

## F. PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

### Goal

To plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and development. Current facilities and services are described to determine if they adequately serve the town today and if they have the available capacity to serve the town over the next ten years.

### GENERAL MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

Jonesport is part of State District 4, State House District 131, and U.S. Congressional District 2. Jonesport has a Select Board/town meeting form of government. The town office staff consists of a Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Treasurer and two part-time Assistants to the Select Board. Municipal departments have capital reserve accounts for equipment replacement and building maintenance. Select Board members serve a three-year term and currently meet every other week. The town fiscal year ends June 30<sup>th</sup> and approval of the Town budget is achieved through the annual town meeting/election that is held on the second Monday of March.

### BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The Select Board appoints long, short-term and project committees, as needed.

<b>Appointed Boards/Positions (by Select Board)</b>	<b>Elected Boards</b>
Board of Appeals	Select Board (3)
Tax Assessor	Jonesport School Committee
Budget Committee	Moosabec Community School District Committee
Comprehensive Plan Committee	Moosabec Community School District Board of Trustees
Economic Development Committee	Town Clerk / Tax Collector / Treasurer
Planning Board	Fire Chief
Shellfish Conservation Committee & Warden	General Assistance Administrator
Monument Committee	
Youth Recreational Committee	
Local Plumbing Inspector	
Code Enforcement Officer	
Local Health Officer	
Harbor Master	
Harbor Committee	
Campground Director	
July 4 <sup>th</sup> Committee	
Emergency Management Director	
Animal Control Officer	

The board of appeals hears grievances regarding Planning Board and General Assistance decisions. The budget committee works with the Select Board, town departments, various business owners and civic organizations to prepare the annual budget for the town meeting.

The town planning board consists of five members and three alternates; some of these individuals have served in this capacity for 30 years. Monthly meetings are held to review site plans for any development proposals. The planning board also reviews Shoreland Zoning and wetland issues, Subdivision Regulations, Land Use and Development, and Floodplain criteria to maintain compliance with state and local ordinances.

## MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

In 2010, the Municipal Building was relocated to the lower level of 70 Snare Creek Lane. The



Photo: Jonesport Town Office;  
www.townofjonesport.com

two-story houses Arnold Memorial Medical Center on the second floor of the building. The space occupied by the town office is adequate for daily operations and record storage. The facility can accommodate small meetings of approximately 25 residents, but the town meeting and other large gatherings occur at the high school.

Jonesport Volunteer Fire Department is located at 44 Main Street. There are two substations, the Old Fire House, which has a well in the basement that is the primary source of water for fire suppression. The facility also houses the Doug Hinkley Memorial Fire Museum. A second substation is in Upper Mason Bay.

The Peabody Memorial Library, located at 162 Main Street, is not a municipally owned facility. The town does appropriate funds at town meeting for the benefit of the library and community. Peabody Memorial Library is maintained by a Board of Directors and is open to the Moosabec Community (Jonesport and Beals).

The following are the two largest parcels of undeveloped land owned by the town, with acreages given:

- Land located at Henry Point on Campground Road. Seven acres purchased by the town in 2018 for the creation of a working waterfront.
- 1/5 subdivided interest in wetlands off Kelley Point Road to be used as possible mitigation for development at Henry Point.

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

### **Town office**

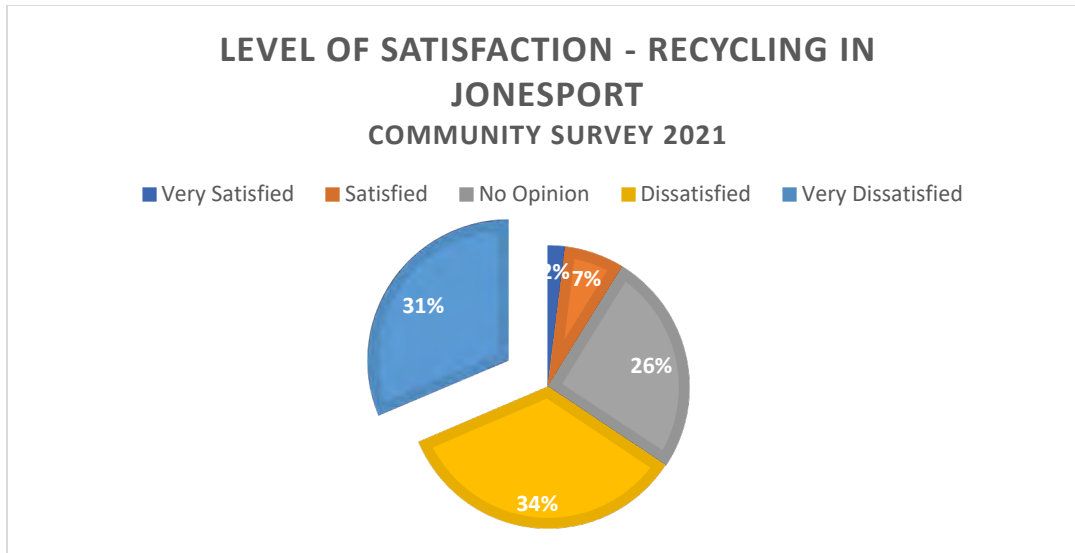
Staffing of the town office includes a combined position of clerk, tax collector and treasurer who is responsible for administering the town's routine business. There are two part-time assistants to the Selectboard who report directly to the Select Board. Code enforcement is under the purview of the county Code Enforcement Officer.

