precinct purchased a new truck in 1972.

In 2003, a 1994 International Rescue Truck with assorted equipment was placed in service and the precinct began responding to medical calls.

Presently the Fire Precinct has the following equipment:

- 3-Class A Pumper/Engines
- 1-Tower/Ladder Truck/95ft
- 1-Rescue Truck
- 1-Forestry Truck
- 1-Water Craft
- 1-ATV with Rescue Sled

Presently, the Fire Precinct has a roster of eighteen members as of this year. The members' certifications range as follows:

- Firefighter Level 1
- Firefighter Level 2
- Paramedic
- EMT
- First Responder
- ICS (Incident Command System)
- Hazardous Material Operations and Awareness
- High Angle Rescue
- Confined Spaces
- Vehicle Extraction 1.2
- CDL (Commercial Drivers License)
- Inspector 1

Construction

In the early seventies, the Center Ossipee Fire Department relocated to 16 Folsom Road where it is still located today. In the mid seventies, the precinct added a bay to the station and a kitchen and some offices. In 1985, the precinct added on to the existing fire station for housing fire trucks and the continuing growth of the department. In 2004, the precinct added an alarm system, an exhaust ventilation system and a cascade system to the building.

Implementation Recommendations:

There are some present concerns that the Precinct and the members currently have. It seems that fewer people are able or willing to be a volunteer in today's economy. The demand on the volunteers to keep current on Fire and EMS certifications increases each year. The National Fire Protection Association has placed standards on the local sector without taking into consideration what a department can accomplish on a volunteer basis, i.e., standards of what a fire truck will be built to, several standards on personal equipment, standards of training, standards for single family homes and places of assembly, and the responsibility on the fire chief to inspect and define regulations to new construction. Annual re-inspections for all places of assembly are required. The growth in our area has increased the number of calls and the demand on the fire department administration to document all elements of the department has increased. The above changes have placed an extraordinary amount of work and record keeping for the fire chief and his assistants.

The fire chief 's position is a part-time paid position and the volunteers, who are very dedicated, only receive a bonus at the end of the year. The growth and population increase in the precinct will no doubt

eventually cause the fire precinct to move toward call paid members and full-time firefighters in the future. The Fire Precinct is now answering around three hundred calls for service and meets around twenty hours a month for meetings and trainings.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Ossipee Rescue Squad was formed in 1979 as a private service with town funding. The town provided the Rescue Squad with a two-bay garage and an office on Dore Street. Since that time, the service has gone through many evolutions. In 1997 the town voted to take over the Rescue Squad. It became The Town of Ossipee Rescue Service, a municipal service, governed by the Board of Selectmen. A 1996 vehicle housed in the Center Ossipee Fire Station replaced the 1980 Rescue/ Ambulance vehicle. Many people served on the Rescue Squad with dedication over the years. It became increasingly difficult to find people who had the time to lead the squad. Members who worked out of town were not able to answer calls.

After many discussions and attempts to solve the issues, in 2002 the town voted to authorize the Selectmen to turn the running, operation, and ownership of the Rescue Squad to the Fire Precincts.

FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel

The Town of Ossipee, NH Forest Fire Warden and Deputy Wardens are appointed by the State Forester (Director, Division of Forests and Land) to serve under the authority of law to protect Ossipee woodlands from fire. The Warden is the representative of the State Forester who issues fire permits, enforces forest fire laws and maintains fire fighting tools and equipment at the ready. Wardens also work with Division Forest Rangers to determine fire causes and take necessary steps to prevent recurrence.

Deputy Forest Fire Wardens are appointed to assist the Warden. On small fires, Deputies are trained fire fighters; on larger fires, they may become a squad boss in charge of a small group of fire fighters or a crew boss in charge of several squads. At any time, through emergency or designation, a Deputy Warden may be required to act temporarily as Warden.

All of Ossipee's personnel are of a volunteer/on-call status. Volunteers do most work and the act of fire suppression is paid per state RSA at a 50/50 cost share between the town and the state. (If wildland fire suppression costs exceed 1/4 of 1% of the assessed valuation of the town, all costs are assumed by the state).

