

Chapter 6.0 Community and Public Facilities and Transportation

6.1 Introduction

Services and facilities provided by local government are vital elements of a community's progress and well-being. Services include police and fire protection, municipal water and wastewater systems, and solid waste disposal. Community facilities include local government buildings, libraries, and maintenance and storage facilities. As a part of the Master Plan, Republic Township's community facilities and services are described and evaluated as to their present condition and adequacy to meet the present and future needs of the community. Transportation facilities connect a community with the world around it, and connect business with both its supplies and its customers. Roads are what makes recreational development possible and for logging to be profitable.

6.2 Township Facilities and Services

Township Hall

The Republic Township Hall, located at 279 Kloman Avenue was constructed in 1964. The building has a 49' x 29' meeting room for community meetings and gatherings. The Township Hall provides office space for the various Township departments, including Township officials, the Supervisor/Assessor, Clerk, and Treasurer. There is also a built-in garage, currently being used for storage. The Township Hall has wireless computer access, phone and fax capabilities as well as two-way radios for Department of Public Works communications.

Currently the U.S. Post Office leases space in the Township Hall. The Ishpeming Community Federal Credit Union also leases space for a branch office in the Township Hall. The credit union is open Monday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Department of Public Works

Water, sewer, a limited amount of snow removal, and park/township facilities are maintained by the Public Works Department. The department is staffed by three employees. The Department of Public Works is located in the Township Hall. The Township owns three trucks, a dump truck, backhoe and front-end loader used by the DPW.

Water System

Portions of Republic Township are served by the Township water system and with municipal wastewater system. Both North and South Republic are served by the water systems. The remaining areas of the Township utilize private wells for their own needs.

The most recent upgrade to the Township’s water system was the installation of a new water tank in 2006. Prior to the new water tank, a filter plant for the water system was installed in 1994-1995. Complete water system upgrades were completed in 1960. A new water tank is scheduled for installation in 2009, about ¼ mile off of Park City Road. Engineering is underway for the new water line that will be installed from the water tank, around the old mine property, to North Republic. The Township received a grant to complete the upgrade. One of the requirements of the grant is that all users of the system have to be metered which allows for usage tracking and helps monitor leakage. It also provides a fair billing method that charges based on usage. This will save wear on the water system equipment and cuts supplies cost, lowering operating costs for all users.

Users are currently charged a flat rate of \$25.50 per month for water usage. There are 353 users of the water system in the Township. A survey of water systems was recently conducted by the UP District, MDEQ; the results of surveyed communities within Marquette County are shown on Table 6-1.

Table 6-1 Water Rates, Marquette County Communities, 2009				
Community	Total Services	Minimum Rate	Rate per 5,000 Gallons	Last Major Upgrade
Republic Twp.	353	\$25.50	\$25.50	1990-1991 Scheduled for 2009
Ishpeming Twp.-West	912	\$7.50	\$10.90	1999
Ishpeming Twp.-North	134	\$7.50	\$10.90	-
Ely Twp.- Diorite	68	\$23.00	\$23.00	1980
Ely Twp. Greenwood	130	\$26.00	\$26.00	1995
Forsyth Twp.	864	\$20.35	\$20.35	2001
City of Ishpeming	2623	\$12.60	\$31.50	2002
Sawyer	794	\$5.73	\$28.65	2002-2003
City of Marquette	5468	\$5.00	\$22.00	1997
Marquette Twp.	870	\$4.00	\$29.00	2000
City of Negaunee	1762	\$16.50	\$49.70	1996
Negaunee Twp.	418	\$16.00	\$27.00	2002-2003

Source: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Residential Water Rates Upper Peninsula Water Supplies, Water Bureau staff, MDEQ, 2007 and www.republic.com 2009.

Wastewater System

Customers served by the Township water system also utilize the Township wastewater collection system. Wastewater collected is treated at the three lagoon facilities located in South Republic. There are currently 364 wastewater customers in the Township. Residential wastewater rates are currently set at a flat rate of \$27.00 per month. A comparison of wastewater rates based on a survey conducted by the UP District of the MDEQ with other communities in Marquette County is shown on Table 6-2.

Table 6-2 Wastewater Rates, Marquette County Communities, 2009				
Community	Number Services	Fixed Charge	Rate per 5,000 gallons	Year of last major upgrade
Republic Twp.	364	\$27.00	\$27.00	1984
Ishpeming Twp.-North	134	\$20.00	\$0.00	1984
Ishpeming Twp.- West	912	\$20.00	\$0.00	1984
Forsyth Twp.	699	\$14.00	\$14.00	2001
City of Ishpeming	2,561	\$4.85	\$10.93	1984
Sawyer	789	\$4.10	\$18.45	2002-2003
City of Marquette	5,468	\$5.00	\$19.25	1997
Marquette Twp.	700	\$6.00	\$31.90	2000
Michigamme	180	\$31.00	\$31.00	1991
City of Negaunee	1,743	\$23.55	\$44.55	1979

Source: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Residential Wastewater Rates, Water Bureau staff, UP District, MDEQ, 2007 and www.republic.com, 2009.