### **Highway Department and Solid Waste Disposal District Management**

Jonesport does not have a highway department but provides year-round road maintenance by contracting for these services.

The town contracts with Casella Waste Management, in Columbia, for trash removal. Residents may take their household waste directly to Casella at a cost of .08 cents per pound. An additional option for residents is the Pleasant River Solid Waste Disposal District (PRSWDD), located in Columbia Falls. Jonesport is not a member town so town residents who utilize PRSWDD pay a rate of .15 cents per pound for solid waste disposal. The town ceased using its landfill in 1995 and completed the landfill closure in October 1997 as required by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Each of Maine's municipalities must submit an annual report of its solid waste management practices. The state objective is for each municipality to recycle at least 50 percent of its household waste. If the quota is not attained, a fee is imposed, unless the municipality indicates good faith in attempting to improve its rate of recycling. According to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the Pleasant River Region (Addison, Beals, Centerville, Columbia, Columbia Falls, Jonesboro, Jonesport) had a 32% recycling rate in 2017, a decrease of 14.3% from 2001. Data specific to Jonesport is not available. The community-wide survey reveals that nearly 66% of Jonesport respondents reported being "Dissatisfied" or "Very Dissatisfied" with the recycling center.



Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME DEP) provides an extensive list of educational materials, recycling programs, and grant opportunities. ME DEP staff are available to assist communities to establish recycling programs for mercury thermostats and fluorescent light bulbs. Municipalities can partner with PaintCare ([www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org)) to recycle paint at no cost to the community. Electronic waste (e-waste) such as televisions, computers, and other electronic devices can be recycled by partnering with an e-waste recycling firm. Many e-waste recycling firms do not charge a community for recycling electronic waste. Also of note is the state stewardship program for packaging. Producers of products will pay into a fund based on the amount and the recyclability of packaging associated with their products. These funds will be used to reimburse municipalities for eligible recycling and waste management costs, make investments in recycling infrastructure, and help Maine citizens understand how to recycle. Program planning will begin in 2022. Recycling should be actively promoted in Jonesport, and strong consideration should be given to the recycling of hazardous waste such as the items mentioned above.



### **Water Supply, Septic Systems, Overboard Discharges, and Sewer Systems**

The town of Jonesport does not have public water or wastewater services. Residents obtain their water from natural springs, dug wells, or drilled wells. The town has a very large spring-fed fresh water supply located on the 40 acres behind the Fire Station. The U.S. Coast Guard also accesses water from the spring-fed well.

Human waste disposal is through septic systems many of which have been replaced in recent years through homeowner investment or grant funding. However, 2.88% of survey respondents reported malfunctioning systems in need of replacement. Some residents (1.92% of respondents) report “overboard discharge” as their method of waste disposal. **There remain a few homes with holding tanks with straight pipes discharging into ditches.**

Over the past 40 years three major efforts have been undertaken to address the need for a centralized sewer system in the town. For different reasons none of the proposed systems were approved by the residents of the town. The community survey revealed concerns related to the cost of public water or wastewater infrastructure while some residents cited the need for such public infrastructure to encourage economic growth in the downtown area. The community divide on the issue is evident as seen in the following quotes obtained from the community survey.

*"... the time has come for some public works- but the "downtown "water system would not aid any of those with bad wells in other areas of the Jonesport peninsula- Citizens should come first- not considerations for new business."*

*"This has prevented many business opportunities thus far. In my opinion, this is the number one thing that has to happen!"*

*"...only if paid for by the users."*

*"I think this is well worth considering because any more development might stress the water system. Also, with sea level rise, there may be salt-water inundation of private wells, and this may cause enormous problems."*

The land in the Jonesport downtown area is not uniformly suitable for subsurface wastewater disposal systems. There is a significant amount of ledge, wetlands, and poor soil types. The issue is further compounded by the very small lot sizes of many of the properties in the downtown area. Without a municipal water system, many wells are affected by the proximity to a septic system on the same property or from a neighboring property.

As addressed in Chapter E: Employment & Economy, Jonesport has lost numerous stores and dining establishments, and has not attracted new ones, due to small lot sizes and the required setbacks between wells and septic systems. The town recognizes that public infrastructure for water and/or wastewater will be required to have a vibrant and thriving downtown. Jonesport continues to explore public water and wastewater options to fit the needs of the community and the local economy.

