

## **SECTION 7. PUBLIC FACILITIES**

The Town of Poland provides essential municipal services and maintains municipal facilities to provide for the health and welfare of the residents of Poland and to comply with mandates imposed by state and federal government. The availability and adequacy of these services and facilities reflect on the community's desirability as a place in which to live and work.

Municipal services and facilities are adequate to meet the current level of services required. As we see changes in population and demographics in Poland, municipal services and facilities will need to be responsibly increased and expanded. How those challenges will be met are described below.

The following sections include an examination of the Town's form of government, as well as municipal services provided, including water supply, sewage disposal, solid waste, emergency services, public works, municipal buildings, education and school facilities, and recreational facilities.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Poland has a Town Meeting/Selectmen/Town Manager form of government that was adopted in 1956. At the annual Town Meeting, the voters elect, on a staggered term basis, the membership that will serve on the three Town boards and committees; the Selectmen/Assessors, the Budget Committee, and Library Trustees. Voters also elect representatives to the RSU 16 School Board.

The Selectmen are responsible for appointing members to various appointed boards, including the Planning Board, the Board of Appeals, and the Conservation Commission, and Scholarship Committee. They also appoint the Town Manager, and confirm the appointment of the Town Clerk, the Code Enforcement Officer, and Fire and Rescue Chief. The Town Manager is responsible for operating the town on a day-to-day basis, and for hiring and supervising the town's employees.

### **WATER SUPPLY**

The Town of Poland has no town wide indigenous public water supply system. However, there are currently extensions from two out of town water service providers servicing parts of Poland. The Poland Municipal Complex (Town Office, Town Hall, Recreation, Old School House, and Library) as well as Public Works and Fire Rescue are serviced by a water line that has been extended into Poland from the Mechanic Falls Water Department. The Mechanic Falls Water Department extended the water line further up Poland Corner Road to serve a mobile home park in 2019.

The Auburn Water District extended its West Hardscrabble Rd. water main into Poland to provide service to the Brookdale Village Mobile Home Park. This main can also be extended further into Poland via the Hardscrabble Rd. if the need warrants. Additionally, the Auburn Water District extended public water service to Poland via Lewiston Junction Rd, Empire Rd., and Rt. 122 (Spring Water Rd.), terminating near the junction of Rt. 122 and Rt. 26. This extension currently serves several local business's and resident's.

There are a number of private water systems throughout the town, including one serving a subdivision, and four serving various mobile home parks located in Poland. Most private residences throughout the community rely on individual wells for their domestic water needs.

While minor problems with individual water supplies may exist, there do not appear to be major problems with water quality. There do not appear to be any significant threats to the Town's water resources, other than the 16 underground petroleum tanks registered with the Department of Environmental Protection. Should it be required, both Mechanic Falls and Auburn have the capacity to increase their water service to Poland.

### **SEWAGE TREATMENT**

The Town of Poland has no town-wide public sewage collection and disposal system. However, public sewer service was extended to Poland via Lewiston Junction Rd, Empire Rd., and Rt. 122 (Spring Water Rd.), terminating near the junction of Rt. 122 and Rt. 26. This extension currently serves several local business's and resident's and will soon be extended to the southern end of the RT 25 causeway. The sewer main also serves Range Pond State Park as well as several private residences along the route of the pipe.

The majority of individual properties in Poland use septic tanks and disposal beds. Currently, a plumbing permit is required for any construction involving the generation of sewage. The medium intensity soil survey report prepared by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service shows that 80 to 90 percent of the soils in Poland may be suitable for on-site sewage disposal systems.

Poland does not have an in-town site for the disposal of wastes pumped from septic tanks. The town relies upon the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority (LAWPCA), which allows private haulers to take wastes to the LAWPCA treatment plant in Lewiston. The Town maintains an agreement with the facility to accept waste from Poland at homeowner expense. However, the service is not guaranteed and, could be limited or terminated due to plant operational needs or capacity constraints.

Disposal system failures are a concern at Middle Range and Tripp Ponds where the soils are often poor and many of the lots are small. There have been several instances where the owners of the property on which disposal systems have failed have had to purchase additional land for the installation of a new system. It is hoped that extending the sewer line to the southern end of the RT 26 causeway will provide some relief for this issue.

The lack of a public sewer system in Poland is a factor that limits the extent to which commercial and industrial development can occur in the future. The existing sewer line that currently terminates just south of the Top Gun shop on RT 26 will be extended north to the southern end of the RT 26 causeway. It may be possible to serve Tripp Lake and Poland Corner areas of Poland with public sewer service by constructing an extension from the existing Poland Spring sewer along the Plains Road although this may not be economical since the sewer line is now being extended north along RT 26. Other areas of Poland would benefit from a sewer line, particularly the five corners intersection and south along RT 26. This area has available land and would suit business development. The Community and Economic Development Committee is actively exploring options to bring sewer to more areas of Poland.

### **SOLID WASTE**

Solid waste disposal is a problem facing all Maine communities. Traditionally, most town's maintained their own dumps or sent trash to landfills, but in the 1970's, the legislature enacted legislation requiring phasing out open burning dumps and landfills that contaminate ground water. The Department of Environmental Protection, which regulates solid waste disposal, forced the closure of Poland's dump and landfill in 1979.

Transfer Station Staff consists of two full time employees, one of whom is the Transfer Station Director, and two part time employees.

The Town has operated a transfer station on a portion of the original 17-acre site of the dump and landfill located on Tripp Lake Road since 1979. The Town bought an adjoining 50-acre parcel in 1994, increasing the size of the transfer station parcel to 67 acres. The land acquisition permitted the expansion of the transfer station, and provided space for a bulky waste handling area. Facilities were further improved by constructing a recyclables storage building and by adding additional roll off container pads and retaining walls to facilitate recycling in 1995 and with the construction of a revetment for wood waste and demolition debris in 2019.