Volunteer staffing continues to be a problem, making daytime fires extremely difficult to fight with limited manpower resources. The number of volunteer/call firefighters has decreased over the years. Training and emergency call demands wear hard on the dedicated men and women that protect the town.

Apparatus

The town of Ossipee currently operates and maintains three wildland fire trucks; all are "on loan" from the state through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program. Two of these trucks are 3/4 quarter ton rated and are early 1950's vintage; the third truck is a 2 1/2 ton 1982 truck. All wildland fire apparatus have "Pump and Roll" fire fighting capability and use Class A fire fighting foam to aid in extinguishing wildland fires.

Moneys have been set aside in the last four years for the acquisition of newer apparatus that would be owned by the town. The current plan is to acquire a one-ton type vehicle that could be used for fire prevention control, as well as for wildland fire suppression. This account should be maintained and funded for new or replacement apparatus in the future.

Local fire apparatus needs to continue to be multi-functional and diversified to properly serve the growing and changing community that we live in, and address the ever-changing needs of the Fire/Rescue Service to the people who live and visit here.

Prevention

Wildland fire prevention remains the key to lessening the likelihood of a large wildland fire in Ossipee. Ice storm remnants continue to plague nearly 50% of the town. Educating the public to the danger of wildland fires and how to lessen the impact on their property is key to keeping Ossipee a beautiful place to live and vacation.

As new homes are built in heavily wooded areas of town, we see more problems with the wildland/urban interface. The wildland/urban interface is an area with a building that backs on an area of wildland growth. Many interface issues could be addressed in Zoning and Building Codes, along with a program to educate the public, such as Firewise.

Fire resistant building materials and landscaping for fire prevention are key to having homes and property that can be protected during larger wildland fires. Road access for larger fire apparatus, house numbering for faster location of emergencies, and the lessening of fuels that would feed wildland fires will be ever more important as homes develop in our town. Continued upgrading of wildland firefighting tools and equipment keeps the town in good shape for the average fires we see. However, the town would have to seek assistance from the state and Compact for any large fire, as manpower and apparatus would quickly be overwhelmed. Involvement in local and regional mutual aid associations will continue to be paramount in properly protecting our community.

OSSIPEE RECREATION DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

The goal of the Recreation Department continues to be to “offer a wide range of activities for all ages designed to meet the needs of the community and to encourage healthy use of your leisure and recreation time”. Regardless of your age, there is always something for you to do. The Recreation Director is always interested in ideas for new programs and events.

The e-mail for the Recreation Department is ossrec@worldpath.net. The Department also has a web page. The address is [groups.msn.com/Ossipee Recreation Department](http://groups.msn.com/Ossipee%20Recreation%20Department). Events and other items are posted there on a regular basis. From this site you can get information about the department, upcoming events, and link to other sites in town.

Weekly updates in the local newspapers and an occasional announcement on Channel 3 on cable TV are sent out. In addition, the Program Brochure is published on a quarterly basis. Over 1000 are published each quarter to keep people informed. The size and content of the brochure continues to expand as more programs and activities are added. Ossipee participates in the National Parks and Recreation Association’s Program Brochure Exchange, swapping brochures with over 500 recreation departments around the country.

The Ossipee Recreation Department maintains its membership with the following organizations:

- New Hampshire Recreation and Parks Association
- Carroll County Recreation Director’s Association
- New Hampshire Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance
- National Parks and Recreation Association
- National Arbor Day Foundation
- National Alliance for Youth Sports

Membership in these organizations provides valuable resources and input on a national, state, regional and local level. The Director has held office in these organizations, and is a member of many Ossipee Organizations, as well as an Instructor for the American Red Cross.

The Ossipee Recreation Department was a “one person” department until recently. Therefore, the Director relies heavily on volunteers and cooperative efforts with local businesses and non-profits to run all of the activities. People generously serve as coaches, referees, umpires, instructors, and summer camp and lifeguard staff. Thanks to financial contributions from businesses, civic groups, non-profit groups, individuals and other Town of Ossipee departments, many more residents have been able to participate. Others have mowed the fields, set up equipment, kept the ice rink ready and worked on the brochure.

This is a list of activities and events made available to the residents of Ossipee. All of these activities and events are planned and implemented by Peter Waugh, Recreation Director. Many are the result of cooperative efforts between various businesses, non-profit groups and the schools in Ossipee and surrounding communities.