### **Storm Water Management System**

The stormwater system in Jonesport primarily consists of roadside ditches, catch basins and piping. Sub-surface stormwater drainage pipes and ditches are located along State Route 187. The state owns and maintains the system located along State Route 187, while the town is responsible for the rest of roads in town.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Jonesport has a public safety department with services provided by contractual agreement with the Washington County Sheriff's Office. Washington County Sheriff's Office provides

dispatching services for emergency services. Enhanced 9-1-1 in Jonesport was completed in November 2002.

### **Fire Protection**

The fire department consists of three stations as previously described under municipal buildings. The main Jonesport Fire Station is located near the entrance to the Jonesport-Beals Bridge on Main Street. The department includes 20 volunteers, including the Fire Chief, with no full-time members. Jonesport has mutual aid agreements with the surrounding towns of Beals, Jonesboro, and Addison. The fire dams and well systems have been recently upgraded and are in good repair. A new dry hydrant was installed at the Cross Cove fire dam in 2020.

The Fire Department vehicular equipment includes the following:

- 1995 KME pumper, 1250 gpm with a 1000-gallon tank
- 1993 Central States pumper, 1500 gpm with a 2500-gallon tank
- 2005 International tanker, 2500-gallon, no pump
- 2010 Freightliner Rescue truck
- 1998 5-ton, 6x6, brush fire truck, 250 gpm, with a 1200-gallon tank

### **Emergency Services**

Jonesport and Beals have a combined ambulance service, Moosabec Ambulance Services (MAS). MAS has two stations located at 138 and 140 Main Street in Jonesport. There are 14 employees consisting of five Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), one paramedic, and eight ambulance drivers. MAS provides 24-hour coverage available for residents of both Jonesport and Beals. Given the costs of ambulance services and the low and dispersed population of Jonesport and the region, it is recognized that regional cooperation is essential to ensure adequate coverage to community members. MAS has mutual aid agreements with Pleasant River Ambulance Service (Columbia) and Machias Ambulance Service. Calls for service are received through the dispatch center at Washington County Regional Communications Center (RCC). Moosabec Ambulance Services has two ambulances in service: a 2007 Chevrolet, and a 2003 Ford.



Photo courtesy of Moosabec Ambulance Service

### **Marine Rescue**

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) maintains a search and rescue station at 9 Bridge Street in Jonesport. The USCG contributes to community events and annually hosts “Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examinations” to ensure safety and stability of fishing vessels.

### **Public Works Department**

Jonesport does not have a Public Works Department. As referred to above, Jonesport contracts for road maintenance and does not have public water or wastewater infrastructure. As Jonesport continues to explore public water/wastewater, a Department of Public Works may become necessary.

### **Cemeteries**

The Cemetery Department consists of four part-time contracted workers who are responsible for the ground maintenance at four of the thirty-two cemeteries. The town maintains the West Jonesport, Richardson, Wilson, and Greenwood Cemeteries. Funds are appropriated annually for the upkeep, maintenance, and placement of veteran flags at these cemeteries. The flags which the town provides for veteran gravesites are placed by the local post of the American Legion.

Indian River Cemetery is maintained by the Indian River Society while the remaining cemeteries are privately owned and do not require town maintenance as upkeep is handled by the family members/descendants.

### **Mail Delivery**

The Jonesport Post Office (04649) has been located at 193 Main Street since 1962. Although many residents have a post office box, part of the mail is delivered through a rural carrier for home delivery.

## **PUBLIC UTILITIES AND SERVICES**

**Electrical Service: Versant Power**

**Telephone Service: Consolidated Communications**

**Internet Service Providers: Spectrum, Axiom, Consolidated Communications**

<b>Television, Cable, and Radio</b>	<b>Newspapers</b>
WLBZ-Channel 2 (NBC Affiliate)	Bangor Daily News (daily)
WABI-Channel 5 (CBS Affiliate)	Ellsworth American (weekly)
WVII-Channel 7 (ABC Affiliate)	Machias Valley Observer (weekly)
Maine PBS-Channel 13 (Public Broadcasting)	Quoddy Tides (twice monthly) Eastport
WQDY (1230 Am and 92.7 FM) Calais	Countywide News (bi-monthly) Machias
WALZ (95.3 FM) Machias	
WMED (89.7 FM) NPR Affiliate Calais	
Spectrum (Cable television)	
DirectTV (Satellite television)	

## INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

According to U.S. Census data, 77.2% of Jonesport residents use broadband to access the internet. The community-wide survey contained questions related to internet usage and satisfaction. Jonesport residents with internet connection are generally satisfied with the overall internet at their home but 42.86% of respondents cited occasional latency issues. Nearly 56% of respondents use the internet to work from home.

In 2021, Jonesport-Beals students, along with other students from across Washington County took part in a Young Adult Internet Use and Satisfaction Survey. The results of this survey are included in Appendix B - Youth Vision.

## PEABODY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Located at 162 Main Street and built in 1915 with funds donated by the Peabody Family, the library is a small brick building. In 2006, ground was broken for a new handicap accessible wing which doubled the size of the library and expanded services offered to the community. The library is not municipally owned although Jonesport allocates a yearly donation at town meeting.

