

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

In analyzing Middletown's ability to provide adequate facilities and services to meet the long-term needs of municipal managers and the residents of the town, the following three assumptions have been made concerning Middletown's future.

We are living in a period of decentralizing influence in which municipalities will be required to play a greater role in providing solutions to local problems. Less state funding will be available meaning increased municipal funds will be required to support public needs.

The changing relationships between the federal government and the states; state government and municipalities; the changing requirements of the defense industry; and the changing demographic profile of our population all lead to the conclusion that, for the near and mid term, residents of Middletown require more, not fewer, services and facilities from the municipal government.

The "Information Age" is no longer a distant concept; it is changing the way problems are identified and resolved. Information resources must be considered as an integral part of the town's facilities and services.

The "Twelve Responsibilities of Middletown's Municipal Government" listed below form the basis for the issues that have been addressed in this element of the Comprehensive Plan.

TWELVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

1. To execute laws and the administration of town government in accordance with the provisions of the R.I. General Laws, the duties and responsibilities set forth in the Town Charter, the Town Code and the changing requirements of Middletown residents.
2. To provide protective services essential to the needs and well being of the residents of the town, by maintaining adequate law-enforcement resources.
3. To provide fire fighting and rescue services essential to the needs and well being of the residents of the town, by providing adequate fire fighting resources as recommended by State and Federal laws, and the Insurance Service Organization.
4. To provide public elementary and secondary educational programs that fulfills the basic requirements of the regulating agencies and the desires of the residents of the town.

5. To provide adequate information resources and services to support the changing requirements of municipal government, boards and commissions, local corporations and businesses, and town residents.
6. To properly manage Middletown's real property.
7. To preserve and protect the interests of the town relating to public water supply, not currently under the control of Middletown but supplied by a private department wholly owned by the City of Newport.
8. To preserve and protect the long-term interests of residents relative to public sewers.
9. To improve the quality and accessibility of services provided to the residents by federal, state and regional governmental agencies.
10. To provide adequate means of rubbish disposal for residents.
11. To nurture and assist civic support groups which provide necessary assistance and quality-of-life enhancing services to certain segments of the town.
12. To nurture and encourage the mission of private and quasi-public social service organizations, which provide services to the residents of the town that cannot be adequately provided for by public means.

The following analysis of town facilities is divided into two sections: Educational Facilities and Municipal Facilities. Figure 1 provides a location map of all town facilities.

Table 0-1: Public Facilities

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The Middletown School System consists of four elementary, one middle, one secondary school and an administration building. All schools in the system meet state and federal curriculum standards. In September 2001, the system had 49 elementary and 59.1 middle and 61.2 secondary teachers, 13.5 special education teachers and 8 special subject teachers. Thirty-six (36) K-12 teachers are employed with restricted dollars. Also employed by the school department are 6 Principals, 2 Assistant Principals, 3 Central Office Administrators, a Business Manager, a Director of Facilities Management, and 26 maintenance/custodial personnel. Total staff,

including "other" support personnel and aides, assigned to the school department is approximately 422 for the 2001-2002 school year. The school system meets federal requirements for special education as a participating member of the Regional Special Education Program. The schools also comply with all state health and safety standards. The 2000-2001 operating cost for education per pupil was \$9,302. Middletown schools have no program deficiencies, presently, and the high standards of education are expected to be maintained in the future.

EXISTING SCHOOL FACILITIES

Inventory

The Middletown School Department provided the following information concerning existing school facilities and space requirements.

Middletown High School

Constructed in 1961, Middletown High School is located on a 22.45-acre site. It contains 43 regular and, approximately, 8 smaller instructional spaces. October 2001 enrollment was 851 pupils, including approximately 109 pupils from Little Compton. The Bond dollars will add two state of the art Science labs with completion set for September 2002. Technology infrastructure will also be updated as a result of the bond.

When asked to identify areas of need, faculty and administration at the high school named the following:

- A. Storage space.
- B. Special areas, such as an auditorium for student performances, adaptive/corrective physical education space, additional areas for home economics, audiovisual services, conferences, and music practice rooms.
- C. Office space for department chairs and for specialists such as school psychologist, speech therapist, social worker, etc.
- D. Classroom space.
- E. Nurse suite will need a renovation to comply with new State Standards.

Gaudet Middle School

The Gaudet Middle School was constructed in 1968 on a 33-acre site. It contains 45 classrooms plus 8 smaller instructional areas. Enrollment in October 2001 was 837. The Bond will address a new roof, and an environmental study to assist in remedying the extreme damages present in the building. Capital improvement dollars will replace the façade of the building and install windows in the new siding. Technology infrastructure will also be updated as a result of the bond.

Areas of need, identified by faculty and administration at the school, include:

- A. Additional classroom space for science, art, home economics, and health.
- B. An auditorium with seating capacity for 500 pupils.
- C. Additional storage space.
- D. Music practice rooms.
- E. Additional rooms for special services such as speech therapy, social work, mathematics, English, and Enrichment.
- F. Additional Computer Lab.

Aquidneck Elementary School

The Aquidneck School was constructed in 1954, added to in 1955 and again in 1994. Located on a 10.6-acre site, there is 24 classrooms plus an undersized library, a gymnasium that also is used as an auditorium, a small office, small teachers' room, and a small computer laboratory. As of October 2001, enrollment was 325 pupils in grades K through 4. Technology bond dollars will address some of the infrastructures upgrades.

Educational space needs that have been identified include:

- A. Additional storage.
- B. A library/media center of appropriate size.