- Current waste generation trends indicate the Town is generating approximately 2600 tons of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) per year. This number has remained relatively constant over the past nine years. The Town's single sort recycling program contributes a further 320 tons per year. Poland's recycling rate is currently in the mid 30% range.

Poland is part of a 12-town consortium called the Maine Waste To Energy Corporation. This group, formally known as Mid Maine Waste Action Corporation (MMWAC) was formed in 1990 to replace the former Auburn Energy Recovery Plant which ceased operations in January 1990. The facility changed its name to Maine Waste

to Energy in 2019. MWTE accepts Poland municipal solid waste at their Auburn facility.

The transfer station consists of three basic areas:

1. Trash disposal area. Municipal solid waste is deposited in one of two compactors with a roll-off box attached. When the boxes are full, the waste is transported to Maine Waste To Energy (MWTE) in Auburn. The Town pays the tipping fee for all household trash generated in Poland that is taken to MWTE, but does not pay for trash collection services provided by private haulers to Poland residents or for commercial waste.
2. Recycling area. The Town operates a recycling area for used oil, electronic waste, metals and a composting area for garden and yard waste. Most of the resulting compost is used for erosion control purposes on public works projects. Household recycling is deposited in one compactor with a roll-off box attached that is adjacent to the MSW compactors.
  - The Town transports recyclable metals by collecting them in a roll off container that is transported to Schnitzer in Auburn for disposal and further processing and marketing. The Town is paid the prevailing price for metals delivered.
3. Waste wood disposal area. The Town also operates an area for the disposal of demolition debris and waste wood. In 2019, the Town constructed a revetment to receive wood waste and demolition debris.

VEHICLES: In 2006 received the Public Works Roll-off truck and loader for use at the transfer station. Those vehicles are still in operation.

Going forward consideration should be given to constructing a hard laydown area for wood waste, demolition debris, and brush to eliminate contamination with soil. Additionally, consideration should be given to converting one or both part time employees to full time to better meet operational requirements.

### **LIBRARY**

The A.B. Ricker Library is located at 1211 Maine Street. Built in 1963, it comprises adult, teen and children's book sections, audio books, periodicals room, DVD's, computer access, office space, and a community room in the basement. The Library also serves as the Town's warming shelter. Programs offered and supported at the Library include:

- Monday Mystery Book Group
- Let's Talk Book Group
- Tweens & Teens Club
- Needler's
- Coloring Group
- Story time for preschool age children
- Quilting Group
- Summer Reading Program
- Lego's Group
- Multiple community meetings and gatherings

The Library has seen a marked increase in patrons and use by the community since constructed. With this increase in use, the desire to modify the children's book area for safety and use reasons, and the need to replace and renovate floors, bathrooms and other areas due to age, the Library Trustees are actively reviewing plans to expand and renovate the Library.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**

The Town contracts for dispatching services from the Androscoggin County Sheriff Department which serves as a public safety answering point for E 911 calls in Androscoggin County. All 911 calls for service are answered and dispatched from the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office Communications Center in Auburn. The Town's

call and emergency personnel are issued portable radios and pagers to maintain communications.

### **POLICE PROTECTION**

The Town of Poland relies on the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Department to provide police protection. The Town contracts for 16 hours a day 7 days a week for police patrols in the Town of Poland. This is accomplished by 2 full time Deputy Sheriff's, one working days and the other working nights 5 days a week. Weekend shifts are covered by overtime and Reserve Deputy Sheriff's. The remaining 8 hours of coverage day is picked up by the County Patrol. The Deputies work out of the Old Town Office Building located 1219 Maine Street which is located in the Town complex next to the Town Hall.

The Town of Poland should consider expanding police services to 24 hours a day from 16 hours a day. ASO has seen an increase in crime. The Maine State Police have ceased covering half of the county which means ASO has to take this requirement on. Response times to Poland in the overnight hours will be dramatically increased. Additionally, a 24 hour police presence will allow for more proactive policing and speed enforcement.

### **FIRE RESCUE**

Poland Fire Rescue Department is located at 33 Poland Corner Road, Poland, Maine. The department provides fire related and medical emergency coverage for the town 24 hours a day 7 days week, covering 49.7 square miles and a year round population of 6,000 residents. Poland Fire Rescue has mutual aid agreements with the following communities, Auburn, Casco, Gray, Mechanic Falls, Minot, New Gloucester, Norway, Oxford, Paris and Raymond. In addition to those agreements Poland Fire Rescue is currently working under an EMS transport coverage agreement with the Town of Mechanic Falls, which means Poland Fire Rescue responds, treats and transports any medical emergency within that town during the hours of 0600-1800 seven days week.

### **Fire Rescue Facilities**

The original firehouse at 33 Poland Corner Road was built in 1990 with a total of 6,400 square feet of working and bay space. In 2013 we renovated our station to accompany a growing service and its needs. We renovated the existing structure and added a bay for emergency apparatus. The 7,000 square foot living and office addition included, bunk rooms for overnight coverage, office space, a nearly 100 person training room, dayroom with a new kitchen, dedicated janitorial and decontamination rooms and a fitness room. Our 2013 addition and renovation will serve our employees well and it should be many years before we need to make any significant changes to our facility.