Children and Youth: Lacrosse, Squeaky Sneakers (ages 18m-3yrs), Instructional Basketball (gr. 1-6), Travel Basketball (boys in gr. 1-3), Travel basketball (boys and girls gr. 5-6), L'il Pros (sports for ages 4-7), Tumblebugs Play Group (up to age 3), Ski and Snowboard Program, Super Sluggers (softball for girls in gr. 1-4), Travel Softball (for girls in gr. 5-6), Floor Hockey (gr. 1-6), Spring Soccer (gr. 1-6), Summer Day Camp (ages 6-12), Swimming Lessons, Soccer Camp, Archery Camp, Fall Soccer (gr. 1-4), Travel Team Soccer (gr. 5-6), Travel Field Hockey (gr. 4-6), Cheer leading (winter for gr. 5-6), Shorts Sports (for ages 4-5), Basic and Advanced Photography Classes, Skating Lessons (K-age 12), and 'Aero-Nuts

Teen and Youth: Open Gym, Aerobic Kick Boxing, Tai Chi, VolunTeen Program, Red Cross Babysitter Certification Program, Red Cross CPR and First Aid Certification Courses, Basic and Advanced Photography Classes, Photo Album Workshops, and Archery Camp.

Adults and Seniors: Oil Painting Class, Volleyball, Aerobic Kick Boxing, Tai Chi, Open gym, Day Trips, Fleet Feet Walking Program, Ceramics, “55 Alive” Safe Driving Class, Basic and Advanced Photography Classes, Red Cross First Aid and CPR Certification Classes, Photo Album Workshops, Dancercise Classes, and Archery Camp.

Special Events: (Many of these events are for all ages, a few are age specific) Community Toy and Gift Drive, Make-A-Wreath Class, Community Holiday Celebration with Horse Drawn Hayrides, Snowmobile Safety Certification Course, OHRV Safety Certification Class, NH Boater Basics Certification Courses, Breakfast with Santa, Portland Pirates Hockey Game, Portland Sea Dogs Baseball Game, Ossipee Lake “Ice-Out” Contest, Pet Obedience Training, Pepsi Major League Diamond Skills Baseball Competition, Gary the Silent Clown, Vegetable and Flower Garden Workshops, Lawn Shrub and Tree Care Workshop, Fruit Tree and Blueberry Bush Care Workshop, Escorted Group Tours, Gymnastics Show, Bike Inspection and Bike Giveaway, The Re-Cycle Project, Touch-A-Truck, Art Show, BJ Hickman Magic Show, Old Home Week, Tennis Tournament, Halloween Costume Swap, Sports Equipment Swap, Ski Archery Biathlon Clinic, “Gym Flyers”, Interpretive Hiking Trails, Bass Masters Fish Casting Clinic, and the Gatorade Punt, Pass, and Kick Competition, Collecting Used ink/laser jet cartridges for cash, APS workshops, Planetarium workshops, Parent and Child Rocket class, Gym Flyers Indoor Model Aviation, Aero Fare, NH Health Trust Workshops, Golf Leagues at Province Lake Golf, and master gardening workshops with the UNH Cooperative Extension.

The Director continues to work on maintenance and development of town recreation facilities. He is also in the process of updating the Outdoor Facility Rules and Regulations for all town recreation facilities. Areas that the town is responsible for include:

Swimming Areas - Mill Pond, Cleveland Beach (town beach on Duncan Lake)

Boat Landings - on Pequawket Trail, on Harper's Ferry Landing, on Ossipee Lake Drive, and on Nichols Road

Swimming and Boating Area - White Pond (no motor boats)

Parks, Ball fields, Hiking Trails and Tennis Courts - Constitution Park

Ball fields and Basketball Courts - YMCA Field

Park - Mill Pond, Bearcamp Recreation Area (on Newman Drew Road)

Other - Outdoor Ice Rink

Indoor Facilities - Town Hall Gym

Following is a list of projects completed:

Installation of a fence around the new soccer field at Constitution Park

Installation of new bleachers for the YMCA Field

A new lifeguard tower at the Town Beach on Duncan Lake

Installation of the remaining 2 sets of Bleachers at the YMCA Field

Placement /replacement of proper signage at all outdoor recreation facilities

Replacement of rims on the basketball court in the Town Hall

Replaced dugouts and benches at the YMCA Field

Remarked the Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken infields at the YMCA Field

Installation of a warning track around the perimeter of the baseball field at Constitution Park.