C. Playground renovations.

J. F. Kennedy Elementary School

Constructed in 1963, with an annex added in 1964, the Kennedy School is located on a 2.75-acre site. The front of the school faces directly onto very heavily traveled West Main Road. Close to the rear of the building are houses of the Anchorage (Navy Housing). There is no room for expansion. Enrollment in October 2001, were 377 pupils in grades K to 4. There are twenty-four classrooms, including two that are used as a library. There is a cafeteria that serves as a gym with a small stage, which is used as a copying center. Outdoor play area is minimal. A number of small areas have been put to use as learning activity rooms, offices for a psychologist and guidance counselor, and for remedial reading. The building is handicapped accessible. Electrical upgrades will occur with the bond dollars. A new roof will be complete with the bond dollars by September 2002. Primary concerns relating to space include:

- A. Spaces for specialists such as occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech pathologists, etc.
- B. Additional parking space.
- C. The playground renovation.
- D. Additional storage space.
- E. Additional classroom space.
- F. Ventilation/heating replacement.

Linden School

This school was built in 1954 on 5.9 acres. As of October 2001, Linden School housed a total of 124 pupils, in all-day kindergarten and 24 in special education. There are 10 classes, 8 all-day Kindergarten classrooms and 2 Special Needs classrooms, a teacher's room, and undersized library, a gym and cafeteria in the basement. The Bond allotted \$200,000 for Linden School. This will essentially shore up some structural concerns, until the fate of Linden School is determined.

The Linden School facility has many structural and environmental concerns. Some of the concerns relating to space include:

- A. Corridor ceiling/roof between the school's classrooms located in the Northeast wing is seriously damaged and has the potential for total collapse under heavy loading.
- B. Deflected and cracked roof/ceiling panels can be seen throughout the school.
- C. Asphalt can be seen dripping into classrooms between roof/ceiling panels.
- D. The Southwest exterior wall is fractured and lateral displacement can be observed.
- E. Concrete loading dock platform is severely deteriorated.
- F. Concrete foundation wall at the Southwest corner of the Southwest wing is significantly fractured.
- G. Wood window casings and frames throughout the school are severely rotted.
- H. If kindergarten enrollment continues to increase, classroom space will be inadequate.
- I. Available parking space is minimal.
- J. Handicapped accessibility is limited.
- K. The library is undersized.
- L. The nurses' station is nothing more than a closet.

Oliphant Administration

This school is located on a 6.4-acre site. Three Alternate Learning Program classrooms are housed on the second floor of this building. The District Administration Offices are located at this facility – Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Instructional and Support Services, Business Manager, Director of Student Support Services, Director of Facilities Management and office support personnel.

Identified Needs:

- A. Window replacement.
- B. The parking area needs resurfacing

C. Renovations of ALP Classrooms.

D. Brick and masonry work needs attention.

Forest Avenue School

This school is located on a 10-acre site. As of October 2001, Forest Avenue School housed 336 pupils in grades K to 4. Constructed in 1957, with an addition in 1994, Forest Avenue houses 24 classrooms, cafeteria, a gym and library. Bond dollars will provide electrical upgrades to this school.

Education space needs that have been identified include:

A. Computer Lab.

B. Renovations of entryway.

C. The outdoor play area is inadequate.

D. Capacity

In order to offer recommendations concerning school building needs, it is important to determine not only the educational adequacy of existing school buildings, but the number of pupils the buildings can accommodate.

Assuming the same kind of educational program that presently conforms to the Basic Education Program (BEP) requirements, and assuming minimal changes in use (other than providing for small groups such as Title I, special education, literacy programs, etc.), capacities of existing school buildings are presented in Table 1.

It should be noted that capacities are estimated on the basis of 25 pupils per class for grades 3 through 12, 20 pupils per class for grades K and 2, 15 pupils per kindergarten section, and 10 pupils each for special education and similar programs. The kindergarten class size has been chosen because there have been discussions, at the state level, to change maximum kindergarten size to 15 pupils per session. Obviously, such a change would affect the estimated capacities of kindergarten.

There have been discussions (again, at the state level), concerning reducing maximum class size for all elementary school grades. This would profoundly affect capacities of existing buildings.

Table 0-2 Estimated Pupil Capacities of Existing School Buildings

<u>School</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Grades (Approx)</u>	<u>Current Enrollment</u>
Middletown High School	845	9 – 12	851
Gaudet Middle School	813	5 - 8	837
Aquidneck School	310	K – 4	325
J. F. Kennedy School	350	K – 4	377
Oliphant School	30	ALP	25
Linden School	225	Pre-1 - K	148
Forest Avenue School	350	K - 4	336
TOTAL	2,923		2,899

Estimated capacities assume present grade organization, present educational programs, and state mandated class sizes.

ADEQUACY OF CLASSROOM SPACE

The following discussion provides information regarding existing classroom space in each building.

Linden

Existing requirements mandate that the entire program K-12 must be handicapped accessible. While Linden School has a lift for access to the cafeteria, the building itself presents physical challenges. One classroom does not meet handicapped accessible codes.

Aquidneck

The library is undersized for the student population, as is the cafeteria. Playground renovations are needed.

Kennedy

Kennedy houses 23 classrooms and a library. The building does not have adequate space for remedial services, and special needs. The site is inadequate: 2.7 acres compared to a recommended 15 acres. Electrical upgrades are required to accommodate them. Heating and ventilation issues exist. Adequate parking is a problem, as is the playground.

Oliphant

Renovations are needed for the second floor for the Alternative Learning Program. Window replacement is critical. Heating and ventilation issues exist.

Forest Avenue

Forest Avenue concerns are primarily electrical upgrade and the redesign of the vestibule of the school. Playground upgrades are required.

Gaudet Middle School

Many programs in this building are inadequately housed. English as a Second Language (ESL) services are in a small area. A special education classroom is housed in a former supply room. Office and conference rooms are all inadequate. As the enrollment continues to grow, the strain on existing facilities increases.