### **Fire and EMS Program**

Call volume for Poland Fire Rescue is nearly 1,000 calls for service every year. Calls that require additional manpower to mitigate an emergency have a very low call back census, which means getting members to respond when not already on duty is not popular and at times does not provide the assistance that is needed. The amount of people that live within our community that respond to emergencies calls is not up to par. Currently on our roster we have only 14 out of 37 employees who reside within the town borders. This may dictate the need for additional full time personnel in the very near future.

Poland Fire Rescue is licensed at the EMT Basic level within the State of Maine and is permitted to the paramedic level, which means that we need to have a minimum of an EMT-Basic on every call and when needed we are permitted to treat at a Paramedic level. Currently (April 2020), Poland Fire Rescue has 13 paramedics, 6 EMT Intermediate's, 6 Basic EMT's.

Since July of 2013 Poland Fire Rescue has been under contract with the Town of Mechanic Falls to be their emergency medical transport service between the hours of 0600 and 1800 hours. This means that 7 days a week our communication center will dispatch us to all medical calls in Mechanic Falls and we will treat and transport those patients. On average we respond to 156 calls a year to Mechanic Falls and an average annual collection amount from medical treatment and transport billing is \$47,530. We are not currently in a contract to be their transport service between 1800 and 0600 hours as our staffing levels are not at the point where we can provide

that service and continue to have a dedicated staffed ambulance to our taxpayers of Poland. If the towns wanted to come to a point where that contract would be extended to (24) hour coverage I would recommend that Mechanic Falls and Poland would need to come up with a financial plan that suited and supported that cause as we would have to add staffing for two more overnight medical personnel. With our current average pay we would need to raise approximately \$145,000 to cover that program.

### **Staffing**

The Town is served by a combination Fire Rescue Department. The Department consists of six full time personnel, which includes a full time Chief, Administrative Assistant and 4 cross trained firefighter/EMT's. Poland's current staffing model also includes part time firefighters and emergency medical technicians ranging in license levels. The Department is staffed with (24) hour coverage (365) days a year. Our (4) full time firefighters work on a 28 day work schedule consisting of a rotation of (24) hours on shift, followed by the next (72) hours off duty. Our Administrative Assistant position is a (35) hour a week position, Monday- Friday. Currently that position is held by a Paramedic who can dual role and also works shifts on the floor responding to medical emergencies. Part time staff complement our full time staff during shifts, which brings our staffing levels currently to (4) employees on duty, assigned to emergency apparatus from 0600-1800, at night we are staffed with (2) employees from 1800-0600. Currently we have a full roster of 35 members, including our (6) full time employees, (24) part time employees who work shift work, (3) employees who respond for emergencies only and (2) junior firefighters. Many of our members are cross trained and serve both as first responders for fire related emergencies and medical emergencies that require medical treatment and transport to local hospitals. The full time Fire Rescue Chief is a salaried position and is appointed by the Town Manager and serves the Town as a Department Head. The Fire Rescue Chief is also the Town of Poland's Fire Warden & Emergency Management Director. All other full time positions are hourly employees. Ranks within the Fire Rescue are determined by the chief and fill numerous roles within the organization.

### **Grants**

Over the years Poland Fire Rescue has applied for and been awarded the following grants

2002- Firefighting Equipment  
2003- Portable and Mobile Radios  
2004- SCBA's and Breathing Air  
2005- Rapid Intervention Pack, Personal Protective Equipment, AED's and laptops  
2008- Generator and Animal Crates for Androscoggin County EMA and Poland Regional High School  
2009- Smoke Detector Program  
2010- Radios  
2011- Wildland Nomex shirts and leather firefighting gloves, Radio repeater, Voter Repeater, updated all of Public Works radios  
2014- Generator for Public Library  
2014- Dry Hydrant Equipment, Black Island Road  
2016- Dry Hydrant Replacement, Birch Drive  
2016- Portable and Mobile Radios  
2017- Vehicle Extrication Tool  
2018- Firehouse Sub Grant for new training equipment  
2018- Homeland Security Grant (HSGP) replacement off all oxygen regulators  
2019- Mechanical Lucas CPR Device

### **Records Management**

We keep a very thorough system for records management. We currently use a system called Fully Involved and although it does take time to get everything in at the beginning stages it allows us to track and query most anything that we need to categorize and collect including and not limited to station needs and repairs, vehicle tracking, personal protective equipment, purchase orders, incident reports, payroll, life safety inspections, wet barrel and dry barrel hydrant locations, employee profiles, and training records. We have been using this system since 2009.

### **Emergency Medical Transport Billing**

We have outsourced our medical billing to Medical Reimbursement Services in Windham Maine for many years' now. We have an outstanding relationship with our representatives and are in contact with them every few weeks. The medical billing revenue from year to year is ever changing, below is a table representing the last (4) years of our ambulance revenues for the town.

Fiscal Year Ending	Poland	Mechanic Falls
2019	\$ 182,782.87	\$ 46,506.33
2018	\$ 207,643.98	\$ 48,678.54
2017	\$ 176,176.98	\$ 46,908.17
2016	\$ 190,600.79	\$ 41,692.41
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$ 189,301.16</b>	<b>\$ 45,946.36</b>

### **Training and Certification**

Each month fire rescue holds multiple evening training events to allow our emergency responders the time to get their continuing education credits and maintain their state medical licenses. The topics vary from month to month and our training officer puts in many hours every month planning and maintaining this program. In addition, we have a weekly training program to be able to capitalize on employees being here during the day shift. Those weekly trainings are intended to be hands on training and some book/ knowledge based learning. They are intended to get the crews working together on some smaller topics that can be covered in less than an hour and gets our hands on some equipment that we do not utilize every day. A unique perspective on this training is that we use a system called "train the trainer" so from day to day a member will learn the topic and get instruction one day and later in the week if he or she is working another shift they get to be in the instructor and teach the crew for that day. This type of system gives a lot of our employees an opportunity to take the lead, be in charge and practice those skills that later in their career will help them advance to an officer's role. Learning that responsibility in a controlled environment is such an important aspect due to our staffing levels and can be a really important piece to a employees career development.