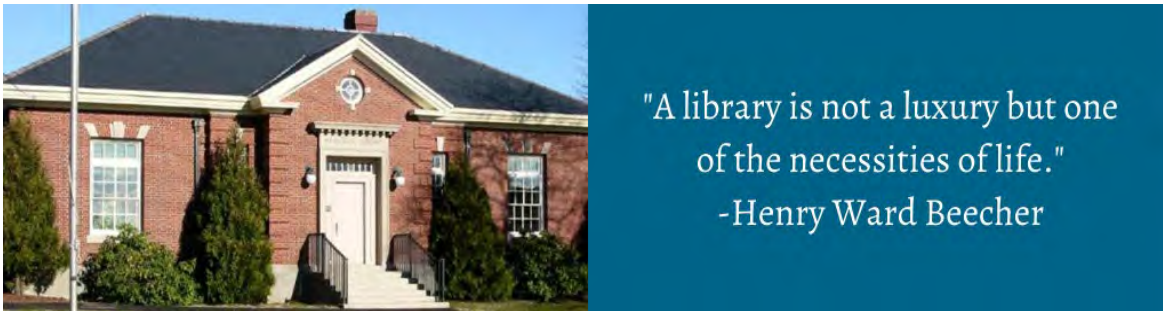


Photo: Peabody Memorial Library; <http://www.peabody.lib.me.us/>

## EDUCATION

Jonesport is a member of the Moosabec Community School District and School Union 103 that includes the Towns of Jonesport and Beals. The high school is a well-used asset. In addition to the daytime instruction and students' extra-curricular activities, the community uses the building for a wide variety of functions, both public and private. These include but are not limited to adult basic education, public hearings and meetings, private parties and receptions, religious services, pageants, and musical performances. The school charges private users a nominal fee to offset the cost of electricity and fuel consumption. Each town has elected school committees that oversee school affairs. Union 103 operates the following schools:

School Name	Address	Enrollment	Grades
Beals Elementary	24 Mill Pond Rd, Beals 04611	36	K - 8
Jonesport Elementary	130 Snare Creek Rd, Jonesport 04649	111	K - 8



Jonesport-Beals High School	180 Snare Creek Rd, Jonesport 04649	65	9 - 12
-----------------------------	-------------------------------------	----	--------

Source: Maine Department of Education; 2022 Enrollments

**JONESPORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.** Built in 1978, after the West Jonesport Elementary School burned. An addition was constructed in 1994 to increase the number of classrooms and to add a gym with a stage for auditorium use, a science room, library, computer room, music room, cafeteria, and offices.

**JONESPORT-BEALS HIGH SCHOOL.** Located on the same campus as the elementary school, Jonesport-Beals High School was built in 1982. It serves the communities of Jonesport and Beals, and has a complete range of classrooms, shops, gymnasium, computer lab, home economics room, and cable television broadcasting facilities. The cable television broadcasting facility is used to broadcast athletic and other school events.

In 2020, Jonesport invested \$10 million to upgrade ventilation, heating, insulation, new windows, and LED lighting in both schools. The project was completed in 2021.

Census figures for 2019 show that the number of Jonesport residents who are high school graduates (72.9%) is lower than that of Washington County (89.3%) and significantly lower than the State of Maine average (93.2%). The pattern holds true for residents with a bachelor's degree or higher (17.3%) compared with the County (22%) and the State (33.2%). The schools are taking steps to raise the high school completion rate.

### **Vocational, Technical, and Higher Academic Schools**

Coastal Washington County Institute of Technology (CWCIT) Juniors and Seniors from Jonesport-Beals High School may spend half their school day at the Career and Technical Education Center in nearby Columbia. Student who complete a program earn college credits toward a higher education degree.

Washington County Community College (WCCC) The Calais campus is situated on 400 acres of land overlooking the St. Croix River. Washington County Community College is one of seven institutions in the Maine Community College System. WCCC offers 20 major areas of study. Certificate, diploma, and associate degree programs in high demand technical and career fields are available. The college has the capacity for 500 full-time students, while the Continuing Education Division serves an additional 400 part-time students throughout Washington County.

University of Maine at Machias (UMM) is a 1,000-student branch of the University of Maine System working in close relationships with the Orono campus to offer Associate, Bachelor, and certificate programs in a wide range of subjects. Many of its students are "non-traditional" (older persons returning for their degrees) and programs are offered to high school students through the Early College Program which allows students to earn college credits and to prepare for the transition to full-time college studies after graduation.

## **HEALTH CARE**

ARNOLD MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER (AMMC), located at 70 Snare Creek Road and was constructed in the mid-1990s. Arnold Memorial Medical Center is a community-based facility which offers family practice, women's health, obstetrics and gynecology, and pediatric services. AMMC is part of the Down East Community Hospital Network.

MOOSABEC MEDICAL, located at 298 Main Street in Jonesport offers Primary and Acute Care along with IV Nutrition Therapy.