High School

The major problems at the high school are the use of a corridor for a study hall and the lack of adequate space for department heads, teachers and specialists. Health Service area does not meet new standards established by the state in 2000. Additional classroom space will be needed as the enrollment continues to increase.

SUMMARY

As the Middletown school population increased during the past decade, renovations to school facilities were minimal. In spite of this relative lack of attention to school buildings, Middletown's educational program continued to provide its pupils with an excellent education. The maintenance of day-to-day items has kept all buildings in satisfactory condition with the exception of Linden School because of the structural and environmental issues that plague the building.

Additional specialized spaces are needed to meet the requirements of the state mandated Basic Education Plan. Because of the rapid growth of mandated special programs for pupils with special needs, and the number and kinds of educational spaces they require, school buildings that were initially designed to house 25 pupils in each classroom can no longer do so. Special programs usually require that fewer pupils be accommodated. For example, the maximum number of special education pupils who may be taught in a class is ten. Thus, a classroom that formerly housed 25 pupils can now house only 10, a loss of 15 pupils per classroom as far as the capacity of that building is concerned. If there are five such groups in a school, the building capacity drops by at least 75 pupils. English as a Second Language (ESL) and other special programs add to this problem. Such programs also require specialized personnel, such as occupational and physical therapists, psychologists, and social workers. These specialists need space to function effectively and deliver appropriate services to students.

It is clear from Table 1 that Middletown's schools presently are operating at or above capacity. Any increase in enrollment will put added pressure on school capacities. Enrollment projections indicate that there will be more pupils in Middletown than the existing schools can accommodate.

It should be noted that the average age of the school buildings is 46 years old.

ENROLLMENT

Enrollment/Housing

Current enrollment as recorded on October 1, 2001, for the Department of Education is broken down by building in Table 1. The school system, in general, is hard pressed for space, but its biggest problem is the condition of Linden School.

Enrollment Projections

Table 2 compares the enrollment, October 1994 through October 2001, and then projects an October 2002 enrollment by advancing students to the next grade. While the military population has remained steady, our local housing prospects have generated more school-aged children being educated in the Middletown Public Schools. Since Middletown offers an all day Kindergarten program, many families view this as an asset.

Table 3 provides enrollment projections provided by the Rhode Island Department of Education, although given the Middletown School Department's actual enrollment figures, it appears that these State projections should be revised.

**Table 0-3: Middletown School Enrollment
Comparison of Enrollments 1994 – 2001
Estimates for 2002**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>10/94</u>	<u>10/95</u>	<u>10/96</u>	<u>10/97</u>	<u>10/98</u>	<u>10/99</u>	<u>10/00</u>	<u>10/01</u>	<u>10/02</u>
K	199	224	236	221	198	206	191	183	185
K-SpEd *	21	20	20	21	20	32	30	25	30
MA K-2	0	0	0	34	55	49	104	110	112
1	191	245	230	216	202	225	209	195	195
1-SpEd *	3	3	7	5	5	9	5	7	8
2	226	178	239	216	232	224	206	197	195
2-SpEd *	2	2	3	9	9	6	10	6	7
3	220	224	197	231	213	231	198	235	236
3-SpEd *	3	3	4	6	6	8	7	14	6
4	208	221	227	197	209	201	228	205	235
4-SpEd *	5	5	5	5	10	6	9	13	14
5	233	200	234	216	191	214	198	207	205
6	189	217	226	227	205	184	200	208	207
7	205	199	220	210	206	194	180	204	208
8	202	186	193	211	201	203	183	192	204
SpEd *	19	8	3	4	15	14	18	28	25
9	215	229	214	239	243	231	232	238	220

**Table 0-3: Middletown School Enrollment
Comparison of Enrollments 1994 – 2001
Estimates for 2002**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>10/94</u>	<u>10/95</u>	<u>10/96</u>	<u>10/97</u>	<u>10/98</u>	<u>10/99</u>	<u>10/00</u>	<u>10/01</u>	<u>10/02</u>
10	214	198	219	202	208	217	222	200	238
11	192	188	178	194	186	190	200	201	200
12	199	177	179	175	188	176	177	179	201
SpEd *	18	11	10	9	8	14	12	19	24
ALP-R	0	0	0	0	** (7)	8	12	13	12
ALP-R SpEd	0	0	0	0	** (1)	6	4	2	3
ALP-NR	0	0	0	0	** (1)	0	0	1	2
ALP-NR SpEd	0	0	0	0	** (6)	5	4	0	0
Total Reg	2,693	2,686	2,792	2,789	2,737	2,753	2,740	2,768	2,858
Total SpEd	71	52	52	59	73	100	99	114	114
Grand Total	2,764	2,738	2,844	2,848	2,810	2,853	2,839	2,882	2,972

* Special Ed students not in fully mainstreamed classes.

** These numbers are included in the high school counts and have not been added to the total twice.

**Table 0-4 State Enrollment Projections
RHODE ISLAND DEPT. OF EDUCATION
ENROLLMENT PROJECTION SYSTEM**

District: Middletown

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT BY GRADE FOR EACH YEAR

SCHOOL

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1995-96	255	248	178	230	216	211	230	184	199	243	172	200	186	2,752
1996-97	278	320	228	180	224	216	208	225	179	238	194	160	193	2,843
1997-98	263	349	294	231	175	224	213	203	219	214	190	181	154	2,910
1998-99	268	330	321	298	225	175	221	208	198	262	171	177	175	3,029
1999-00	269	336	304	325	290	225	173	216	202	237	209	160	171	3,117
2000-01	272	337	309	308	317	290	222	169	210	242	189	195	154	3,214
2001-02	275	341	310	313	300	317	286	217	164	252	193	176	188	3,332
2002-03	275	345	314	314	305	300	313	279	211	196	201	180	170	3,403
2003-04	275	345	317	318	306	305	296	306	271	253	157	188	174	3,511
2004-05	275	345	317	321	310	306	301	289	298	325	202	146	181	3,616

CONCLUSIONS

As can be seen from the October 1, 2002 enrollment estimate, the town's enrollment will be up about 90 students by accounting for each student in the next grade. The condition and fate of Linden School is by far the most critical decision facing the Middletown School Committee. A Building Advisory Committee is studying the possible options for this facility.

