

CHAPTER 5

COMMUNITY SERVICES, FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

Water and Sewage Disposal Systems

Elmira Township does not have a public drinking water system. Instead, most of the Township residents rely on on-site private wells for domestic drinking water. All private drinking water wells are regulated by the Otsego County Health Department.

The Glen Meadows development in the southeastern region of the Township is served by a community well, but the residences have individual septic systems. This approach allowed for the development on small lot sizes where achieving the required isolation distance between individual wells and individual septic fields would have been difficult.

Likewise there are no public sewage disposal systems operated by the Township. Local residents primarily rely on private, on-site septic systems, which are also regulated by the Otsego County Health Department.

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 areas with septic limitations.

Solid Waste

Residents of Elmira Township have several options for the disposal of solid waste. Private haulers offer residential weekly curbside trash pick-up. Elmira Township, like all of Otsego County, is served by a landfill in northern Crawford County owned and operated by Waste Management of Northern Michigan. There are several drop-off sites throughout the County where specified items can be taken for recycling.

Other Public Utilities

Elmira Township residents receive electric service from Great Lakes Energy. Natural gas, where available, is provided by DTE Energy. The individual chooses providers of local and long distance phone service. Cable service, where available, is provided by Charter Communications.

Police, Fire, Ambulance

The Otsego County Sheriff and Michigan State Police provide law enforcement services to Elmira Township. Fire protection is provided by the Elmira-Warner Fire Authority, which operates a paid on-call service. The Elmira Township fire station, attached to the Elmira Township Hall, is adequate for the current needs.

The Otsego County 911 Authority communications agency provides emergency call receipt and dispatch service. Enhanced 911-telephone service, computer-aided dispatch and a multi-channel radio system are in place.

Advanced life support (ALS) ambulance service is provided by Otsego Ambulance Corps, which operates a full-time paid service from a location on Old 27 North, in Gaylord. The hospital needs of the Elmira Township residents are primarily served by Otsego Memorial Hospital in Gaylord, with additional facilities offered at Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey.

Schools and Libraries

Elmira Township residents are served by the Gaylord Community Schools which provide K-12 education to Gaylord and the surrounding area. The Elmira Montessori School located nearby in Warner Township is part of the Gaylord Community Schools.

Post high school education is available locally at the M-TEC and University Center in Gaylord and at North Central Michigan College in Petoskey. A number of certificate programs, two-year Associate's degree programs as well as some Bachelor and Master degree programs are offered by the participating colleges and universities, at both locations. Elmira Township residents contribute to the operating budget for the M-TEC and University Center located in Gaylord, through a millage.

Elmira Township participates in the Otsego County Library system, which allows Township residents to use the system. The main branch of the library is located in Gaylord, with a collection of over 50,000 items, and provides a computer lab for public use. The library system is supported with an operating millage, initially passed in 1994.

Municipal Facilities

Elmira Township Hall

The existing Elmira Township Hall, located on Mt. Jack Road, was built in 1980. This facility accommodates the fire hall, public meetings and Township office space. The facility is located on two blocks, which combined are approximately 5 acres in size. This facility currently meets the Township's needs and is expected to do so for the foreseeable future.

Elmira Post Office

The U.S. Postal Service operates a local branch located on M-32 in downtown Elmira.

Private, Civic and Fraternal Organizations

Typically there are many private, civic, and fraternal organizations active in Elmira Township or in which Elmira Township residents are involved that are not specifically affiliated with the Township. Such organizations are typically regional organizations that have a larger membership and service area other than the Township. A listing of such organizations is available from the Gaylord/Otsego County Chamber of Commerce. Many township residents participate in the organizations available in Gaylord and throughout the region.

A few organizations active within the Township include Camp Sancta Maria, Lost Valley Bible Camp, and the Gaylord Country Club Golf Course.

Churches and Cemeteries

There are two churches that are active and own property within the Township. One is St. Thomas Catholic Church, located just outside Elmira Township in downtown Elmira. The other is Alpine Village Baptist Church located on North Townline Road.

There are three cemeteries serving Elmira Township: Hallock Cemetery on Parmater Road, St. Thomas Cemetery and Maple Hill Cemetery outside the Township on M-32 in Warner Township, where Elmira Township contributes to the upkeep.

Transportation and Road Maintenance

The paved public roads within the Township are categorized as follows:

Type of road:	Approximate length in miles:
State Route	8 miles
County Primary Hardtop	14.5 miles
Local Hardtop	39.1 miles

The remainder of the public roads in the Township are classified as local gravel and seasonal roads. Additionally, there may be private roads located within the Township.

The only state route through the Township is M-32, which is the dominant east/west route through the Township. It is a state highway under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Transportation. Approximately 8 miles of M-32 pass through Elmira Township.

The County primary roads within Elmira Township are C-42, North Townline Road, Theisen Road, Hallock Road, and Mount Jack Road. Additionally, C-42 and two miles of Townline Road are classified as Class A roads.

The Otsego County Road Commission provides road maintenance and snow removal services on all public non-seasonal roads within the Township.

Public transportation is provided by the Otsego County Bus System, which provides a dial-a-ride demand-response bus system throughout the County. Also, the Straits Area Regional Ride provides dial-a-ride bus service to Otsego, Emmet, Cheboygan, and Presque Isle Counties.