Fire Protection

The Republic Township Fire Department keeps equipment in the Emergency Services building and in a building on Fence River Road. A total of 22 volunteer firefighters currently staff the Republic Township Fire Department. The fire department retains two fire trucks and a pumper; the pumper was purchased in 2007. The Township maintains mutual aid agreements for fire and ambulance services for Humboldt Township and Mansfield Township. Michigamme Township provides fire and ambulance services to the northwest corner of the Township.

The fire insurance rating for Republic Township is 7. Where classified areas have a split classification, the determination of the first listed protection class is a hydrant within 1,000 feet, while the second listed class is five road miles or less to responding fire station, and no hydrant within 1,000 feet and the third is for over five miles from the fire department and there is no hydrant.

Fire insurance ratings are determined by the Insurance Service Office (ISO) Commercial Risk, Inc. In rating a community, total deficiency points in the areas of evaluation are used to assign a numerical rating of 1 to 10. A rating of 1 indicates the best protection and a rating of 10 applies to properties located more than 5 miles from the responding fire department with no hydrants available. Many communities are assigned more than one rating because of water supply and response distance factors.

Generally, a property owner may expect to pay 50 percent more in a fire insurance premium for a structure located in an area with a class 10 rating than in an area with a class six rating. The difference in fire insurance premium between a class six area and a class nine area is generally 30 percent. Table 6-2 provides the latest fire insurance ratings for surrounding communities.

Table 6-3	
ISO Fire Insurance Ratings, Selected Communities, 2009	
COMMUNITY	RATING
Republic Township	7
Champion Township	9/10
Ely Township	6/9
Ishpeming City	6
Ishpeming Township	6/9/10
Negaunee City	7
Powell Township	7/9/10
Tilden Township	9/10

Source: City Insurance Agency, 2005

Police Protection

Law enforcement in the Township is handled by the Michigan State Police or the Marquette County Sheriff Department.

Solid Waste and Recycling

Solid waste disposal is provided by Great American Disposal. Garbage pick-up is provided weekly. The current cost to Township residents for garbage pick up is \$12.00 per month.

The Township currently does not participate in recycling.

The Marquette County Landfill is located on a 210-acre parcel of land in the northwestern corner of Sands Township. The landfill began operations in December of

1989. The landfill accepts both type II (residential/household waste) and Type III waste (demolition debris). The Marquette County Solid Waste Authority, organized in 1987, owns and manages the landfill. The appointed seven-member authority includes: three representatives at large; three members designated by the Marquette City Commission; and one member designated by the Sands Township Supervisor. Waste arriving into the landfill comes from all 22 units of government in the county. The waste collected from these entities is directly hauled to the landfill or in the case of Republic Township and five other Townships in the west end, waste arrives via a transfer station.

Ambulance Service

Republic EMS provides Emergency Medical Services for Republic Township. Republic EMS is made up of a team of fifteen all volunteer Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). Republic EMS has been trained to provide Basic Life Support and has the ability to intercept with Bell Ambulance for Advanced Life Support services.

Education

The Township is served by one school district, Republic-Michigamme Schools. The First Republic School was K-12, and was built in 1873 on Mirror Lake, which is now called School Lake. The current school building was built in 1964 and is located at 227 Maple Street, in South Republic. It was first called Republic Central School, but was renamed Republic-Michigamme Schools when it joined with the Michigamme District in 1965. Republic-Michigamme Schools is a Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade school. The school currently has an enrollment of approximately 140 students and 23 staff members. It has extra-curricular activities consisting of Junior High, Junior Varsity, and Varsity Basketball for boys and girls as well as Junior Varsity and High School Football and Track which is a cooperative program with Ishpeming High School. Choir, High School Bowl and Band are also offered.

With declining enrollment and only about 140 students in the 2007/2008 school year, the future of the school is uncertain. The school has moved to a four day school week so that the district can cut costs by spending fewer days in the building, which cuts down on energy consumption, employee costs, maintenance costs, and more. The school has also decided to group certain grades together. For example, the 2nd and 3rd graders are being taught by one teacher and the 4th and 5th graders are being taught by another teacher.

Library

Library materials and services are available at the Republic-Michigamme School. The library is open to the public but is not part of the County library system.

Parks and Recreation

A complete listing of Township and Area parks and recreation facilities is provided in Chapter 8.

Building Permits

Building, Mechanical, Plumbing, and Electrical permits are obtained through the Marquette County Resource Department.