Following is a list of projects in the works:

Evaluation of the current water source at Constitution Park to see if an additional water is needed for future expansion plans

Installation of water at the YMCA Field

Excavation for an additional youth baseball field at Constitution Park

Renovation of the infield of the existing baseball field at Constitution Park

A new scoreboard at the YMCA Field

Improvement of the access and the parking area at the YMCA Field

Possible installation of some playground equipment at Constitution Park and the YMCA Field

Renovation of the Changing Building at the Town Beach

Investigation of ways to improve and renovate the park at the Mill Pond

The new Interpretive Trail System on the hiking trails at Constitution Park is completed. This was completed as a cooperative effort between the UNH Cooperative Extension of Carroll County (Peter Pohl), Rick Cogswell, Bruce Farr's metals class at Kingswood Regional Vocation Center, the Ossipee Recreation Department, and the Ossipee Conservation Commission. A number of other agencies, businesses, and individuals in Ossipee contributed to this wonderful project. There are a number of signs located on the trails that identify unique and rare plant species and unique land formations along the trails. The Cooperative Extension and the Recreation Department have put together a curriculum that was presented to Ossipee Central School, Effingham, Freedom elementary School, the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board, and the Cornerstone Christian School. The schools can use this great resource as part of their curriculum and take their students to the Trail System on field trips. The purpose of this project is to educate people about this great resource in our town.

Implementation Recommendations:

Some of the long range plans for the recreation department are:

Community/Teen Center
Continued development of Constitution Park, Bear Camp Recreation Area, and the various boat landing areas in town.

Public Beach access to Ossipee Lake
Additional Staff, full or part time (an assistant was hired in 2006)
Town Skate Park

OSSIPEE SOLID WASTE FACILITY

The Town of Ossipee Landfill has been inactive since 1987, and was capped in 1994. Regular testing of the ground water yields satisfactory results.

An Incinerator, Transfer Station, and Recycling Center have been operated at the site since 1985. Ash from the Incinerator and solid waste from transfer operations are hauled by contract to a landfill outside Ossipee.

The Incinerator is a Conumat Model C-325 with a capacity of 1250 lbs/hr, and is limited to burning type 0, 1, and 2 waste as defined in Env-A 101.293. The maximum operating capacity is limited to 15,000 pounds in any 24-hour period, and is permitted until 2008. NHDES has indicated that future permit renewals should enable the incinerator to be used until 2015. The annual capacity of the incinerator is 2700 tons per year. In 2003 the utilized capacity was approximately 1200 tons per year, or approximately one-half of available capacity.

The Transfer station portion of the facility was partially reconstructed in 2003, and provides space for up to 6 forty cubic yard containers. Additionally a baler was installed which is capable of handling aluminum and cardboard. Plans exist for the installation of a compactor within the next two years.

The full-time and part-time employees are trained and licensed at the highest levels and attend courses throughout the year to maintain their licenses and proficiency.

Based on the available capacity of the incinerator and improvements made in 2003 as well as future plans, it is expected that the Ossipee Solid Waste Facility can meet the community's needs for the next 12 to 15 years if the current growth rate is assumed. State emission standards are becoming increasingly strict, so the town may not be able to get a license before then.

In 2002, a Solid Waste Facility Improvement Capital Improvement Fund was established and has been funded each year. The purpose of this fund is to provide for the long-term improvements and repair/replacement of the incinerator and other major components of the facility. It is important that this Capital Reserve is funded annually.

Changes in 2004

The facility has seen several changes this past year. These changes are operational, visual and income producing. The operational changes are in the area of recycling. The successful paper recycling and the metal disposal led the way. The acceptance and cooperation of the citizens of Ossipee deserves thanks.

Revenue from sticker sales, disposal fees and recycling amounted to \$77,329. The sticker sales and fees paid at the scale house were within several thousand dollars each of the year 2003. Recycling of 164 tons of metal and 101 tons of paper amounted to \$17,797, an increase of \$14,000 from 2003.

