

**STATE GOAL**

*To plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Municipal facilities and services are provided by local government. Their purpose is to protect public health, safety and welfare, and enhance the well-being of residents of the community. Services and facilities, their availability, quality, and adequacy are a reflection of the community, in so far as it contributes to the Town's desirability as a place to live and work or establish an industry or business.

Reviewing Brownville's facilities and services is also the first step toward creating a capital improvement program. Over the last decade, the overall loss of population, decline in real estate values and state revenue sharing along with increased municipal expenses and commitments placed increased pressures on Brownville's budget. Planning future investment in capital items has become extremely important. Brownville does not have an extensive amount of municipally owned facilities; however, there are certain other facilities that Brownville owns and operates which are valuable assets to the community. Maps H-1, H-2, and H-3 found in Section H of this Plan, Recreation, show the location of the Town's public facilities and services.

**MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION**

The Town of Brownville, including Brownville Junction, is part of Senate District 8 and House District 111. The Town of Brownville has a Board of Selectmen/Town Meeting/Manager form of government. The Town's fiscal year ends on December 31 of each year and the Town's Annual Meeting is held on the third Monday of March.

The Brownville municipal building is located in the Masonic Block constructed in 1952 on Church Street. The Masonic Building houses the offices of the Town Manager and Town Staff, Police Department, Recreation Department, Village Post Office, as well as the Town's Library. The municipal building is sufficient for current and projected needs of the Town.

The municipal administration budget, including insurance and benefits, for year ended 2001, was \$208,022. Municipal office staff includes three full-time employees and one part-time employee.

**BROWNVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The Brownville Free Public Library is located in the Masonic building in the Village. A Librarian and Board of Trustees administer the Library. The Library has four volunteers. It has a small budget supported by municipal funds, interest from an endowment and donations. It is open on Tuesday and Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. All services, including computer access, are free to the public. In 2001, the librarian reported 28 new customers, 180 new books

cataloged, and 1,778 books and magazines circulated. The Library has one computer available for public use, and the Librarian reports it was used 25 times in 2001. The Town provided the Library with \$3,700 in 2001.

### **BROWNVILLE/BROWNVILLE JUNCTION PARISH HOUSE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Brownville/Brownville Junction Parish House Museum is located on Church Street in Brownville Village. The Museum building was originally the Methodist Episcopal Church built in 1839 next to the Slate Quarry, but moved to its present site in 1850. It was used for many purposes over the years: the original Church; a Veteran's Center; a meeting hall; and a dining room for the Brownville Community Church. In 1996, the Historical Society purchased the building and uses it in its official mission "of the Collection, Preservation and Presentation of the History and Heritage of our area's unique place in Maine History." The Historical Society also uses the building for storage and display old Fire Station, which is owned by the Town.

The Historical Society has an extensive collection, including many hundreds of original documents, deeds, maps and books especially from 1790 to 1850s; a railroad collection including both written documents and items used in the day-to-day running of the railroads; complete census records from 1790 to 1830 are available on searchable CDs; extensive genealogical records of local families; and rare Civil War items from local veterans are on display. The Historical Society is proud of its Parish House Museum and its collection is open with regular hours or by appointment for visits and research. The Historical Society is currently in the process of creating an inventory of Brownville's historic buildings and resources.

The Historical Society is a non-profit organization staffed by local volunteers and supports itself from member dues and donations. There are approximately 100 dues paying members of the Historical Society.

### **SCHOOLS**

Brownville, along with the towns of Atkinson, Lagrange, Milo and Lake View Plantation, is part of the Maine School Administrative District (MSAD) #41. In July 2003, Lake View Plantation will be disassociating with MSAD #41 and will pay tuition per student. This will affect the funding structure of the MSAD, perhaps increasing commitments required by Brownville. The Superintendent is currently David A. Walker and has offices located on West Main Street in Milo. Since Brownville belongs to a MSAD, the Town's involvement includes a yearly vote of the budget and electing three persons to the Board of Directors to represent Brownville. The school budget for Brownville in the year 2001 was \$459,364. Brownville students go to Brownville Elementary School (the only school in the district located in Brownville) from Grades K through 5, Penquis Valley Middle School for Grade 6, and Penquis Valley High School for Grades 7 through 12. The following is a list of schools in MSAD #41 as of July 25, 2002, reported by the Maine Department of Education in the Directory of Maine Schools, otherwise known as the "Moose Book:"

Due to decreasing student populations, MSAD 41 is investigating the possibility of consolidating schools. Should consolidations be made in the school district, it is very unlikely that the Brownville Elementary School will be affected.