THE FUTURE

Future Challenges

Budget restrictions have made it difficult to renovate and/or refurbish school buildings as needed. This long delay in updating school facilities has created a situation requiring extensive and expensive changes. The Fall Bond 2000 has enabled the School Department to begin to address some of the facility concerns. However, it is just the “tip of the iceberg.” There is a need to resolve two basic problems.

The first is an *educational* problem. The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education has mandated a Basic Education Plan (BEP) for all communities in Rhode Island, and for all school K-12. While most of our schools tend to meet BEP requirements, Linden School does not. Specifically the school lacks a library/media center of sufficient size; space for instruction and all areas of all school buildings are not accessible to the physically handicapped. Technology infrastructure is a problem at all of our facilities.

A second problem is *economic*. School buildings are expensive to maintain however, Middletown has an obligation to provide space that accommodates students and meets mandated educational standards adequately.

Possible Options

Several options designed to resolve Middletown's school facilities problems are offered in this section. As Middletown prepares to meet its school housing needs into the foreseeable future, a variety of options become available. The major problem is to select those options that will meet educational requirements while, at the same time, satisfying the town's economic, social, and political requirements.

Not all options are required to solve the town's problem of accommodating the number of pupils who are expected to be in the Middletown school system in the next ten years. Specific construction and/or renovation proposals relating to each building are

included. Teachers and building administrators have suggested many of these proposals. The Building Advisory Committee has also collected information from the community. Options are not all-inclusive or listed in rank order of preference.

- Decide on the fate of Linden School.
- Use the 9+ acres of land purchased in 1997 (the drive in property for a new school).
- Convert J. F. Kennedy School to an early Childhood site and build a new 1-4 elementary school on the drive-in property.
- Plan minor renovations and/or refurbishing of Gaudet School and Middletown High School.
- Construct an addition to Middletown High School for an auditorium and office area.
- Renovate Little Oliphant to be used as a community center.
- Explore other land opportunities.

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

Inventory of Existing Municipal Facilities

Middletown Public Library

- A. Middletown Public Library is located at 700 West Main Road. The building opened in 1979 with no major renovations since.
- B. Personnel: There are five full time staff members, 3 of which are professional Librarians with MLS and 12 part-time staff members, 2 of which are professional Librarians with MLS.
- C. Board of Trustees: 7 appointed to staggered terms by Town Council.
- D. Collection: The library contains 54,989 books, 2,727 non-print materials and six computers with public Internet access.
- E. Total Circulation: 192,000

- F. Databases: ONLINE - EbscoHost, Proquest, IAC, FirstSearch, OCLC, CLAN, DYNIX, Ancestry.com. CDs - Multiple Collections.
- G. Registered Borrowers: The library served 11,500 registered borrowers in 2000.
- H. Internet Registrations: 4,300
- I. Annual Users: 280,000
- J. Services:
- K. Programs: Summer Reading Program, RICH Series, and Adult/ Young Adult, Story Hours, Crafts, Special Performers, Puppet Shows, Book Swap, Filmstrips and Holiday Programs with an annual attendance of over 4,500.
- L. Reference Questions and Referrals: Over 6,000 questions are answered per year - rated 2nd in Rhode Island for Quality of Service.
- M. Federal: Provides support for IRS, local Military Population, Census, and limited federal document referral.
- N. State: Provides access to vendor databases, State Laws, State Agency Information.
- O. Town of Middletown: Provides polling place, tax assessor database access, public records, notices, and referrals. Provides bibliographic instruction to teachers and students throughout the Middletown School system. Provides full text database access for all of the school system with library card and access to reading lists year round.
- P. Description of the Facility:

Throughout its 150-year history, the Middletown Public Library has enjoyed a tradition of exemplary service to Newport County. The Library has been housed in several Middletown locations. In 1979, the Department of Education deeded the Navy Day Care Facility to the Town of Middletown to meet the increasing demand for space and programs. The Day Care Facility was transformed with about \$500,000 in grant money and Town funding into the new public library. After twenty years of community growth, the time has come to make additions and renovate. The Library circulates over 190,000 items per year, has over 11,000 active patrons, and houses over 57,000 items. Our children's programs are extremely popular throughout the East Bay area and we take great pride in developing young readers and providing educational resources for a lifetime.

In 1998, The Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Middletown Public Library identified additions and renovations that will allow the Library to continue its mission as an exemplary provider of learning opportunities. In May of 2000, a Library Building Committee was formed from Town residents to hire an architect and plan for the future. Funded by a \$10,000 donation from the Friends, the Building Committee selected architect Robinson Green and Beretta and created a building program to meet the needs of the community for the next twenty years.

The program calls for a 3,000 square foot addition to the 10,000 square foot building, expanded safer parking and walkways, better security, and renovations that will make space for 80,000 items. With those changes, the Library will be able to provide comfortable information, entertainment, and cultural enrichment opportunities through the year 2021 to this growing community.

Q. Mission Statement

The Middletown Public Library will provide current high-interest and informational material in a variety of formats and incorporate technological advances.

The Library is committed to meeting the needs of and providing equal access to all users.

