



Public Services and Infrastructure

One way to evaluate a community is through the quality and impact of public services offered. The level of public services offered, such as water and sewer, police protection, fire and rescue, solid waste collection, etc., is also an indicator of future growth potential for areas in and around that community. Growth follows the services provided, with water and sewer services having the greatest influence in this regard. This is true for Gordonsville, as growth has occurred in areas immediately outside of the town where these services are available.

Water Service

Water service is a primary component of the services provided by the Town. Water is purchased from the Rapidan Service Authority (RSA), which in turn buys the processed water from the Town of Orange. This water is transported from Orange to Gordonsville by a ten-inch transmission line that feeds into the Town's water distribution system. This line can adequately transport approximately 800,000 gallons per day. The Town has a contract with RSA for 25 million gallons of water per month. This contract was renewed in August 2010 and remains in effect through September 30, 2023. Daily water usage varies depending on the time of year and the integrity of the water system and its individual components (someone with a leaky faucet will use more water, for example). Currently, water customers in the Town of Gordonsville use an average of 140,000 gallons per day. With approximately 800 water customers, the average daily usage per customer is 175 gallons.



Figure 1. A member of Town crew works to repair a water leak on South Main Street (photo by Town staff).

While most of the town's water customers are located within the corporate limits of the town, the town also provides public water to homes in Orange County along Route 231 southwest of town as well as those within the Gordonsville Gates subdivision. Northeast of town, water is available to the Coniston Manor subdivision, as well as to homes located along US Routes 15/33 and in Klöckner Village south of town in Louisa County.

The town's water distribution system was first installed in the 1930's and 1940's. In the late 1980's the Town undertook an aggressive construction program to update the system. In 1994, a new 500,000-gallon storage tank was built and numerous new distribution lines were installed to replace old lines that frequently caused service interruptions because of leaks. Also in 1994, the water lines along Main Street were relocated to Falconer Street and Weaver Street due to constant water leaks that caused frequent repair and disruption along the street. Since 1993, there have been five significant water system upgrades, the most recent being the upgrade of lines in the Tabernacle subdivision located off Route 231 south of town. The Public Works Department conducts routine water quality testing and reporting to the Virginia Division of Drinking Water to ensure that the water provided to town water customers continues to be safe and free of contaminants.

In 2003, a new radio-read meter system was installed, which significantly improved meter reading



of water usage for all water customers. In 2012, there were approximately 800 meters, residential and commercial, tied to the town's water system. These water meters should be replaced every 7-10 years for residential water customers and every 3-5 years for commercial water customers. Each year, the town conducts routine maintenance and meters are replaced as needed. While most of the town's water distribution system is up-to-date, there are improvements that are needed in the next 5-10 years, including:

- Abandon 3 inch line from Faulconer Street to Church Street
- Replace 1 ¼ inch line from Orange Avenue to Lumber Yard
- Replace 3 inch line on Noble Avenue
- Replace 4 inch line at Orange Avenue and Martinsville Avenue
- Replace/abandon portions of 2 inch line on West Gordon Avenue
- Replace 6 inch line on Mayhugh Avenue
- Abandon 2 inch line at Mayhugh Avenue and Faulconer Street
- Replace/abandon portions of 3 inch line on West Gordon

Future Water Needs

Future water needs are dictated by anticipated population and commercial growth. The population of the town is not expected to increase significantly over the next 20 years, given its historically level rate of growth. However, the potential growth areas for the Town as shown in the future land use section of the plan could add approximately 250-350 additional residential customers to the Town's water system over the next 20 years. At the current rate of usage, this translates to an additional 53,000 to 74,000 gallons of water used per day. Additional commercial customers will add to future water needs.

While the population of the town is not expected to increase significantly over the next 20 years, it is hoped that economic development efforts and the town's evolution as a tourism destination will spur business growth. Ensuring an adequate future water supply for both residential and business growth and minimizing reliance on a single source of water is important to the Town. Two studies regarding future water needs and potential alternate sources of water for the town have been prepared within the last 10 years to give guidance to these issues.

Gordonsville Water Study

In 2004, the town engaged the consulting services of R. Stuart Royer and Associates, Inc., to develop a preliminary engineering report regarding the town's water needs and potential alternative water sources. Several alternatives were identified in the study, including the construction of parallel water lines to obtain additional water from the Rapidan Service Authority, construction of new water lines to the water system in the town of Louisa, constructing a water treatment plant at Lake Gordonsville, and finally, the construction of a water treatment facility at the quarry owned by the Town and located in Louisa County.