Zoning Administration

The Township's Zoning Ordinance is administered by the Township Zoning Administrator. Among its many duties, the Planning Commission is responsible for issuance of Conditional Use Permits, review of Planned Unit Developments, and review/recommendation concerning amendments to the zoning ordinance.

6.3 Other Public Facilities and Services

Marquette County Sheriff's Department

The Marquette County Sheriff's Department operates out of the Marquette County Sheriff's Department and Jail, located immediately adjacent to the Marquette County Courthouse in Marquette. The department is staffed by 70 full and part-time employees, including 26 road patrol officers, 26 corrections officers, detectives, an under sheriff, a sheriff, and support staff.

Its functions include road patrol, investigative, civil process, marine/snowmobile/or patrol, search and rescue, management of the 80-bed Marquette County Jail, and assistance with court activities (bailiff/transport/security). The Sheriff's Department participates in the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team.

Michigan State Police

The Michigan State Police Post is located in Negaunee Township on M-28/US41. There are currently 21 officers assigned to the post: nine officers, two lieutenants, six sergeants, two detective sergeants, one special sergeant (Fire Marshall) and one motor carrier officer. The troopers respond to incidents throughout Marquette County, as requested by Central Dispatch. All of the officers are authorized to enforce the state and local laws and ordinances. The motor carrier officer enforces the state's commercial vehicle code and the Fire Marshall investigates fire within the area.

Enhanced 911 System

Emergency services in Marquette County including fire, police and ambulance services, are dispatched by the Marquette County Central Dispatch using an enhanced 911

system. The enhanced 911 service identifies the address from which an emergency call is made on the dispatch screen. This feature makes it easier for emergency personnel to locate a site if a caller is unable to provide directions. Central Dispatch is located within the Negaunee State Police Post.

Marquette County Emergency Services

This office is responsible for multi-hazard mitigation planning, protection of public health and safety, preservation of essential services, prevention of property damage, preservation of the local economic base, and response to community disasters. A full-time director reports directly to the county board.

Bell Memorial Hospital

The original Bell Memorial Hospital was built in 1918 and located in downtown Ishpeming. In September 2008, the new Bell Hospital celebrated its grand opening. The new facility is located on 35 acres at 901 Lakeshore Drive in Ishpeming and is 102,427 square feet with a 44,244 square foot medical office building. Bell Hospital has over 90 physicians on its active and consulting medical staff, with additional offices throughout the Central UP. The hospital offers a full range of services, including: x-ray, mammography, ultrasound, laboratory, respiratory therapy, and nuclear medicine, plus general/ambulatory surgical units, a coronary care unit, and obstetrics with private birthing suites. The surgical center performs procedures on a daily basis, from colonoscopies, hysterectomies, gall bladder, total knee and hip replacements, plus arthroscopies, carpal tunnel, cataracts, endoscopies, hernias, tonsils, and vascular. Bell also offers rehabilitation services, including physical occupational therapy and speech therapy, with our newest addition being our Sports Health Department. Bell Behavioral Services, a department of Bell Hospital, also provides adult, child, and adolescent therapy services, plus substance abuse counseling and psychological assessment

Marquette General Hospital

Marquette General Hospital, the Upper Peninsula's regional medical center, is located in the city of Marquette. The 352-bed specialty care hospital provides care in 54 specialties and subspecialties and 24-hour emergency services. Marquette General houses the Upper Michigan Heart Institute; the Upper Michigan Centers for Neuroscience, Rehabilitation and Cancer Treatment; and Upper Michigan Behavioral Health Service. The Family Practice Residency Program serves as a teaching facility affiliated with Michigan State University. The medical staff of more than 200 doctors work with about 2,700 employees providing care to approximately 11,000 inpatients and 350,000 outpatients per year.

Sawyer International Airport

The Marquette County Airport operations moved from their location on M-28 in Negaunee Township to the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base in September 1999. The new location has added considerable time and distance to Ishpeming Township residents wishing to use the facility. It is one of seven airports in the U.P. that provide local commuter and corporate charter service. The airport is served by Mesaba Airlines/Northwest AirlinK.

Marquette Area Regional Educational Service Agency

Technical education, early childhood education, special education, and general services are provided by the Marquette Area Regional Educational Service Agency, formerly the Marquette County Intermediate School District. Administrative offices and instructional facilities are located in the city of Marquette. The MARESA is a consortium of the public schools in Marquette County. Beyond direct and support services to students, the agency offers support services to teachers and administrators in areas such as professional development and regulatory compliance.

Northern Michigan University

Northern Michigan University, located in the City of Marquette, offers more than 180 programs in 32 different departments with credentialing that ranges from certificates and associate degrees to masters degrees. The physical campus includes 56 buildings on a campus of 336 acres. A 350-member faculty teaches the enrollment of approximately 8,700 students.

Cable Television Service

Cable television service is currently available in North Republic through Cable America.