The Library will maintain its status as an exemplary provider of services that encourage the free flow of ideas to inform, educate, enrich, and entertain its patrons.

Middletown Senior Citizen Center

- A. Location: The Senior Citizens Center is located at 650 Green End Avenue. The facility opened in September 1989 with no major renovations since.
- B. Staff: There is one Full Time Director and one Part Time Custodian.
- C. Patrons: All Senior Citizens desiring to use the facility. 2000 Census: 3247 (age 60 and over).
- D. Programs: Meal Site, crafts, activities, trips, visiting nurse, energy assistance, etc.
- E. Deficiencies: Kitchen facilities need to be upgraded. New electrical service needed. New windows are needed.

F. Adequacy of Facility

- a) The Senior Citizens Center opened in 1989 in the completely renovated Berkeley School. The renovation incorporated the area on the main floor of the building and was planned to accommodate senior citizen requirements for 5-10 years. The building has space on the lower level (5200 square feet) for expansion as additional needs arise.
- b) The building is centrally located in Middletown and has bus service from and to the west side of town. Parking facilities are limited and are shared with Project Head Start which operates in the Joel Peckham School. Space is available to expand parking areas.
- c) Future Requirements:
- d) Additional parking.
- e) Expansion to the lower level as space needs dictate.

Police Department

- A. The Middletown Police Department is located at 9 Berkeley Avenue adjacent to the town's fire department and public works department. Not easily accessible by main roads, the station is often considered hard to find. Among recent renovations, the dispatch center has been overhauled, and a new security facility was built in 1999.
- B. Personnel: The department employs 38 full-time officers, one animal control officer, two civilian clerks and one part time maintenance person. Eighty four percent of the staff members live on Aquidneck Island. A minimum of five officers works at one time, with generally four on the road and one working dispatch.
- C. Number of calls: In 1999, total number of calls were 21,315. Of these calls 19,680, or 92 percent, were regarded as incidents and 1,635, or eight percent, were regarded as accidents. The number of calls varies monthly, with a busy season from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The town receives some spillover from Newport that leads to increased calls. There is also an increase from Thanksgiving to Christmas.
- D. Mutual Assistance: The department has mutual aid agreements with the other island towns.

- E. **Equipment:** The department maintains a fleet of 20 vehicles, including 11 marked cars, six unmarked cars, two motorcycles and an all-terrain vehicle for summer use. About one-third of the vehicles are replaced every year. In addition to the regular fleet, the chief is assigned a car and there are four detective cars. The department owns a 20-foot boat that is used from Memorial Day to Labor Day. As of spring 2000, the department had nine vehicles that were more than three years old. The department is attempting to secure grant funds to place mobile data units in all police cars. These units will enable officers to remain in patrol cars while accessing data.
- F. **Adequacy of the Facility/Manpower/Equipment:** The following discussion of needs has been provided by the Police Department based on their space requirements. Cellblocks do not meet federal guidelines, for they are not suicide-proof and are located close to offices and locker rooms. The station cannot expand in any direction due to physical constraints of nearby structures and roads, and parking is limited. A new station may eventually be needed to address the growing community's public safety needs.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- A. **Location:** The Middletown Fire Department is located at 239 Wyatt Road, adjacent to the town's police department and public works department. The station was built in 1955 and renovated in 1965 and 1989. An additional fire substation may eventually be needed to address new development in town, especially on the West Side. The station could ideally be located close to West Main Road.
- B. **Personnel:** The department employs 33 full-time staff members (includes (Chief and Deputy). One-half of the firefighters are cardiac trained. Almost the entire staff, 96 percent, lives on Aquidneck Island and about half of the staff lives in Middletown.
- C. **Calls:** 2057 incidents for the year 2000.
- D. **Equipment:** The department has four pumpers, one ladder, two rescues, one special hazards vehicle, one tanker, one brush truck, two command vehicles and one utility vehicle.
- E. **Mutual Assistance:** The department has mutual aid agreements with the other Aquidneck Island municipalities and the Navy.
- F. **Deficiencies:**

- a) No room for any more vehicles or men.
- b) No storage room for any equipment.
- c) The Deputy Chief and Clerk share the same room.
- d) No plans review room.
- e) Captain shares the Alarm room for training and maintenance.

G. Adequacy of the Facility: The Fire Station is adequate to support the manpower and equipment assigned to the department. However, having only one fire station in the town, regardless of its location, is inadequate to meet the standards of the Insurance Service Office (ISO) regarding fire station locations.

H. Projected Needs

There has been much talk about a sub-fire station on the West side of town. A bond issue was defeated in 2000 for this sub-station and to correct the deficiencies at the Wyatt Road location. A new fire station should be built in the area of West Main Road and Valley Road. This would give the town the coverage that is required under the Insurance Services Inc. (the company that calculates the rate for property insurance premiums for properties in town). This facility would become Fire Headquarters and the Wyatt Road location would become the sub-station. The Wyatt Road station would house the tank truck to service the northern part of town due to the lack of water mains and hydrants. The Valley Road location will have access to four lane highways leading North, South, East and West and will make response quicker and safer in all kinds of weather and traffic.

With the addition of a satellite station, additional manning will be required. The manning should be determined utilizing generally accepted standards for the effective utilization of the equipment assigned.

Emergency Management Office (Civil Defense)

A. Emergency Management Operations Center (EMOC) - Police Department headquarters. Serves as the communications and coordination center for all emergency services. The Town Administrator functions as the Director for Emergency Management with headquarters at the Emergency Operations Center. Communications with state and local agencies are maintained at the Center. All departments report to the Director for Emergency Management at the Operations Center.