MAGNOLIA ASSISTED LIVING, located at 11 Ocean Street in Jonesport is a 24-bed assisted living facility. Formerly a nursing home the facility transitioned to assisted living in 2018.

DR. WAYNE YEE is located at 27 Sawyer Square in Jonesport. Dr. Yee practices general and cosmetic dentistry, and dental oncology.

DOWNEAST COMMUNITY HOSPITAL (DECH) is a 25-bed acute care facility located in Machias. In addition to primary care services such as Family Practice, Pediatrics, and Obstetrics/Gynecological services, DECH has specialty care services such as Urology, Otolaryngology (ENT), General Surgery including minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery, Orthopedics, and Pain Medicine.

NORTHERN LIGHT HEALTH EASTERN MAINE MEDICAL CENTER, located in Bangor, is a 411-bed facility and one of only three trauma centers in the state. Their 300 physicians provide primary care hospital services as well as specialty and intensive services. Extreme trauma cases are handled in the community through a working relationship between "Life Flight" out of Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, Calais Regional Hospital, and the ambulance service.

SUNRISE COUNTY HOMECARE SERVICES, located in Lubec, provides and coordinates home care services such as visiting nurses; home health aides; physical therapy; and homemaker services.

DOWNEAST HOSPICE in Calais is an all-volunteer, non-profit program licensed by the State of Maine, serving residents in Washington County. Support services are provided to the terminally ill and their families, as well as to those experiencing grief.

FRESENIUS DIALYSIS CENTER is located in Eastport. Prior to opening in 2003, dialysis patients had to travel to Bangor up to four days per week.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

### **Sawyer Cove Marina**

Constructed in 1972, the recreational marina was a collaboration between Jonesport Town officials and the State Parks and Land "Commission" (Bureau of Parks and Lands). The boat ramp is utilized by commercial fishers due to the absence of alternate facilities. The ramp has

received numerous updates over the years including floats, piles, gangways, ramp extensions and a commercial boat section. Parking remains a problem due to the lack of available parking areas at and around the marina. The proposed construction of a commercial working waterfront at Henry Point will alleviate the issue.

### **Veteran's Ball Diamond**

On March 8, 1947, the town received a gift of land from H. John Young, and his wife, Barbara, referred to in the deeds as the Jonesport Athletic Field. The site is in the center of town and was used extensively before construction of the schools in the Snare Creek area. In addition to being “free space” for unstructured play, it is used for 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities.

### **Skating Pond**

Once a pasture, this town-owned land was purchased for \$300 in March of 1965. Some ledge was removed to enlarge the area. The land is used by wildlife (ducks, moose, heron, frogs, coyote, and bobcat) and includes a pond. When not used for skating, and if water is available, the pond is used by the Fire Department for emergency situations.

### **Tennis/Basketball Court**

The tennis courts had lighting for evening games and community support for upgrades, but the lights no longer work, and the court needs resurfacing. Engineering study has been performed.

Tennis courts were installed through grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Many of Maine's smallest communities utilized the grant funds during the 1990s but lack the financial capacity to maintain or replace the courts.

**Henry Point Campground** The seven-acre parcel was purchased in 2018 to construct a working



waterfront. However, the town intends to retain the campground portion of the site for camping and recreation. The campground has lights, a community fireplace, and sanitary facilities. Improvements are made regularly, and donations are accepted for upkeep.

### **Sandy River Beach**

In 2012, the town also purchased a lot across from Sandy River Beach (Chandler Bay) to accommodate parking for commercial harvesters and recreational beachgoers. The lot provides parking, a hand carry boat launch, picnic tables, barbecue grills, seasonal personal facilities, and direct access to the shorefront. It should be noted that Jonesport

only owns a 25-foot right of way to the beach and the remainder of shore access is currently allowed by private landowners.

## **CULTURE/COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Jonesport has various community events. The schools have a history of receiving gold trophies for winning basketball tournaments which are displayed in the lobby of the Jonesport-Beals High School. Peabody Memorial Library sponsors activities for children, art and music programming, book clubs and “meet the author” series. The library supports a teen advisory group to encourage young adults to take a role in library offerings.

Jonesport hosts two festivals a year: Summerfest which takes place over the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday and “Winter Fest” which occurs in early December. Summerfest is committee run and is an all-American tribute to the birth of our nation complete with parades, fireworks, community lobster bake, horseshoe tournaments, public entertainment, lobster boat races, arm wrestling, and a “kids’ day” which is held at the town “ball diamond.” “Winter Fest,” also run by committee, celebrates the oncoming winter season with fireworks, parades, and a free community supper. The festivals have tremendous local support and are well attended by the community and residents from surrounding towns.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

At present there are not any active Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, the Brownie Troop is active.  
Maine Sea Coast Mission (charitable organization)

Little League

Youth Sports Recreation Department

Jonesport Historical Society

## **Adequacy of Municipal services**

According to the Maine Office of Policy and Management projections the population of Jonesport is predicted to increase from 1331 individuals in 2018 to 1365 by 2024, to 1389 individuals by 2028 and 1401 individuals by 2033, and 1402 individuals by 2038 representing an increase in population of 5.3%. Due to the long-term decline in the population of Jonesport, the forecasted increase would not put undue pressure on housing, municipal services, or the local school systems. However, as noted in Chapter E: Employment & Economy, the downtown area of Jonesport cannot thrive without public water or public wastewater infrastructure. Jonesport has lost almost all its dining establishments due to the small lot sizes and setbacks required between wells and septic systems. The few dining establishments that remain are takeout only or have extremely limited seating. The community-wide survey reveals community desire for increased dining establishments as well as the concern over the cost of public water/sewer. Jonesport continues to explore ways to address the issue.