The alternative identified by the study as being the most cost effective is the development of a water treatment facility at the quarry with possible supplementation with water from Lake Gordonsville. This option would provide the town with approximately 143,000 gallons of finished water per day, an adequate supply of water to serve current residential and commercial customers and/or to supplement the current water source provided by RSA. The study prepared by R. Stuart Royer is incorporated herein by reference for additional information.



Orange County Water Supply Plan

From 1998 through 2002, Virginia experienced a severe drought that prompted the state to adopt regulations requiring local governments to develop a water supply plan. The Town of Gordonsville, in conjunction with the Town of Orange, Orange County and the Rapidan Service Authority, engaged in the development of such a plan in the mid-2000's. Water availability coupled with projected growth at that time (which has since been moderated in response to the downturn in the national economy that began during this time) revealed that some of the water systems within Orange County could begin to experience water shortages as soon as 2010. As a result, several recommendations for the location of alternative water sources were identified in the plan. These include the investigation and location of alternative groundwater sources, development of a new raw water reservoir, increasing the RSA Wilderness intake permit, developing drought contingency plans, implementing water conservation and demand management activities, accounting for water system losses, interconnections with neighboring utilities and the reuse of water. This plan, which is incorporated by reference herein, was adopted by Gordonsville Town Council on December 20, 2010.

Wastewater System

The wastewater system is owned and operated by the Rapidan Service Authority.

The lines are of concrete, tile, and plastic. The treatment plant is located southwest of the town in Louisa County, adjacent to Gordonsville Power Station. The plant can treat up to 660,000 gallons of wastewater per day; currently, an average of 130,000 gallons of wastewater is being treated on a daily basis. Liquids are currently sprayed onto a 40-acre area after treatment. There are plans for a future upgrade to the plant. While this will not increase the capacity of the plant, it will increase the efficiency of the facility.

Public Utilities

Public utilities such as electricity and gas are provided to town residents by private corporations. Dominion Virginia Power is the primary provider of electrical service to the Town. Properties in the extreme southeastern quadrant of the town are served by Central Virginia Electrical Co-operative.

Natural gas service is provided by Columbia Gas of Virginia via a system of high-pressure lines ranging in size from eight inches to two inches. Columbia Gas Transmission also operates a twenty-inch high-pressure line that serves the Gordonsville Power Station. Gas service is limited to the western area of the Town and the Downtown Business District. Main Street is the demarcation line for service.

Broadband and Wireless Internet

Broadband and wireless internet have become "critical infrastructure"¹ for a community's economic development efforts and quality of life as today's technology depends greatly on readily available and quick connection to the internet. In the Gordonsville area, several providers make

¹ www.wired.virginia.gov/broadband_basics.shtml, April 25, 2013.



this connection to the World Wide Web possible.

AT&T has an antenna on the Town's water tank on Lee Street in the southeastern area of town that provides mobile phone service for the town and surrounding areas. For access to the internet and email through AT&T's network, wireless aircards or mobile wireless hotspots may be individually purchased.

Comcast, the area's cable provider, and Verizon, the local telephone service provider, both make connection to high speed internet available to Gordonsville residents through their systems. .

Public access to the internet is available at the Gordonsville Library. However, there are presently no other public wireless hot-spots that make wireless internet available to the traveling public or others within the town who do not have access to the internet. In the summer of 2015, the town began working with Orange County for the development of a public safety radio needs assessment that will determine not only weaknesses in public safety communications but also needs for wireless and broadband communication within the region.

Broadband service made available as the result of this initiative may enable those in the Gordonsville area currently without high-speed internet to gain access to this technology.

More information about the provision of broadband service and the Commonwealth's initiative to make broadband available to all citizens and businesses is available through the [Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance](#). As technology continues to change, the town should strive to provide whatever services are needed to connect its citizens to the World Wide Web.

Solid Waste

Solid waste disposal is provided to all residents and businesses in the Town of Gordonsville through the town's contract with a private provider. Pickup is made on a weekly basis at curbside, with residences and businesses located to the west of Main Street receiving pickup on Tuesdays and those to the east receiving pickup on Fridays. The Town also pays one dumpster pick-up per week for business and apartment owners in the Town. In addition to weekly pickup, Town residents may also use the county "green boxes" located on Route 33 in Barboursville.

The Town sponsors a Fall Clean-up and Spring Clean-up campaign each year. During these events, large items are collected and disposed of by Town crew members without any charge to residents. These items are normally large, bulky items that are not subject to removal during regular weekly trash collection. Hazardous waste items such as tires, used paint, motor oil, solvents and batteries are not collected during these clean-up events but may be brought to the Orange County Landfill during their annual household hazardous waste collection day held each fall. In addition, the county annually conducts electronics recycling at the landfill in the spring.

Collection and disposal of wood and brush are handled by the Town crew on an as needed basis or as requested by town citizens.