- B. Civil Defense State Radio System (CDSTARS) - CDSTARS is located at the Fire Department basement. When the system is activated, the CDSTARS Coordinator mans his station and provides the Emergency Management Director with information received over CDSTARS. Note: The Fire Department headquarters is next door to the Police Department.
- C. Personnel: The Deputy for Emergency Management, a volunteer, coordinates the day to day planning for emergency management. In this capacity, he also functions as the Civil Defense Official and meets regularly with the Town Administrator to develop emergency management contingency plans.
- D. Emergency Shelters: Four emergency shelters have been designated and are listed with the Red Cross as emergency shelters. The town has entered into a municipal support agreement with the Red Cross for disaster assistance at the shelters. They are:
 - f) Gaudet School
 - g) Middletown High School
 - h) Middletown Senior Center
 - i) Middletown Town Hall
- E. The Town has an Emergency Operation Plan.
- F. Adequacy of the Facility. The Emergency Management Operations Center is adequate to support disaster relief communications and coordination.
- G. Projected Needs

The town needs to update its Emergency Operations Plan.

Public Works Facility

- A. Facilities: The Department is located on Berkley Avenue adjacent to the town’s police and fire stations. The building was built in 1955 and renovated in 1966.
- B. Responsibilities: The department repairs and maintains roads and sewer systems, sands and plows roadways, and manages stormwater runoff. The Newport Water Department (NWD) is responsible for maintaining the water lines.

- C. Roads: The department sands and plows about 130 miles of town road. The town council budgets about \$130,000 annually for road repairs. A 1995 inventory is used to prioritize road conditions and has guided repair work on 33 town roads.
- D. Mosquito Control: The department participates in two state programs to control mosquitoes. One program focuses on the placement of larvicide in storm drains, while the other concentrates on salt marsh restoration to reduce mosquito populations on beaches.
- E. Mutual Assistance: The department has good rapport with the other communities and the state.
- F. Adequacy of the facility. The town is currently researching options for a salt pile storage facility.

Town Hall

- A. Location: The town hall is located at 350 East Main Road. The building was built in 1885 and additional renovations were done 1940 and 1989.
- B. Personnel: There are currently 20-25 staff members.
- C. Function: Support various functions of government.
- D. Deficiencies: No storage room or room for expansion.
- E. Adequacy of Facility. The building is adequate for the functions of municipal government well into the 21st century.

SERVICES

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Middletown generated 2,974.41 tons of solid waste in 2003. (RI Resource Recovery Corporation). This is a sharp reduction from the estimated 10,700 tons generated in 1992. A reduction in the town's population over the time period coupled with an increase in recycling is like the cause of this decrease. The town does not provide municipal collection service, but does maintain a collection

station off Burma Road for those who wish to use it. Otherwise, homeowners contract privately with a private disposal service for solid waste pick-up.

Solid Waste is transported from the transfer station on Burma Road to the Central Landfill site in Johnston.

Adequacy of Facility: The solid waste collection system is presently adequate.

SEWER SERVICE

A moratorium on new sewer connections has been implemented because the town has exceeded its sewage allowance set by the Newport Water Department. Exceptions are made only for existing homes with failing septic systems and proposed three-lot or less residential subdivisions fronting existing sewer lines. The public works department makes efforts to coordinate sewer and road projects, and is responsible for maintaining a system that is starting to fail in some of the older parts of the community. There are numerous small pumping stations and two major stations in Middletown that pump sewage to Newport. The major ones are the Coddington Avenue and Wave Avenue stations, and both are being replaced.

Stormwater Drainage: Many points along town roads lack proper drainage.

Adequacy of Sewer Service: Deterioration has led to a significant amount of groundwater infiltration and is an important reason why groundwater makes up half the sewage that is delivered to Newport for treatment. By replacing sewer pipes, Middletown has dramatically reduced the amount of infiltration and in-flow (i and i) that is sent to Newport for treatment (Table 4).

Table 4: February Sewage Flow From Middletown Pumping Station to Newport

<u>Pumping Station</u>	<u>1998 (in gallons)</u>	<u>1999 (in gallons)</u>	<u>2000 in gallons</u>	<u>% reduction 1998-2000</u>
Coddington	12,262,000	9,283,000	7,735,000	37%
Wave Avenue	100,295,600	81,826,400	64,406,500	36%

The town's sewers are adequate, however, because of the inflow and infiltration (i and i), into the system, a large volume of stormwater is being treated unnecessarily at the wastewater treatment plant. This problem raises treatment costs for all sewer users while pushing the ability of the wastewater treatment plant to the limit. As a result, future expansion of the town's sewer could be limited until the i and i problems are rectified. The town has recognized the problem and funding is in place to make the improvements needed to correct the i and i situation. The town, also, must update its Wastewater Facility Plan and initiate a strategy to identify and correct other deficiencies in the sewer system. Along with correcting deficiencies in the existing sewer system, the plan should address the future expansion of the sewer system into those portions of the town which are not serviced by sewers, but destined for development.

PUBLIC WATER SERVICE

The availability of public water closely mirrors the sewer system, with approximately 75% of the homes serviced by public water. Unlike the sewer system, the water system does not belong to Middletown, but belongs to the City of Newport Water Department. (See Figure 2)

Plans for the future do not envision extension of the public water system east of a north/south line formed by Paradise and Berkeley Avenues. Because there are no plans to extend water (and sewers) to the east side of town, large lot zoning (R-60/R-40) will be required to accommodate wells and septic fields in those areas. As can be seen on the Future Land Use Plan (Figure 9 of Element IX),

land use in the eastern part of town has been designated for "low density residential and agricultural" uses. This land use plan recognizes the non-availability of public water and sewers, along with the drainage characteristics of the soil, as factors for determining lot size.

Table 0-5: Sewer System

Table 0-6: Public Water Lines

GOALS/POLICIES

Public Services and Facilities

GOAL I: Provide public services and facilities equal to or better than those currently provided.