### **Sharing services with neighboring communities**

To create efficiencies, Jonesport has partnered with Beals for high school education, fire protection, and ambulance services. Jonesport has mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities to ensure public safety needs are met. Jonesport does not have a police department and partners with the Washington County Sheriff. Limited recycling is available through the partnership with Pleasant River Solid Waste Disposal District.

### **Public sewer system**

At present, the community relies on private septic systems; there is no public wastewater system. There are concerns about failing and inadequate systems and the town actively assists homeowners with finding financial assistance through programs such as USDA Single Family Home Repair. The community-wide survey revealed nearly 2% of respondents use overboard discharge as their method of human waste disposal. As one respondent stated, there “[n]eeds to be some sort of municipal sewer system or systems otherwise a lot of other goals cannot be realized.” Community concerns cited in the community-wide survey ranged from the prohibitive cost of public infrastructure to economic development. Jonesport continues to explore public wastewater infrastructure and the sanitary extension district policy will be consistent with the Future Land Use Plan, as required by the State.

### **Public water system**

At present, Jonesport relies on private wells; there is no public water system. There are concerns over water quality as 29.4% of respondents stated that their well water is brackish (2.94%), rusty (21.57%), and/or has an odor (4.90%). The rise in sea level and saltwater inundation of wells is also a community concern. As with a public sewer system, community concerns range from economic development to the cost associated with public water. Jonesport continues to explore public water infrastructure and a water district expansion policy will be consistent with the Future Land Use Plan, as required by the State.

### **Accommodating current and projected growth**

Without either a public sewer or water system, the development of the downtown area is at a standstill. Due to small lot sizes, many potential businesses are unable to operate due to required setbacks between wells and septic systems. Lack of dining establishments and tourist accommodations hinder economic growth, expansion of existing businesses, and establishment of new businesses.

### **Stormwater management facilities**

Jonesport has a system of catch basins and culverts that are adequately maintained. With increased precipitation events, Jonesport will expand storm water capabilities as needed. State Route 187 has a series of ditches that are maintained by Maine Department of Transportation.

### **Septic tank waste disposal**

Residents have their septic tanks pumped by local contractors. The septic tank waste is taken to Machias or Addison for final disposal. As previously mentioned, 2.88% of survey respondents reported malfunctioning systems in need of replacement. Some residents (1.92% of respondents) report “overboard discharge” as their method of waste disposal. There remain a few homes with holding tanks with straight pipes discharging into ditches. Jonesport works with residents to locate funding for septic replacement and the town continues to explore public wastewater.

### **School construction or expansion**

School construction/expansion is not anticipated during the planning period. In 2021, Jonesport completed a \$10 million upgrade to both the elementary and high schools. Land is available for residential development and may attract families that desire to live near the education system. Jonesport student to teacher ratio is 8:1 which may attract families that desire to have a more personalized experience for their children.

### **Emergency response system**

Jonesport has regionalized services with Beals and has mutual aid agreements with surrounding communities for fire and rescue as well as ambulance services. The heavy equipment is sufficient to handle house and brush fires. The ambulance service is equipped with two ambulances. Jonesport partners with the Washington County Sheriff's Office for police protection.

Jonesport does not have an official evacuation route, however, State Route 187 encompasses the entire peninsula providing an evacuation route to U.S. Route 1 where signage exists for County established evacuation routes. Of note is the lack of parking facilities and general congestion in the village area. Congestion along Sawyer Square can inhibit emergency vehicles such as fire and ambulance services.

### **Solid waste management system**

The Jonesport community-wide survey revealed dissatisfaction with recycling opportunities, but overall, the solid waste management system is generally adequate to meet the current needs of the community. Residents bring their household waste to one of two facilities as mentioned earlier in this chapter. As with all communities in Maine, materials accepted for recycling vary according to the needs of the market. At present, Jonesport residents can recycle certain plastics and aluminum cans. As the population in Jonesport ages, there may be increased demand for curbside pick-up of solid waste. Further information regarding solid waste and recycling can be found earlier in this chapter.

### **Telecommunications and energy infrastructure**

Rural Washington County is known for spotty cellphone coverage and Jonesport is no exception. While improvements have been made, cellphone coverage is not universal in Jonesport. As described below, there are many homes without access to the internet and latency issues which can affect cellphone and landline reception considering Wi-Fi calling and landlines connected to cable services such as Spectrum.