### **Communications**

Poland Fire Rescue is dispatched through Lewiston Auburn 911 Communications Center. We have been in contract with them since July 2012. This center serves as a public safety answering point (PSAP) for fire, medical, and police emergencies for Lewiston, Auburn and fire/ems emergencies for Poland. We have two tower repeater sites in the Town of Poland. One is off from Summit Springs Road, located at Summit Springs Golf Course and the second one is located off Preservation Way on the property of Poland Spring Resort. Both locations are in good condition and have served us well thus far, we have very few spots in town that we struggle to get radio communications. Our supply of mobile portable radios and pagers are in a good state and we will be sorting through some older radios and working on a few replacement portable radios this spring (2020) and we will give some of the radio's to our Public Works Department to upgrade some of their older ones.

### **Inspection Program**

Having staff around the clock allows us to get more involved with our community and be more familiar with tax payers and hazards in the area. We do multiple inspections through the year and have developed a program where a crew can go to a building during the building process and learn about its construction. We get to see aspects that we may not be able to see when the finished product is presented. Woodstove inspections are a task that we have on a regular basis, Many of our towns people use wood as a source of heat which requires the fire

department to inspect their operation before an insurance company will sign off that it is safe for operation. With staff available (7) days a week we are able to be more accommodating for individuals that work and can't be home during the work week, as well we are able to go complete an inspection during non-business hours during the week. This program, from our perspective, is going very well and our support in the community comes from interactions like our inspections where we can get to know our citizens in a non-emergent environment.

### **Community CPR Program**

Poland Fire Rescue offers CPR/AED, (Automated External Defibrillator) and First Aid training to the public. CPR classes are held in the training room at the firehouse. Members of our department are American Heart Association certified instructors and use up to date material and mannequins from the AHA. Some of the citizens we certify are teachers in our RSU district, nurses, daycare providers, and our town employees including recreation camp counselors. When necessary we go on site to our large businesses to teach their employees and feel strongly that it benefits our community to have as many people as possible trained in CPR/AED and First Aid.

### **Community Outreach**

Our department as well as our association participates in many activities throughout the year. Our association holds a number of events in our community for fundraisers. Examples are our Pancake Breakfast, held every spring, "breakfast at the firehouse" which is open to the public for a buffet breakfast, Spring Fling, which is a dinner dance held with a live band and giveaways which has been going on for over (40) years and is a really nice kick off to summer for our neighbors and citizens. We also play a part in the Poland Heritage Days, held in June of every year at the grounds of Poland Spring Resort that celebrates our town heritage with a big community event. Our last event of the year is our Fire & Slice golf tournament which brings golfers from all over Maine and even from other states. This is a partnered golf tournament with the Poland Spring Resort playing a big part and Poland Spring Water Company as one of our lead sponsors, this event will be turning (10) years old in September of 2020. The benevolent association helps supplement some needs of the department when budget funds do not exist to the point that is needed. Over the years the fire rescue association has stepped up to purchase items that needed to be upgraded or purchased when town funds were not available. The association fundraises for the opportunity to support the budget as well they help many organizations within the town including the community church & food bank. The benevolent association also has a scholarship fund that assists one student every year who is entering college to pursue public safety or the medical field.

Poland Fire Rescue participates in fire prevention week every year with Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops earning their badges by coming to the firehouse to learn about safety or emergency response, giving tours to daycares and teaching young children about fire safety. PFRD also spends a day at Poland Community School teaching the students how to be responsible children and a safe citizen. The high point for the students that day is lunch time, Poland Fire Rescue spends this once a year opportunity to have lunch with the kids and answer more questions for them explaining what it is like to work in emergency services.

Poland Fire Rescue has been in a learning partnership with Bruce M. Whittier Middle School since 2010. This is a program overseen by Mrs. Shanning from BMWMS and PFRD which brings local students to the firehouse one day a week every week while school is in session from January through early June. This program strives to get kids within Mrs. Shanning's classroom out of their normal learning "classroom" and give them an alternative learning opportunity. We cover many different fire and EMS topics in our time with these students, but our major lesson plan for our "Fire Slayers" is to stay engaged and know that "you can make a difference". These students learn how to adapt, come out of their comfort zone and be leaders with trust building activities, simple life lessons and an in depth look in to public safety operations. This includes obtaining their CPR and first aid certification that PFRD instructs them in and tests them through our Community CPR program. After months of learning and challenging themselves we have an annual cook off at the firehouse with a panel of community judges where we all celebrate our learning with the "Golden Spoon" Cook-off.

Moving forward to 2021 Poland Fire Rescue has been trying to start a reading program at Poland Community

School. This program would bring one or two emergency responders to the school possibly a few times a month to spend some time reading to our youth during their learning time. This can be a great opportunity for our public service to give back to our youth.