POLICIES:

- A. Ensure appropriate educational opportunities are available in school facilities that are convenient, functional and well run.
- B. Ensure modern, adequate public safety facilities are available and conveniently located for town residents.
- C. Ensure that the town is prepared to administer high quality municipal programs on a cost-effective basis and are environmentally responsible.

Fire and Emergency Vehicles Rapid Response

GOAL II: Provide the west side of Middletown a rapid response by fire and emergency vehicles.

POLICY:

- A. If feasible, acquire land on the west side for the construction of a station from which police, fire and emergency services may respond.

- B. Regional cooperation with other island communities (Newport, Portsmouth and the Navy) for emergency coverage on the west side must be pursued.

Public School Programs

GOAL III: Provide public school programs that fulfill basic requirements and meet the desires of town residents, including the following:

- A. Provide school facilities that are equitable throughout the district.
- B. Provide school facilities that meet or exceed State mandates.
- C. Provide school facilities that address long-term solutions with regard to enrollment projections and programming needs.
- D. Provide school facilities that meet technology demands for preparing students for a global economy.
- E. Provide school facilities that support year round community utilization.
- F. Provide sources of funding to address capital improvements and preventive maintenance in the school district.
- G. Provide opportunities for joint ventures with the Town and School Department.

POLICIES:

- H. Ensure that appropriate educational opportunities are available to every student at every school facility.
- I. Develop a comprehensive asset protection plan for each school facility.
- J. Ensure that the Basic Education Plan is being met at each school facility.
- K. Convene a Building Advisory Committee that will address the Linden School problems, issues and solutions.
- L. Convene a Facility Management Committee to collaboratively assist the Facilities Director in developing and maintaining a five-year facilities plan.
- M. Ensure enrollment projections are updated annually.

N. Create a study group to explore ways the School Department and Town can collaborate on joint ventures.

Consolidate Town Services

GOAL IV: Consolidate town services wherever possible.

POLICY: Improve efficiency by transferring responsibility for maintaining the Town of Middletown's school facilities and other real property, maintained by the School Department, to an appropriate Town department.

Information Resources and Services

GOAL V: Provide, in the Library, adequate information resources and services to support the changing requirements of municipal government, boards and commissions; local corporations and businesses; and the residents of the town.

POLICIES:

- A. Maintain a special reference section within the library, as the Municipal Archives, which will be a depository for municipal government's primary reference materials.
- B. Dedicate space to adequately provide access to information about Middletown government and the day to day administrative processes.

Town Roads, Sewers, and Real Property

GOAL VI: Maintain town roads, sewers, and real property in a high state of repair.

POLICY: Provide for the efficient maintenance of Town assets.

Protective Services

GOAL VII: Provide protective services to meet the needs and well being of the town's residents by maintaining adequate fire fighting and emergency resources.

POLICIES:

- A. Endeavor to meet or exceed the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) standards for adequate fire protection in the town.
- B. Require all future subdivisions that have access to public water install a looped water system, whenever possible and practical.
- C. Ensure all subdivisions have adequate road systems to allow unimpeded circulation of emergency vehicles.
- D. Ensure that all buildings of public assembly are protected in accordance with state building and fire safety codes.

Police Force

GOAL VIII: Provide security in the town by maintaining an adequately manned and capable police force.

POLICY: Maintain the police force at a level of readiness that will result in an average response time of five minutes.

Traffic Safety

GOAL IX: Improve traffic safety on town roads.

POLICIES:

- A. Emphasize safety on town roads by increasing police patrols.

- B. Reduce patrolling of state highways to concentrate on local roads.

Rubbish Disposal Options

GOAL X: Provide adequate rubbish disposal options to the commercial and residential segments of the community.

POLICIES:

- A. Encourage commercial entities to participate in a recycling program that conforms to all environmental regulations.
- B. Encourage all Town Departments participate in a recycling program that conforms to all environmental regulations.
- C. Identify and allocate land for the location of a trash disposal/transfer/recycling/facility.

Sewer System

GOAL XI: Preserve and protect the long-term interests of the town relative to the sanitary sewer system.

POLICY: Impose impact fees to offset future maintenance costs.

Sewer System Upgrades

GOAL XII: Upgrade the town's sewer system

POLICIES:

- A. Develop a Wastewater Facility Plan to identify maintenance and repair requirements and plan for the future expansion of the system.
- B. Participate in the Priority Determination System for Federal and State Assistance to Local Governmental Units for Construction of Water Pollution Abatement Projects.
- C. Consider the establishment of Wastewater Management Districts in areas without sewers.

Implementation Items Table

Goal	Necessary Steps	Department Responsible	Status
<p>Provide public services and facilities equal to or better than those currently provided.</p>	<p>Implementing this goal will require a broad-based review of current facilities and services to validate the needs identified for each. The future needs, identified in this element, may be reasonable; however, those needs must be based on an unbiased review by an independent review committee using generally accepted standards to determine manning requirements for each department.</p> <p>A. Conduct a facilities needs analysis. B. Prioritize needed improvements. C. Schedule and identify funding for improvements. D. Inventory facilities and equipment and program capital expenditures for a five-year period, to be included in the Town's Capital Improvement Program. E. Assist with the transfer, purchase or privatization of Navy utilities and regionally important utility corridors to an appropriate entity(ies) to the extent that it is mutually beneficial.</p>		
<p>Provide the west side of Middletown a rapid response by fire and emergency vehicles.</p>	<p>Investigate land availability and determine funding options for new facilities.</p>	<p>Police and Fire Departments</p>	
<p>Provide public school programs that fulfill basic requirements and meet the desires of town residents, including the following: A. Provide school facilities that are equitable throughout the district.</p>	<p>Implementing the School Department's goals and policies will require a full independent assessment of each school facility. The focus of this assessment should include but not limited to school capacity, function of school in relation to State mandates and program needs both current and future, and environmental and structural needs.</p>	<p>Middletown School Department</p>	