Internet Services

In Republic and the surrounding area, there are thirteen (13) companies offering internet service.

Electrical Service

Electrical service in Republic Township is provided by the Upper Peninsula Power Company. The distribution system (poles, lines, etc.) is owned and maintained by UPPCO.

Postal Service

The majority of the residents and businesses in the Township are served by the Republic (49879) post office, located in the Republic Township Hall.

Telephone Service

Local telephone service in Republic Township is provided by AT&T and Charter Communications. Long distance service can be obtained from several carriers that serve the area. Area cellular service is provided by AT&T and Alltel.

6.4 Road System

Republic Township is shaped like a long rectangle, extending from north to south on the western boundary of Marquette County. It is a north south stack of three townships (36 sections each); there is an extension eastward in the midsection of the Township which itself is a north south slender rectangle six sections long and two sections wide. This narrow strip contains both of the unincorporated villages of Republic and South Republic. This area also contains M-95, the only major highway which connects the Township with the rest of the state. M-95 rejoins the Township just inside the border of the southern third of the Township.

The northern one-third of Republic Township has no major roads (Map 6-1). The County Road 601 meanders loosely north to south through the bottom two thirds of the township along its eastern border. County Road 601 ends at Witch Lake at the junction of Fence River Road.

Republic is poised roughly midway between two metropolitan areas, Marquette and Iron Mountain. Marquette is the larger of the two cities and commercially healthy. Both cities offer steady employment opportunities and are served by well maintained roads, M-95 and US -41. Both highways are well plowed and salted in winter, aiding in ease of travel.

East/west roads in the Township are limited. Starting from the south, Fence River Road is paved and extends westward from M-95 past the west boundary of the Township. Paving of Fence River Road ends about 1.3 miles past the west boundary of the Township. This road is used primarily for farm products (usually potatoes) and logging.

The next east/west road is Chief Lake Road and is 2.5 miles north of Fence River Road. Chief Lake Road does not connect with M-95. It extends westward for 3.5 miles and ends in dirt tracks. An additional east/west road is Eighteen Road and is the only road in the mid-section of the Township. Eighteen Road also stems from County Road 601 and is paved for 2 miles.

In the north section of Republic, River Road, although paved for only three miles, extends all the way to Lake Michigamme and Dutchman's Point. It is gravel, changing to

plain dirt for most of its length and gated in its last two miles.

Dirt roads form a network over most of the Township connecting homes and hunting camps on lakes and in the forest. The chief commercial use of roads in the north two-thirds of the Township is logging.

The two communities, Republic and South Republic are connected with a paved road and a small network of paved roads connects the homes on the fringes. The main street, Kloman Avenue extends east out of town past the old mine property then drops south-east and leaves the Township. Park City Road leaves town going north for 2 miles and then joins M-95. County Road 601 travels straight north through Republic and South Republic.

6.5 Rail Service

There are two railroads in the Township, neither of which is in use. LS&I was a one customer line designed to serve the Republic mine. Only a portion of its track is left and the right of way is still owned by the LS&I. The other track is owned by the Soo Line, a national freight line. Although the Soo Line is not actively used in Republic, it is an active freight business just south of the Township border in Dickinson County. The Soo Line tracks are largely intact in the Township.

6.6 Public Transportation

Local bus service is available from Marqtran on a call and request basis. Marqtran serves Republic as requested and will take passengers to Ishpeming, located 32 miles to the north and east. There, a person may change buses and go to Marquette, an additional 18 miles. In Marquette, there is a local bus service also run by Marqtran which runs a circle route to all major stores and Malls.

6.7 Air Transportation

Commercial air service is not available within Republic Township. The Marquette County Airport operations moved from its location in Negaunee Township to the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base in September 1999. The new location has added time and distance to those in Republic Township wanting to use the County airport.

6.8 Issues and Opportunities

Installation of the new water tank in 2009 will allow the Township to improve water service to the community. All users of the system will be metered, which allows for usage tracking and helps monitor leakage. It also provides a fair billing method that

charges based on usage. This will save wear on the water system equipment and cut supply costs, lowering operating costs for all users.

Continued declining enrollment for Republic-Michigamme schools may require consideration of alternate uses for some of the facilities.

Commercial development will most likely be drawn to the M-95 corridor. Lack of services and roads will most likely limit development of the west side of the Township.

Large scale hauling is limited to Park City road and M-95 since they are the only Class A roads in the Township and will not be subject to road restrictions in the spring. Unless a substantial change occurred, growth in the Township will be limited by its roads.

Another very significant issue will be managing the development along the M-95 corridor. Development will be tempting, due to the large volume of traffic. A considerable effort must be made to promote business communities, and these communities will need to share access with common driveways and common parking in order to prevent a string of business from on end to the other cluttered with a myriad of individual access ways to M-95. An access management plan should be considered.