### **Capital Improvement Items**

ITEM	YEAR PURCHASED	REPLACEMENT YEAR	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE
Utility 1	2005	2020	\$65,000	CIP
Chief's Vehicle	2013	2023	\$59,980	CIP
Rescue 1	2007	2027	\$1,500,000	TIF
Squad 1	2017	2024 (Remount)	\$380,00	CIP
Squad 2	2018	2025 (Remount)	\$349,355	CIP
Tank 6	2009	2029	\$540,000	CIP
Engine 3	2015	2035	\$779,743	CIP
Engine 2	2016	2036	\$838,765	CIP
Cascade System/Compressor	2011	2032	\$50,000	CIP
LifePak Monitors (2)	2014	2025	\$75,000	CIP
Air Bottles	2017	2027	\$44,000	CIP
Combined Equipment	On-going	On-going	\$40,000	CIP
Bunker Gear	2016	2026	\$46,257	CIP

A few notes for the above chart regarding some of the big items on our capital improvement plan; when we purchased the last two ambulances we purchased under a long term plan to keep the units for 14 years. With that being said this plan is designed to have a remount every 7 years. This correlates to the actual cab of the vehicle being removed and replaced at the 7 year mark and the “box” or patient transport portion of the unit would be overhauled and cleaned/fixed for anything that needed attention then 7 years after the remount the entire unit would be replaced.

Bunker/turn out gear is on a 10 year replacement schedule. This is based from regulations that all bunker gear that is being used to fight a fire on the interior of a burning structure must be replaced every 10 years no matter the condition of the garments. What we have done in the past is worked a hand me down process, in some cases some of our sets of gear are in good shape but by law they need to be replaced we switch out that 10 year set with a set for someone that does not fight interior structure fires and that allows us to defer some of the cost for this very expensive item.

Our fleet of vehicles all vary on replacement time frames which are indicated in the table above. Our in house maintenance program has served us very well and our employee’s take pride and ownership ensuring that our fleet is kept to a high standard.

The capital line that is labeled “combined equipment” refers to replacement cost for our radio repeaters and antennas, as well as funds to replace thermal imaging cameras. Our thermal imaging cameras have been able to be maintained through the regular line budget and we have been able to replace occasionally through that line, our radio equipment and antennas that have been in operation since 2014. Our voter receivers will need to be looked at and updated in the near future, that investment into our communications will be expended with that capital line which has the funding to maintain that project upgrade.

### **Apparatus Fleet**





Our fleet of ambulances, Squad 1(2016) and Squad 2 (2016) Chevy G4500 cab with Braun patient compartments. **(Above Photo)**



Our fleet of Engines, Engine 2(2016) and Engine 3 (2015) Pierce Enforcers. Each with 1500 GPM pumps, 1000 gallons of water on board. **(Above Photo)**



Tank-6 which is a 2009 International/Pierce 2500 gallon tanker. **(Above Photo)**



Rescue -1 which is a 2007 Pierce Quantum Heavy Rescue. (Above Photo)



Utility- 1 which is a 2005 GMC 3500 diesel 4x4 double cab (Above Photo).

Our utility truck, which is our everyday truck and as well our forestry unit is used in multiple capacities, we were due to replace the unit this year (2020) but have held off due to the status of the vehicle. Utility 1 is in good shape for now, and still has a service life for our department. We are going to take this unit on a year by year basis for replacement. We will visit the topic every year moving forward to ensure we are making the best decision for the operations and safety of the fire rescue department.



Air Responder, combination ice/water rescue vehicle with an Arctic Cat snowmobile (Above Photo)





2013 Chevy Tahoe (**Above Photo**)



Current Poland Fire Rescue Station (**Spring 2020 Above Photos**)

### **Future Goals & Needs**

As we look at the future of our town, the option of having a substation should be a considered. There are instances throughout the course of the year where our staffing levels combined with the distance to an emergency are not working together. We cover just over 49 square miles. Our response time to the west side of town can take as long as 12 minutes. In addition to emergency response, our (PPC) Public Protection Class in that area of town is at its max of 10, which is the worst ISO classification and drives insurance costs for those homeowners.

An additional factor to consider going forward is adding more full time staff. Currently, fire rescue has four full time staff. Every year we have been over the budget line for overtime. This is due to our part time fire fighters not filling enough shifts by either not committing to work or when a part time staff member calls out of a shift. Our full time employees fill most of these open shifts, either voluntarily or by being forced - which drives up overtime. Overtime would be reduced if we added more full time staff.

Response to calls at night that exceed the capability of the on duty crew to handle is a problem. The Fire Rescue Chief and one other per diem employee respond to most calls that require additional assistance. Many other per diem and full time staff not on duty do not live in town, which makes responding to an emergency at night problematic – they are just too far away. As Poland continues to grow, the additional of full time staff will need to be considered.

### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

The Town's Public Works Department currently consists of 6 employees including a working department head, 1 mechanic, and 4 labor/driver/equipment operators. The Department is currently responsible for all maintenance and reconstruction of 55 miles of publicly maintained local roads. The Department also has responsibility for maintenance of 28 town owned vehicles and heavy equipment including Fire/Rescue, Solid Waste and Rec. Department vehicles, 18 small engines, various support equipment, and 3 industrial generator sets. The Department mows, trims and maintains 11 cemeteries, 3 ball fields, and the Public works department grounds. Monitors and maintains 2 dams. The Department also provides direct support to the Transfer Station as well as all other municipal departments as needed.

During the winter the Department maintains approximately 70 centerline miles of public roads including 55 miles of Town roads and 15.5 of State local collector roads. The Town's winter maintenance responsibility is divided into five primary and one auxiliary plow route using six plow/sander units. Each route is 10 to 14 centerline miles in length. Typical route cycle times for average storms vary from 2 ½ to 3 ½ hours, depending on storm conditions.

The Department is also responsible for plowing and sanding parking lots and interior roadways at the Transfer Station, Town Office, Library, Fire & Rescue Building, Public works facility and snow blowing 2.25 miles of side walks. The Department is currently working at full capacity to meet existing winter road maintenance obligations during most major winter storm events given current manpower and equipment resources available. Future requests for acceptance of additional roads as Town maintained roads will have to be analyzed to determine whether or not the Town will have the resources to meet the maintenance obligation if additional road maintenance responsibility is accepted by the Town's legislative body.