### ***Brownville Elementary School***

The Brownville Elementary School is the only school in the District located in Brownville. The school was built in June 1987 and is in good condition. Brownville Elementary School is located at 774 Main Road in Brownville. In the 2001-2002 school year, there were 96 pupils and 9 staff members at Brownville Elementary School. The School serves students from Grades K through 5. Patricia K. Bradbury is the current principal.

### ***Marion C. Cook School***

Marion C. Cook School is located at 22 Howland Road in Lagrange. In the 2001-2002 school year, there were 56 pupils and 5 staff members at Marion C. Cook School. The School serves students from Grades K through 5. Patricia K. Bradbury is the current principal.

### ***Milo Elementary School***

Milo Elementary School is located at 18 Belmont Street in Milo. In the 2001-2002 school year, there were 227 pupils and 18 staff members at Milo Elementary School. The School serves students from Grades K through 5. Christine M. Beres is the current principal.

### ***Penquis Valley Sixth Grade***

Penquis Valley Middle School is located at 48 Penquis Loop in Milo. In the 2001-2002 school year, there were 80 pupils and 9 staff members at Penquis Valley Middle School. The School serves students in Grade 6. Shirley Wright is the current principal.

### ***Penquis Valley Complex***

Penquis Valley Complex is located at 48 Penquis Loop in Milo. In the 2001-2002 school year, there were 423 pupils and 25 staff members at Penquis Valley High School. The School serves students from Grades 7 through 12 and also offers alternative programs and special education. John A. Robinson is the current principal.

## **RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

The Town of Brownville employs a (year-round) part-time recreation director. The Town also employs two part-time seasonal laborers during the summer months. The Department has 20 volunteers to provide recreation programs to residents. The Recreation Department works in conjunction with the Town of Milo for many activities. The Recreation Department owns playground equipment, baseball equipment, including uniforms and volleyball and basketball equipment. The equipment is stored in various town-owned locations. In 2001, the Town of

Brownville spent \$22,051 on cultural and recreational program for its residents. The Town is in the process of building a new basketball court.

### **WELFARE/SOCIAL SERVICES**

The selectmen are in charge of overseeing the poor and in turn appoint the Town Manager to act as their agent. Currently, the Town budgets \$3,500 a year in general assistance. In 2001, \$2,767 was spent on general assistance. In addition to general assistance, the Town refers residents to other area agencies who provide assistance to families in need.

### **POLICE PROTECTION**

The Town of Brownville employs shared police chief, one full-time patrol officer and several reserve officer consultants, who maintain an office at the Town Office. The Town also receives police protection from the County Sheriff and State Police. In 2001, the Town spent \$65,982 on police protection and \$3,750 on public safety. The Chief of Police facilitates a D.A.R.E. program for fifth graders at Brownville Elementary School. Annual report statistics indicate that the majority of police activity in 2001 was in response to traffic violations. The Town owns approximately \$25,000 in police protection equipment, including one cruiser, radar gun, video camera and personal protection equipment, which are all stored at the Town Office.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Town of Brownville employs one part-time fire chief and has 16 volunteers who maintain an administrative office within the Town Office. Average fire response time is approximately 15 minutes. The Town spent \$20,509 on fire protection services, including training, and \$6,902 on the fire truck in 2001. The Town rents 50 fire hydrants from Brownville Water Department (Maps G-1 and G-2) and one private hydrant with rental costs of \$60,940 in 2001. The fire department is currently working on fundraising efforts to provide local match for a grant to purchase a thermal imaging camera.

The Fire Department equipment includes two pumper trucks, two tanker trucks and personal protective gear for all firemen. All fire equipment is located at the Brownville Junction and Brownville Villages Fire houses, located on the south side of Railroad Avenue and the northeast corner of Church Street and Windy Hill Road, respectively.