Jonesport residents have options for internet access including Consolidated Communications, Spectrum, Axiom, and satellite services. According to U.S. Census data, 77.2% of Jonesport residents use broadband to access the internet. The community-wide survey contained questions related to internet usage and satisfaction. Jonesport residents with internet connection are generally satisfied overall with the internet at their home but 42.86% of respondents cited occasional latency issues. Nearly 56% of respondents use the internet to work from home. In 2021, the Town consulted with Spectrum regarding the approximately 200 homes without internet access, existing latency issues, and potential upgrades. In May 2022, Spectrum began mapping their assets and infrastructure to determine how to reach the 200 unserved homes as well as possible upgrades for existing consumers.

Street lighting has accounted for nearly 3% of the town budget (\$21,000 per year). However, Jonesport is working in collaboration with Versant Power to change halogen streetlights over to LED street lighting at no cost to the community. This change, when completed, will considerably lower tax appropriation for an essential service while providing the community with superior lighting for motorists, pedestrians, and commercial traffic.

### **Local and regional health care facilities and public health and social service programs**

Arnold Memorial Medical Center (AMMC), located on Snare Creek Road, is adequate for the needs of the community. As listed previously, AMMC is a community-based facility which offers family practice, women's health, obstetrics and gynecology, and pediatric services. AMMC is part of the Down East Community Hospital Network. Jonesport has a full-time dental office and an assisted living facility. However, the community-wide survey reveals that residents desire an in-town pharmacy. Most social services are in Machias, approximately 30 minutes outside of Jonesport and as the population ages, transportation may become a challenge. At present, MaineCare clients may utilize free transportation services for medical purposes. Downeast Community Partners (<https://www.downeastcommunitypartners.org/>) offers transportation options to sheltered workshops, child protective visits, transportation for Seniors, and non-emergency medical visits.

### **Accommodating projected growth**

Jonesport town office is sufficient for projected growth. The municipal building is not equipped to handle large capacity meetings such as the annual Town Meeting, the facility is appropriate for the day-to-day operations of Jonesport and the keeping of Town records. Large capacity meetings are held at Jonesport-Beals High School which has exceptional facilities.

Peabody Memorial Library is not a municipal facility although the Town appropriates funds through the annual budgetary process and is approved at the Town Meeting. Peabody Memorial Library is sufficient for the needs of the community and is a significant provider of internet connectivity and cultural events for the residents of Jonesport and Beals.

In 2019, Jonesport increased Greenwood Cemetery by two acres, which is sufficient for projected use.

### **Investments in facility improvements in growth areas**

Jonesport has maintained a forward leaning stance on facility location and improvements as witnessed by the modernized Town Office, \$10 million upgrades to the elementary and high schools, and the maintenance of three Fire Stations and two Ambulance Service locations. Most of these improved facilities are near single-family dwellings and the downtown district which includes dining establishments, the assisted living facility, and subsidized housing. However, it is important to note that Jonesport's Fire Stations are strategically placed between densely populated areas and more remote locations such as Mason Bay to ensure the safety of all residents.

Jonesport has very defined priorities for economic development. In 2018, the town purchased a seven-acre property known as Henry Point to construct a commercial boat ramp and pier. Partnering with Land for Maine's Future, Jonesport has ensured that the parcel will remain protected in perpetuity. The town has secured an engineering design and is actively pursuing funding to construct the working waterfront.

*Jonesport strongly notes the need for a Maine DOT traffic circulation study to manage the lack of parking, low gravel shoulders, impediments to emergency vehicles, and bike/ped safety.*

### **Street tree program**

Jonesport does not currently have a street tree program, however the streets in Jonesport are lined with a wide variety of trees and shrubs. Jonesport does support preservation and protection of its green spaces, lands, and natural resources.

### **General physical condition of facilities and equipment.**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Moosabec Ambulance Services	Good
Sawyer Cove Marina (recreational boat launch)	Good; heavily used for commercial vessels
Henry Point Campground	Good
Cemeteries	Good; expansion of Greenwood Cemetery



Fire Department	Good
Town Office	Good
Peabody Memorial Library	Good
Jonesport Elementary School	Very good; upgrades 2021
Jonesport-Beals High School	Very good; upgrades 2021

### **Capacity and anticipated demand during the planning period.**

As mentioned in Chapter E: Employment & Economy, an aquaculture firm has acquired property in Jonesport to construct a \$110M facility. If completed, the project will create jobs and be a considerable economic driver in Washington County and Maine, not all employees will reside in Jonesport. Municipal services will see a slight increase in demand but due to the steady decrease in population, Jonesport has the capacity to handle the increase. However, traffic congestion and lack of parking must be addressed. Jonesport is open to working with Maine DOT for a traffic circulation study. As previously covered in this chapter and other chapters of this document, public water and/or wastewater prevents the expansion of businesses in the downtown village area.