### **MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS**

1. Town Hall. The Town Hall, located at 1223 Maine St., was built in 1927-1928. It is used for various municipal meetings, serves as the Town's Polling Place for elections, and other municipal functions. The building also houses the Senior Center and is also used for other community-based functions. Improvements to the building accomplished in 1989 included refurbishing restrooms and installing a stair climber type accessibility lift. The current lift was refurbished in 2017, but has reached the limits of its useful life will need to be replaced in the future. A reserve fund has been established to fund that replacement. In 2018 a new restroom was constructed on the top floor, replacing the old Recreation Department office, the men's and women's restroom in the basement were refurbished, the auditorium and exterior were painted, and the propane water heater in the kitchen was replaced with an electric model.
2. Town Office. In 1989, the Town completed construction of a new Town Office at 1231 Maine St. to replace an undersized and outmoded facility. The current town office was renovated and expanded in late 2003 to deal with additional space needs and work space modifications required due to changing technology and growth. The building contains a main office/reception area for the Town Clerk, Collection Clerk, and Administrative Assistant, a conference room, and individual offices for the Town Manager, Code Enforcement Officer, Building and Planning Department Secretary, Assessor's Secretary, and Finance Director. The interior of the building was painted in 2017 and the kitchenette was refurbished in 2018.
3. The 2003 Town Office renovation addressed immediate needs improvements only, and included extensive remodeling of the clerks office, service counter, and lobby area to accommodate changing needs and increased demands for public services. Space was also reallocated between the Building and Assessing Departments to reflect immediate space needs. However, the project did not make any improvements anticipating future needs. In 2020 the security gate at the customer service area was replaced with a plexiglass barrier due to the COVID 19 pandemic.
4. Old Town Office. The Old Town Office Building located 1219 Maine Street was originally constructed prior to the turn of the century. In 1960 a 1-room addition was constructed on the rear of the building. The building housed the Town Clerk, Collection Clerk, Bookkeeper, and Town Manager until October of 1989. The building is currently used as a substation for Poland's contracted law enforcement personnel and the Recreation Department.
5. Old School House. The Old School House is the only one room school remaining in Town ownership. It was relocated from its original site on the White Oak Hill Rd. to the Municipal Center Lot where it was placed on a foundation containing two vaults for archival records storage. A mechanical space addition was added to the rear of the school to permit the school to be a functional building. The main schoolroom has been rehabilitated to reflect the building's use from the 1860's to 1954, at which time Poland Community School opened as the Town's Elementary School. The building is used for small group meeting space. The Poland Historical Society also uses the Old School House.
6. Old Fire Station. The old fire station was originally built with volunteer labor and donated funds in 1958 – 59 by members of the Town's recently formed volunteer fire department. The building was used as the Town's fire station until 1989. The building is currently used for storage purposes by the Recreation Department.
7. A.B. Ricker Library. Located at 1211 Maine Street, the Library was built in 196X. The Library includes adult and children's book sections, computer access, a community room, and serves as the Town warming shelter. The Library offers multiple programs for residents to include, story time for pre school age children, summer reading program, Lego building, and sponsors sewing and quilting groups, woodcarvers, and other community based group meetings.
8. Town Garage. The Town garage, located at 30 Poland Corner Rd., occupies the original site of the Town Stable. The site has been expanded over the years through acquisitions of additional land and expanded facilities. The current Town Garage was constructed in 1974 on the same site as an earlier garage that burned in 1973. In 1996 a "people space" addition was constructed to provide necessary office space, storage, and a break room to allow departmental personnel and administrative functions to be conducted in a place other than in a vehicle repair bay.

In 2003 the Town authorized a major expansion of facilities and a complete reconstruction of the site to install storm water best management practices and controls on the site to help protect the Town's groundwater resource, as well as meet the requirements of the Town's DEP Site Location Permit and US EPA storm water regulations.

The scope of work included the following.

- Construction of an enclosed sand and salt storage building with storage wings to store the Town's winter sand and salt supplies out of the weather, and to provide shelter for the Town's equipment Construction of a 3 bay addition to the garage to include two repair bays and a wash bay with a wastewater collection system and holding tank.
  - Construction of a new fueling island with entirely above ground fuel storage tanks and piping, including a spill protection system and holding tank, to replace the 1989 fuel island. The 1989 project included the removal of 6 underground petroleum tanks at the Town Garage site and replacing them with two above ground tanks located in a covered concrete storage vault.
  - Closure and grading of the Town's worked out Poland Corner Gravel Pit and conversion of the site to provide a base of operations for RSU 16's school bus fleet. The scope of work on the transportation building was subsequently expanded substantially to include space for the School Union 29 Office.
8. Fire/Rescue Building. The Town's Fire Rescue building was constructed in 1989 at 33 Poland Corner Road to replace two inadequate buildings then housing the fire and rescue departments. In 2013 we renovated our station to accompany a growing service and its needs. We renovated the existing structure and added a bay for emergency apparatus. The 7,000 square foot living and office addition included, bunk rooms for overnight coverage, office space, a nearly 100 person training room, dayroom with a new kitchen, dedicated janitorial and decontamination rooms and a fitness room.

#### **POLAND PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

A Recreation Department was established October 1, 2003. Our mission is "To provide community members the opportunity to participate in physical, social, and leisure activities that will enhance their well-being through recreation." Our vision is "We strive to provide quality recreation programs that serve Poland residents through the collaborative efforts of volunteers and staff that will enhance the quality of life for all."