### **THREE RIVERS AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Brownville's ambulance service comes from Three Rivers Ambulance Service located on West Main Street in Milo and is supported by Mayo Ambulance, Milo Police Department, Milo Fire Department and Rescue 7. Emergency response time is 15 to 20 minutes on average. It is reported, by the Ambulance Chief, that 441 emergency calls were responded to in 2001. Three Rivers Ambulance employs seven part-time EMTs and has five active volunteers. The Town of Brownville paid an annual fee of \$3,000 to Three Rivers Ambulance in 2001.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

The Town Manager also acts as the Emergency Management Director for Brownville. The Town does not currently have a budget for emergency management and follows the Piscataquis County Hazard Mitigation Plan. However, the Town realizes the need to adopt a local Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

**ROAD COMMISSIONER**

The Town Manager acts as the Road Commissioner in Brownville. Road maintenance is ultimately the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen, however, the Town Manager shares responsibility for day-to-day maintenance and issues with the Public Works Director. Currently, there is a road maintenance budget of \$28,000 inclusive of both capital and debt.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

The Town employs a full-time Director of Public Works and has 3 full-time and 2 part-time employees. Responsibilities of the Public Works Director include road maintenance, solid waste pick-up, including spring and fall pick-ups, street sign maintenance, culvert maintenance, manhole and drainage pipe maintenance, and assisting other Town departments with maintenance. Brownville's municipal garage is located on Main Road. The three-bay garage houses the Town's equipment. Public works functions, including sanitation services, cost the Town \$182,389 in 2001. Of that amount expended, \$113,000 included salaries, non-capital road maintenance and culvert repairs.

Cemetery maintenance, which is contracted out, cost the Town \$11,303 in 2001.

**WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENTS**

The Water and Sewer Department is a Department of the Town government and is operated as such. The superintendent answers day to day to the Town Manager, but ultimately works for the Selectpersons and the people of Brownville. The water system is self-financed in that water service rates are determined by adding operating cost and capital improvements. Customers are billed by cubic feet of water used. The sewer system is also self-financed in the same way but sewer is charged to customers at a flat rate per quarter.

The Town of Brownville has three drilled wells. All water comes from an underground aquifer. The two wells in the village are approximately 50 feet deep and sit approximately 200 feet from the Pleasant River across from the town garage on Route 11. The Junction well sits 150 feet from the west side of Front Street and is approximately 50 feet deep. The estimated safe yield for wells (during a drought) from the village system is 469 gallons per minute (gpm). The Junction system has a safe yield 269 gpm.

Both the Village and Junction wells, pumping stations, and underground reservoirs, are new within the last five years. Most pump controls are interchangeable. The systems are automated

and monitored by Computer. The wells and pumping stations are expected to have a 30-year life. The wells all have a buffer area in excess of 300 feet around them and that seems to mitigate any threats to supplies.

Table 1

	<b>Brownville Village</b>	<b>Brownville Junction</b>
Number of Hydrants	24	27
Capacity of Reservoir	238,000 gallons	181,704 gallons
Pumping Capacity	200 gpm	200 gpm
Average Daily Use	17,850 gallons	53,113 gallons

Source: Local Records

In the past three years, there has only been two new water and sewer connections made. Any future expansion in both water and sewer systems should address connection of Junction and Village systems. This would improve the capacity of the systems especially water pressure in the Junction system. Map G-3 shows the existing water lines and areas of water main replacement as provided by the Water District. The current system is more than sufficient for current and projected use. The Water and Sewer Departments currently are at a collection rate of 86 percent. Although the Town is curious about the feasibility of connecting the two systems, the Town does not have any plans to expand the current water and/or sewer system within the next five to ten years.

The sewer system on Kineo Avenue, which is the only concrete pipe remaining will most likely have to be replaced. The only sewerage pump not tied into the automated system is pump number five. This pump requires as much attention as all other pumps combined.

The treatment of town sewerage is done by use of a Class One Septic System. The system is for all purposes should be considered two systems, as the Village and Junction Systems are not connected. The sewerage system is considered a tight system (meaning very little storm or ground water enters the system). There are seventeen pumps used to get sewerage to treatment sites. The town's license to operate the treatment plant is also subject to separate EPA requirements, which in some cases are stricter.

Table 2

<b>TREATMENT CAPACITY</b>				
Site	Junction	Village Old School	Village Restaurant	Village Pleasant Street
Design Capacity (Gallons)	65,000	5,400	5,400	6,360
Normal daily flow (Gallons per Day)	30,000	423	339	658

Source: Local Records

During the spring run off, some infiltration of groundwater has been known to leach through the Village septic leach fields and flow into the Pleasant River. This has always been monitored and reported to the EPA. The Town is licensed to spread sludge from the septic systems on the fields located at the Town's Treatment Plant off Route 11 in the Junction.

The current sewer system cannot handle industrial wastes. Industries in Brownville must arrange for their own leach fields.