### **Identification of who owns/manages the systems.**

Jonesport does not currently provide municipal water or wastewater services. Jonesport has adopted a regional approach to manage fire, ambulance, and school services with Beals. As referred to earlier in this chapter, Jonesport manages and maintains all but the private family cemeteries. Jonesport maintains and manages its streets through contracts with local providers. The town also owns and manages recreational locations including the campground, public picnic areas, and town parks.

### **Estimated costs of needed capital improvements to public facilities.**

Estimated costs for needed capital improvements to existing and planned public facilities and services are outlined in the Capital Investment Plan located in Chapter J: Fiscal Capacity & Capital Improvement

### **Septage – community policies or regulations regarding septage collection and disposal.**

Jonesport residents contract with private companies to remove and dispose of septage. Because Jonesport does not have a municipal sewerage system, the town relies on individuals to maintain or replace their septic systems as needed. Jonesport requires that the installation of septic disposal systems meet or exceed the minimum standards established by the State of Maine. Jonesport actively seeks funding for low-income residents who need to repair their septic system.

### **Power and communications – Availability of 3-phase power, Internet (including broadband), and cable within the community.**

Jonesport residents have access to three-phase power, internet (DSL, Coaxial, and Starlink), and cable. Internet, cable, and other forms of media have been previously covered within this chapter. In 2021, the ConnectMaine Authority approved the use of 50/10mbps as the designation of unserved areas. The designation for broadband service is at least 100/100mbps. According to ConnectMaine “Unserved Reports”, nearly 35% of the streets in Jonesport have internet speeds measured at less than 25/3.<sup>1</sup> These statistics emphasize the need for high speed and affordable internet in Jonesport.

During the height of Covid-19, schools across Maine transitioned to online learning. Students enrolled in the Jonesport schools faced the challenge of a pandemic and a sudden shift to remote learning with the inequities of insufficient and inadequate internet services, further emphasizing the need for high speed and affordable internet in Jonesport.

The State offers a variety of grant opportunities through entities such as ConnectMaine to fund expansion of broadband access in Maine communities. Communities with reliable and fast internet are attractive to remote workers who can live and work wherever they choose. Remote workers can increase the local economy without competing for employment opportunities. Greater access to broadband expands opportunities for economic development and assists in the attraction and retention of young families and businesses in rural communities.

### Emergency Response System

Jonesport relies on County police protection. According to the Washington County Regional Communications Center, the Washington County Sheriff’s Department response time is an hour or longer, depending on the location of patrol officers. Patrol officers go off duty at 12:00 AM and are on-call, which could further delay response time. Maine State Police response times are considerably longer, and a response may not occur until the following day. Moosabec Ambulance Service and Jonesport Fire Department are reported to have in-town response times of under 15 minutes.

### Policies and Implementation Strategies

The town has developed the following policies and implementation strategies:

<b>Goal:</b> Jonesport will plan for, finance, and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate current and anticipated growth and economic development.			
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Local Services			
Local services will be maintained, and	The town will address future funding needs for new and	Select Board	Ongoing

<sup>1</sup> “Unserved Reports”, Washington County 2021. <https://www.maine.gov/connectme/communities-resources/Broadbandmapping> (Accessed May 25, 2022).

community needs addressed	replacement items through the Capital Improvement Program		
Funding opportunities for a commercial working waterfront at Henry Point will be investigated and pursued	Seek out funding opportunities utilizing assistance from federal, state, and regional partners	Select Board Harbor Master	Immediate
Climate resiliency strategies will be integral to the planning of the commercial waterfront	Plan for sea level rise in the planning process through collaboration with appropriate partners. Identify any areas appropriate for riprap and/or living shoreline. Engage commercial harvesters in planning process.	Select Board Harbor Master, Working Waterfront Committee, Harbor Committee	Immediate
Continue to explore sewage, water, and solid waste disposal options	Investigate feasibility of public water and/or wastewater downtown Continue to explore best alternatives for solid waste disposal	Select Board, Harbor Master, Working Waterfront Committee, Harbor Committee	Long Term
Recreation Areas will be maintained for public use	Tennis courts will be resurfaced Winter sports activity areas will be maintained.	Select Board, Harbor Master, Working Waterfront Committee, Harbor Committee	On-going
<b>Education about Services</b>			
Local Services will be visible and understood by Jonesport Citizens.	The Town will continue to educate its citizens on the importance of recycling using fliers, the Town website, informational meetings, and school programs	Town Clerk	On- going

	Literature on local recycling opportunities will be made readily available to residents at the Town Office and on the Town website	Town Clerk	On- going
<b>Regional Coordination</b>			
The Town will cooperate on the delivery of regional services and endeavor to achieve economies of scale where feasible.	Jonesport will continue to cooperate with neighboring communities to seek funding for upgrading or replacing inadequate well and septic systems and reducing overboard discharge.	Select Board	On-going
	The Town will seek out cooperative means of reducing regional administrative costs for the school district and delivery of public services.	Select Board	On-going