Administration – The Parks & Recreation Department operates with one full-time Director and one part-time Coordinator. The programs are managed by paid directors/instructors/staff or volunteers depending on needs and resources available. The majority of programs are open to the general public, while some are designated for Poland residents only due to space limitations or specific program resource issues.

The Department is responsible for:

- Recreation programs for youth, teenagers, adults and senior citizens;
- Making programs available for people with disabilities;
- Maintenance of 3 town operated ball fields (Nadeau, Dennis P. Sampson & Pine Grove), 2 town beaches (Tripp Lake & Lower Range Pond) and Camp Connor (Acquired in November 2017)
- Program promotion; face book, email distribution, town website, access channel, school flier distribution, bulletin boards and signage.
- Scheduling facilities; Town Hall Rental
- Providing administrative support to Sports Directors, Instructors and volunteers;
- Attending Department head meetings; Communicating needs/plans and progressively working towards common goals.

#### **PROGRAMS**

##### **Youth Programs**

Art Class:	(Grades 1-6, tri-town) 2 or 3 sessions during school year
Babe Ruth baseball:	(ages 13-15) Tri County Babe Ruth league; May-June
Baseball:	(Ages 7-12) Andy Valley Cal Ripken League April-June
Basketball:	(Grades 3-8, tri-town league) December-February
Basketball Instructional	(Grades K-2 In house Program) December-February
Competition Cheering:	(Grades prek-8, tri-town) December-March
Cheer Camp:	Send youth to St. Dom's and NCA Cheer Camp; Week camp in July
Drama Class:	(Grades 3-6, tri-town) 2 sessions during school year
Field Hockey	(Grades K-6, tri-town) August-October
Flag Football:	(Grades K-2, tri-town) August-October

Football:	(Grades 5-8, tri-town) August-October
Indoor Soccer:	(Grades 3-6, tri-town) March
Intro to Tee Ball:	(Age 4) May& June
Lego Robotics & Coding:	(Ages 9-14 and 6-10, tri-town) During school year
Lost Valley Ski/snow boarding	(Tuesday night 6-week lessons)
Karate:	Partnership with BKD Fitness-Self-defense class for children.
Odyssey of the Mind:	(Pre-K – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade, tri-town) During school year
Soccer:	(ages 3 & 4 instructional, Grades K-6 games, tri-town league) August-October
Soccer Camp:	(Summer time-Partnership with PRHS Coaches)
Tee Ball:	(Grades K-2, tri-town) April-June
Tumbling:	(Grades K-6, Poland residents & Cheer participants only because of class size limitations) October-November
Softball:	(Ages 7-15) Andy Valley League; May-July
Summer Recreation:	9-week, 10.5 hours/day summer camp @ Camp Connor- June-August
Swim lessons:	(Ages 3-12, Poland residents); July-August @ Trip Lake

#### **Adult Programs**

Basketball:	Open gym, coed. December-March
Pickle Ball:	Year round, open to anyone
Poland Seniors:	(Older adults, tri-town) Monthly meetings, weekly activities and special trips.
Yoga:	(Adults, open to anyone) Partnership with Martha Stone
Zumba:	(Adults, open to anyone) Partnership with Becki Leighton

#### **Scholarships:**

##### **Bobby Brown:**

The Poland Recreation will offer a \$200.00 Scholarship, in Bobby Brown's Name, annually to a PRHS graduating senior student athlete, who has participated in at least one sport throughout their 4 year high school career, and has dedicated time to helping the his/ her community through coaching or other means of Community Service.

##### **Campership:**

Thanks to the generous support of local families and business, in 2018 we began providing scholarships for residents to attend Camp Connor. There is an application and criteria.

##### **Camp North Star:**

Thanks to the continued generosity of Camp Northstar owners Brooke and Steven Bernstein, they have provided heavily discounted scholarship for Poland residents to attend camp. In 2020, we open this opportunity up to Minot and Mechanic Falls residents. An application is required.

##### **Jessica Pelletier:**

The Tri-Town Knights Cheering Program will offer a \$200.00 Scholarship annually to a PRHS graduating senior who has participated in cheerleading throughout high school and has dedicated time to helping the Tri-Town Knights Cheerleading Program through coaching or other means of Community Service.

#### **Community Programs:**

##### **Heritage Day:**

Heritage Day is an annual event located on the Poland Spring Resort property to support Poland Spring Preservation Society and local non-profits. We typically participate on the committee preparing for this event.

##### **Halloween:**

**Haunting on the Hill:** We are utilizing the Maine State Building thanks to the Poland Spring Preservation Society. The building is turned into a haunted house.

**Halloween Dance/Haunted Hallway:** For many years we have hosted a Halloween event at Poland Community School. In 2019, we allowed the Poland Football boosters to take it over.

**Tree Lighting:**

We magically light the tree, sing carols and enjoy some refreshments while some holiday characters come to visit.

**Winter Ball:**

Also, know has the father/daughter ball has been happening annually for over 20 years.

**Community Service Opportunity:**

The Poland Parks & Recreation Department is always searching for Adults and high school students to help with our programs. We offer an opportunity for High School students to complete community service hours as junior coaches, referee's or helping recreation staff with projects.

**Discount Ticket Program:**

During the summer we sell tickets on consignment from various theme parks.

**Skate Park:**

Poland Parks & Recreation Department and town of Mechanic Falls teamed up to bring a skate park to our local communities. The location of the park is behind the tennis courts in Mechanic Falls, next to the existing basketball court. We receive a Maine Community Block grant in 2009 to support the purchase of the skate park. Without an identified location in Poland, Mechanic Falls stepped in to offer a location. With the help of some local residents and business, we were able to set up the skate park in the summer of 2009. The skate park is still usable today.