At the end of 2002, the Water and Sewer Departments had a collection rate of approximately 86 percent, which allows the Departments to get by at present, but also raises some concern for the ability to continue with the current rate structure into the future. User fees for the water and wastewater systems are directly linked to the Town's ability to collect from customers. The higher the collections, the longer the Department will be able to operate without raising the rates. However, if there is not a rise in the number of customer's who use the public water and sewer system, service rates will need to be increased to ensure enough money to fund the operation and capital expense of the Water and Sewer Departments.

In 2002, the water department budget was \$200,153. The sewer budget was \$114,179.

### **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

The Town of Brownville has a charter waste disposal agreement that extends until March 31, 2018 with the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company's (PERC) facility in Orrington. This agreement provides for a cash distribution back to the town, based on plant performance including the number of tons that are actually delivered by the Town. Performance standards, including the town's "guaranteed annual tonnage" (GAT) of 675 tons, were established based on the Town's historical trash tonnage and anticipated growth. In 2002, the Town of Brownville brought 774.92 tons of actual tonnage to the PERC plant. This includes waste that the Town picked up through contracts with Piscataquis County and Lake View Plantation.

Brownville is a member of the Municipal Review Committee (MRC). The MRC was organized in 1991 to ensure the continuing availability of long-term, reliable, safe and environmentally sound methods of solid waste disposal at stable and reasonable costs. MRC operates under a dues based membership and acts as a liaison between MRC members and the PERC facility. The dues structure is calculated based on anticipated administrative fees necessary to support the

Organization’s oversight duties. Each member pays it’s proportionate share, on a quarterly basis, based on waste tonnage actually delivered to PERC and their GAT. The Town of Brownville’s dues totaled \$926.03 in 2001. Some of the services MRC provides to members include:

- Review of PERC’s monthly and annual financial performance and operating reports;
- Review of PERC’s quarterly tipping fee adjustments;
- Review of projected and documented utilization of the Capital Maintenance and Reserve Account (CMRA) monies;
- Oversight of CMRA;
- Review and verification of PERC’s calculation of cash and performance credits to be provided to MRC members;
- Review of PERC’s compliance with performance standards;
- Enforce the priority lien MRC’s members have on the CMRA monies in the event of termination of PERC’s operations.
- Receive and/or direct the performance credits from PERC and determine the allocation, use and application of those funds on behalf of members;
- Purchase, sell and otherwise deal with limited partnership interests in PERC on behalf of members;
- Receive, hold, exchange, sell, exercise or otherwise administer and deal with warrants for one million shares of common stock of Bangor Hydro.

**RECYCLING**

Legally, each of Maine’s municipalities has to submit an annual report of its solid waste management practices. The State’s objective is for all towns to recycle at least 35 percent of its household waste. Brownville has a voluntary recycling program and reported a recycling rate of 18.4 percent in 2000 to the Maine State Planning Office.

**CEMETERIES**

***The Pine Tree Cemetery***

The Pine Tree Cemetery is approximately 70% full and is located on Davis Street in Brownville Junction.

***Brownville Village Cemetery***

The Brownville Village Cemetery is approximately 75% full and is located on Stickney Hill Road in the Village.

**POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

In order to plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development, the Town of Brownville has developed the following policies and implementation strategies:

**1. Policy:** The Town shall reach the State’s goal of 35% of solid waste being recycled.

**Implementation Strategies**

The Board of Selectmen shall educate residents on the importance of recycling, and the benefits of compost piles.

**Responsibility:** Board of Selectmen

**Time Frame:** within two years

**2. Policy:** The Town shall evaluate the need to connect the water distribution systems of Brownville Village and Brownville Junction.

**Implementation Strategies**

The Town Manager, working with the Water Department shall seek funding sources to prepare a study on the cost of connecting the two lines.

The Town Manager shall make recommendations to the Town on the benefits and cost of connecting the two systems.

**Responsibility:** Town Manager, Water Department

**Time Frame:** within five years

**3. Policy:** The Town shall explore the feasibility of providing a public sewer system capable of handling industrial wastes.

**Implementation Strategies**

The Town Manager, working with the Water Department shall gather information from public and private sources on public sewer systems capable of handling industrial and hazardous wastes.

**Responsibility:** Town Manager, Water Department

**Time Frame:** within ten years

**4. Policy:** The Town shall evaluate the need to acquire additional cemetery space.

**Implementation Strategies**

The Board of Selectmen shall appoint a committee to make recommendations to the Town on the current availability of public burial space and available opportunities to acquire additional burial space.

**Responsibility:** Board of Selectmen

**Time Frame:** within five years