<p>B. Provide school facilities that meet or exceed State mandates.</p> <p>C. Provide school facilities that address long-term solutions with regard to enrollment projections and programming needs.</p> <p>D. Provide school facilities that meet technology demands for preparing students for a global economy.</p> <p>E. Provide school facilities that support year round community utilization.</p> <p>F. Provide sources of funding to address capital improvements and preventive maintenance in the school district.</p> <p>G. Provide opportunities for joint ventures with the Town and School Department.</p>	<p>An independent firm or consultant should be obtained to do enrollment projections.</p> <p>The Facilities Management Committee should develop long term solutions for facilities' needs.</p> <p>The Building Advisory Committee should recommend to the School Committee options for Linden School.</p> <p>To address the funding goal, The Town Council should earmark a percentage of the surplus each year for maintenance of facilities both on the Town and School side.</p> <p>Additionally, the School Committee and Town Council need to seek ways to further collaborate efforts as they did with the joint IT Department.</p>		
<p>Consolidate town services wherever possible.</p>	<p>Implementing this goal will require a consolidation of tasks to achieve economies of scale and efficiency. While the Public Works Department may assume certain tasks associated with school maintenance, easily, assimilation of other tasks will require basic changes to the Public Works Department organization.</p> <p>A. Coordinate with the School Department to allocate staffing and funding.</p> <p>B. The Recreation Department should coordinate efforts with other departments to meet the ongoing needs of the community.</p>		

<p>Provide, in the Library, adequate information resources and services to support the changing requirements of municipal government, boards and commissions; local corporations and businesses; and the residents of the town.</p>	<p>A. To implement this goal, information-processing capabilities at the Library must be expanded. B. Allocate space within the Library as needed and post board and committee information on bulletin boards and the Town's web page.</p>	<p>Library</p>	
<p>Maintain town roads, sewers, and real property in a high state of repair.</p>	<p>A. Establish a maintenance expense budget, for use solely for the maintenance and repair of the town's real property and facilities. B. Establish a schedule for maintenance and repair of real property and facilities based on each property's mean time between programmed maintenance.</p>	<p>Public Works Department</p>	
<p>Provide protective services to meet the needs and well being of the town's residents by maintaining adequate fire fighting and emergency resources.</p>	<p>Determining manning and equipment requirements must be based on generally accepted standards. The standards promulgated by the ISO should provide the guidance necessary to adequately meet the emergency needs of the town. Additionally, ordinances and rules/regulations will have to be modified to implement the policies concerning dead end roads, water mains and sprinkler systems. A. Identify and make needed improvements in accordance with ISO standards. B. Amend the Town's subdivision and other regulations as necessary to provide for fire protection needs. C. Enforce building and fire protection codes.</p>	<p>Fire Department</p>	
<p>Provide security in the town by maintaining an adequately manned and capable police force.</p>	<p>This goal will require determining a most efficient organization for the Police Force as a basis for projecting future manpower and equipment needs. Secure adequate funding and hire officers and purchase equipment as needed.</p>	<p>Police Department</p>	

<p>Improve traffic safety on town roads</p>	<p>This goal coincides with one contained in the Circulation Element. It appears that much of the Police Department's time is spent on state roads, a responsibility of the State Police. Implementing this goal will require advising the State Police that Middletown Police Force patrols of state highways will consist of normal transitioning of the roads to reach other parts of the town; but not include monitoring traffic over a long period of time from fixed locations. Likewise, the town should notify the state that investigations of accidents on state highways would be considered a State Police responsibility even when the local police are the first response. This policy may create some concern at the state police department. If the town is to assume a state responsibility, the town should be compensated, accordingly, for costs to perform the task.</p> <p>A. Request that the State Police provide traffic enforcement on state roads in Middletown.</p> <p>B. Notify the state that investigations of accidents on state highways would be considered a State Police responsibility even when the local police are the first response.</p>	<p>Police Department</p>	
<p>Provide adequate rubbish disposal options to the commercial and residential segments of the community.</p>	<p>A. Coordinate with state agencies to promote recycling to businesses. B. Contract for collection of recyclables from Town buildings. C. Investigate and if feasible move proactively to secure long term use of the existing disposal site located on Navy lands. D. Develop long-term plan for management of trash disposal. E. Coordinate with municipalities regionally to formulate a long-term solid waste management plan.</p>		

<p>Preserve and protect the long-term interests of the town relative to the sanitary sewer system.</p>	<p>Impose impact fees on all new development, to include all services and facilities that may be linked to development/construction.</p>		
<p>Upgrade the town's sewer system</p>	<p>Development of a Wastewater Facility Plan will create a blueprint for the orderly growth and repair of the town's sewer system and will allow the town to qualify for funding assistance for Capital Improvements to the system. By implementing these policies, the town will reduce the inflow and infiltration of stormwater into the system, and ultimately reduce sewage treatment costs.</p> <p>A. Institute a time-phased repair, replacement, and expansion plan for sewer facilities.</p> <p>B. Abandon the Town's sewer extension moratorium.</p> <p>C. Plan for the future expansion of the system.</p> <p>D. Investigate the options related to Wastewater Management Districts</p> <p>E. Support the provision of wastewater treatment systems and solutions to fulfill the economic development goals and land use vision contained in this Plan.</p> <p>F. Assist with the transfer, purchase or privatization of Navy utilities and regionally important utility corridors to the extent that is mutually beneficial.</p>		