**Sports Recycling:**

We accept sports equipment in good condition and offer this equipment out to Poland Recreation participants at no cost. Cleats, ice skates, shin guards, cheering sneakers, gloves, and other items.

**Table & Chair Rentals:**

For Poland residents and town employees we offer table & chair rentals at a discounted rate.

**Town Hall Rentals:**

Are you looking for a space to hold a party, anniversary, wedding reception...give us a call to find out availability and more information!

Camp Connor:

Poland Seniors:

Trails Committee:

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - 9am-4pm

Evenings and weekends by appointment only

**TOWN OWNED- RECREATION RESOURCES**

**Ball Fields**

*Dennis P. Sampson*-Formally know as "lower field", located behind Poland Community School. The town acquired this field when the school union transitioned to RSU 16.

*Nadeau Field:* Located on Hardscrabble Rd. was donated to the town in the 1990's.

*Pine Grove Field:* Continues to be leased through the Pine Grove Cemetery Association.

***Beaches:***

In 2011 we established a beach attendant position to

***Lower Range Pond:***

***Tripp lake Beach:***

***Trails***

**Bragdon Hill Conservation Area**

**Heart of Poland Conservation Area**

**Waterhouse Brook Trail**

**Trails**

Old Railroad bed: The town owns the portion of the old railroad bed, which runs from Poland corner Road to border of Mechanic Falls. This will be one of the marked non-motorized trails.

Poland Town Beach: The Poland Town Beach, which consists of 8.5 acres on Lower Range Pond, was purchased by the Town in the 1960's. The beach is about 1,000 feet long. The Auburn YMCA has contracted with Poland on a continuing basis for the use of this beach.

Tripp Lake Beach (also known as Notis Beach): This beach, which is located on a 1-acre site on route 11, was purchased by the Town in 1975. The beach is available to Poland residents and accompanied guests.

Town Forests: The town owns approximately 150 acres of town forests. There is still great potential for the town forest to be utilized for passive recreational use. Currently, some of the forest encompasses the snow mobile trails.

Tripp Lake right of way: The town owns a right-of-way, consisting of .1 acres, which is used as a boat launch on Tripp Lake. (No parking facilities and access is poor)

Worthley Pond right of way: The town also has a right-of-way on Worthley Pond, which is used as a boat launch. (Road access is poor-dirt road.

**OTHER RECREATIONAL RESOURCES**

Lakes & Ponds: Poland also boasts several lakes and ponds that provide wonderful fishing opportunities as well as watercraft usage.

Mechanic Falls-Poland Adult & Community Education: Provides a wide variety of recreational opportunities for adults in the local community.

Poland Community School: The school is located on approximately 13 acres on route 26. Recreational facilities include 1 playground, 1 ball field, 1 outdoor basketball court, 1 open space area, an indoor gymnasium.

Poland Regional High School: Recreational groups rely heavily on the use of school ball fields and outdoor track at Poland Regional High School. We are able to utilize the fields for a variety of sports during each sports season as well as gym space during the winter months. We typically have access to spaces on off school times, such as weeknights, or weekend hours.

Poland Preservation Park offers 4.1 miles of trails that are used for cross country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter and 3.1 miles of the trails are available for hiking and mountain biking. Currently the trails and ice skating area are free to the public compliments of Poland Spring Bottling Company. Property includes Bottling House & museum and the historic Maine State Building.

Poland Historic Preservation Society: This organization hosts a variety of recreational opportunities year round for the



community.

Snow mobile trails: We currently have access to approximately 45 miles of snow mobile trails managed by a local club.

Upper Range Pond Boat Launch: This boat launch, which was purchased by the State in the early 1990's, has been developed to serve the Middle and Upper Range Pond areas. The town continues to police the area.

Range Pond State Park has 740 acres, located on Lower Range Pond, which opened in 1976. The fee-based park consists of a sandy beach, including a newly acquired wheel chair accessible ramp; trails used for hiking and mountain biking in the warmer months and ungroomed trails available for non-motorized use in the winter. The park also has approximately 75 picnic tables, 551 parking spots, a group shelter and group picnic areas that can be reserved, 2 playgrounds as well as several hundred acres of undeveloped land.

The proposal in 1991 to develop 25 acres of Range Pond land into an outdoor recreation facility for the town was voted down due to funding costs. Approximately 375 acres of the State Park property, across from the existing entrance on Empire Road, will be explored for local access multi trail use, with an emphasis on mountain biking.

#### Private Commercial Facilities-Recreation Resources

Private campgrounds: Include Hemlocks, Macs, and Range Pond campgrounds.

Private Golf Courses: Private golf courses include Fairlawn (18 holes), Summit Spring (9 holes) and Poland Spring (18 holes) and country club.

Gun Club

### **SUMMARY OF RECREATION RESOURCES**

The town of Poland has grown significantly in the past 3 decades and most likely will continue to grow at a significant pace. In recognizing the recreation wishes of Poland residents, the Poland Parks & Recreation Department will continue to collaborate with local business and landowners to seek out feasible recreational opportunities. One way to assess the needs of residents will be to conduct surveys and also research other communities with similar characteristics and demographics. With the addition of our department and collaborative efforts with local organizations/town departments as well as other towns, we will be able to increase the number of recreation programs. The demand, desire and commitment of the Poland Community will dictate the pace at which we will be able to develop and redevelop land for recreational purpose as well as provide recreational services. Improvement projects and potential for future development will depend on the contributions of landowners and fundraising efforts. Volunteers will continue to be the supportive backbone in our efforts to provide quality programming.