All three revenue streams totaled an increase of \$14,964, which is an increase of 24% over fiscal year 2003, and \$31,678 or 41% over fiscal year 2002. This happened in eight months of 2004.

These two categories, paper and metal recycling, were begun in April of 2004, after discussions with the Northeast Recycling Recovery Association. Ossipee is a member of the NRRA, a nonprofit organization of some 300 cities and towns in three states. Their only business is recycling. Representatives of Ossipee attend every monthly meeting in Concord.

A new hauling and dumping contract was negotiated with North Conway Incinerator Service for a \$9,000 savings for the first four months on similar tonnage weights.

Implementation Recommendations:

Additional recycling procedures are to follow in fiscal year 2005. A horizontal baler is being installed with the capacity of 2,000 lb. weight bales of metal cans. At the current commodity pricing of \$1.26 a ton, there is potential for significant savings. Plastic will no longer be burned in the incinerator, but will be baled for sale. Glass, porcelain and ceramics will be moved in a town truck to a local host site at a cost of \$10.00 a ton instead of the current \$60.00 a ton. The estimated savings is \$4,000. These prices fluctuate all the time.

Ossipee will also be preparing for the future by being ready for the time that the incinerator may not be operable because of increasing Federal and state standards or equipment upgrades that will not be financially realistic. There are 253 towns and cities in New Hampshire, and only four are incinerating to dispose of refuse. 98.4% do not.

Increased recycling with the support of the citizens will reduce operating costs and may increase income.

Public Water Supply

The town installed a public water supply at the cost of approximately \$1,800,000, which was completed in the fall of 1996. This system consists of two gravel-packed wells capable of producing 1,000,000 gallons per day. Actual usage at this time averages about 84,000 gallons per day. This water is pumped to a 300,000 gallon concrete storage tank in the vicinity of Dan Hole Pond and then gravity-fed to the users throughout the approximately 7.5 miles of public water main. Approximately 315 households and businesses benefit from this water supply. Plans are completed to extend the water system down Rt. 16 and improve the supply east of Rt. 16.

Wastewater Treatment Facility

The town has a gravity and pressurized central sewer system serving approximately 192 customers. The disposal system includes two 50,000 gallon septic tanks and an effluent pumping station on Route 16B and a leaching area on the Ossipee/Effingham town line east of Peavy Brook. The effluent from the pumping station is distributed to twenty-four individual fields covering seven acres. The system was designed to allow the addition of approximately 100 customers.

Septic Disposal

A septic disposal facility is provided for disposing of the septage pumped from septic tanks within the town of Ossipee. The dumping site is also located at the Elm Street facility.

Ossipee Town Hall

There have been many changes in the use of the Ossipee Town Hall. The District Court has moved out of the building. The Ossipee Police Department has moved to a separate building on Dore Street. The Recreation Director has also moved out of the building, and is housed next door in a separate recreation building behind the ice skating rink.

The first floor of the Town Hall contains offices for the Selectmen's Office, Tax Collector/Town Clerk Office, and the Zoning Enforcement Office. The second floor houses offices for the Business Administrator, Finance Office, and a small office shared by the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Conservation Commission. The secretary to these Boards shares work space in the meeting room, on the computer upstairs, and on the office phone with the Trustee of Trust Funds.

The gym, the largest portion of the building, is used extensively from early morning walkers to late night sports activities. Many groups and organizations utilize the gym and the upstairs meeting room for their functions. The Recreation Director schedules private use of the facilities.

The town has approved money each year for ongoing repairs to the old building. The bathrooms in the Hallway have been completely renovated, and a handicapped accessible bathroom was added several years ago. This year the old kitchen was remodeled with new cabinets and appliances that work.

The town would like to make provisions for storage space. Space is a major problem at this time. Both vaults are full. Space was created for storage in the attic. Additional space was gained by adding an addition for storage of items that do not need to be based in a vault. As improvements are made, insulation is being added.

A new entrance way has been added with a covered walkway that is handicapped accessible on one side. New doors have been installed in the gym. New units to circulate the warm air in the gym have greatly improved the use of the gym in the winter. A generator now provides emergency power, so the building can be used as a shelter if needed..

The roof has been shingled, but it still leaks and ruins the ceiling in the gym and upstairs rooms. The front windows and doors in the Selectmen's Office and Tax Collector's Office have been replaced to stop loss of heat and improve the appearance.

Implementation Recommendations:

Continue to budget money to upgrade the building.

Ossipee Concerned Citizens, Inc.

The OCC was founded in 1974. "To Promote the Growth and Prosperity of the Town of Ossipee", was the mission of the small group of organizers. A twenty member Board of Directors elected at its annual meeting held every February governs OCC. Executive staff and program staff are responsible to this board. OCC Elderly Nutrition Programs began in 1976 serving home delivered meals to the homebound elderly. Today that program provides 105 home delivered meals per day and an additional 300 congregate meals per week, for a total of 58,000 meals served in 2003. OCC moved into its first home (the present police department) in 1980 to operate its elderly nutrition program and added WIC (Women, Infant, and Children) program in July of 1980. Today WIC serves all of Carroll County with a total caseload of 650.

The years 1977 through 1982 saw the completion of many community projects. The OCC staff joined the town recreation staff and the Board of Selectmen to write and administer Federal and State Grants to improve sewer, water, open dump and housing for the town. In excess of 2.5 million dollars was secured.

OCC Staff served on the Ossipee Bicentennial Committee and worked on many events for the 1985 celebrations.

In 1992 OCC moved into its present location at Ossipee Crossings, a former hardware store. The building was purchased and renovated with a CDGB grant of \$350,000. The new building allowed room for a Children's Day-Care Center, as well as Community and Senior activity space. The Center is also used as a referral center for all residents, particularly the elderly. It is open daily from 9-4 and is also available for group or individual functions. Monthly shopping and recreational outings for seniors continue to be provided. Fund raising suppers and other activities occur on a regular basis throughout the year and the facility is well used. OCC promotes a town-wide Christmas Santa Project to ensure that area children are not forgotten on that special day.

Implementation Recommendations:

Support for OCC is provided through Federal and state grants, town appropriations, donations, and fund raising. Plans for the future include continued advocacy for town residents to promote adequate health, shelter, and other essentials for their well-being. The need for additional space to expand senior activities and explore new programs is evident and will be addressed through either the purchase of adjacent space or additions to the existing facility. OCC staff will continue to work with town officials when it is deemed appropriate.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Ossipee Police Department is located in its own building on Dore Street in Center Ossipee. The building is a two-story brick building totaling approximately 2200 square feet. The building itself is sound and functional with the exception of the lack of storage and the inability to secure cruisers when not in use. In 2005 at the Town Meeting an article was approved which will add a three-bay garage and large storage room on the current building. This is completed, and should adequately address the space needs of the Police Department for the next ten years.

The Police Force is comprised of a full-time Chief, six full-time officers and a full time secretary. The department has three cruisers and a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Currently there is active patrol 16-20 hours per day. There is certainly a need to expand the active patrol coverage to 24 hours a day. The population continues to grow, and we currently have two stores that are open 24 hours a day with no police protection part of the time.

The following is a sample of activity over the past five years. As of 2004 this department answers a total of approximately 4000 calls per year.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|------|------|------|--------------|------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|----|----|----|----|
| 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | MV Accidents | 155 | 161 | 155 | 167 | 156 | | | | | | |
| Burglaries | 34 | 24 | 35 | 36 | 58 | Assaults | 65 | 69 | 64 | 74 | 72 | Theft | 93 | 27 | 35 | 48 |
| 48 | Criminal Threat | 58 | 43 | 27 | 43 | 50 | Criminal Mischief | 92 | 77 | 85 | 122 | 81 | | | | |
| MV Warnings | 631 | 382 | 520 | 460 | 693 | MV Summons | 126 | 109 | 200 | 134 | | | | | | |
| 109 | Arrests | 360 | 375 | 308 | 331 | 469 | Implementation | | | | | | | | | |

Recommendations

Over the next five to ten years, the Police Force will need to be increased by three to five additional officers and at least one additional cruiser. Active patrol coverage needs to be 24 hours a day. The court schedule will require that a full-time prosecutor be hired as well.