With regard to recycling, the town does not have its own formal program; however, the Baptist Church collects paper and cardboard in green boxes located on their property on High Street. Generally speaking, residents collect materials independently and bring them to recycling collection centers in Barboursville, the Town of Orange or at the County Landfill. As noted in the



plan section on Environment, town residents have indicated both in the community survey and at the community meetings that developing a recycling program in town is important.

Public Safety

Law Enforcement



Figure 2. The town's police department is located in Town Hall (staff photo, 2017).

Law enforcement duties in town are handled currently by a 17-member department composed of eight full-time officers, four part-time officers, and five auxiliary officers, including a chaplain. All full time officers are certified by the Department of Criminal Justice and undergo periodic in-service training. The Chief encourages all officers to specialize in an area of interest to them, and offers additional training in those areas. The department enforces all local ordinances and state laws. Assistance, if needed, is provided upon request by the Orange County Sheriff's Department and the Virginia State Police.

Auxiliary officers are sworn volunteers. The maximum strength of this force is set at ten by the Town Council. These officers assist the Department with various duties, and mainly work during times of high manpower needs. Principal duties are traffic control and patrol. These officers also are required to be certified by DCJS.

Through its community policing efforts, the police department engages in all aspects of law enforcement and community protection, from periodic business checks to traffic stops. The town's police department also serves as a certified child safety seat checkpoint, providing education and courtesy checks to ensure the proper installation of child safety seats.

Emergency Services

Emergency services are divided into several categories, Fire/Rescue, Emergency Management and Emergency Medical Services. The County of Orange Department of Fire & EMS is the primary provider of Emergency Medical Services in Orange County and the incorporated towns of Gordonsville and Orange. The Department also provides the primary Emergency Management resource for the county. The Department consists of approximately 35 career Firefighter/Medics who are employed by the county and provide 24-hour services, including advanced life support care utilizing four advanced life support ambulances. All county Department of Fire and EMS personnel are certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Health. Emergency Medical coverage is also supplied by the Orange County Volunteer Rescue Squad and The Lake of The Woods Volunteer Fire & Rescue department. Several of the Volunteer Fire Departments provide first response emergency medical services.



Fire suppression services are provided by five volunteer companies located throughout Orange County. The county's Department of Fire & EMS supports these volunteer fire companies with suppression services. Fire services and heavy rescue services for Gordonsville and surrounding areas are handled by the Gordonsville Volunteer Fire Company, Company 24, located on East Baker Street in the town. Companies from Orange and Barboursville support them as needed. Created in 1916 after a major fire destroyed most of the downtown area, the GVFC will celebrate its 100 year anniversary in 2016.

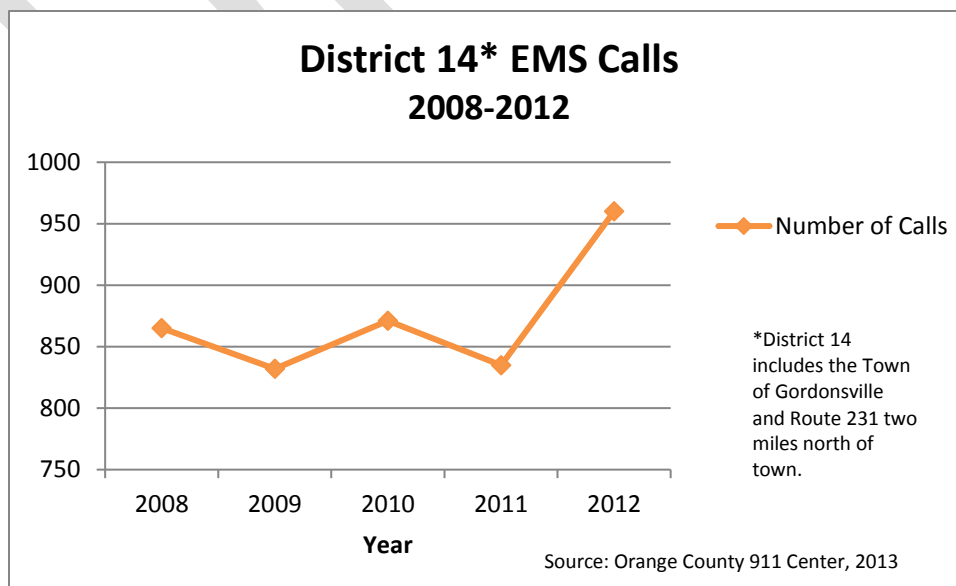


Figure 3. Gordonsville Volunteer Fire Company, 2013 (staff photo).

Fire companies have access to numerous hydrants throughout the Town, the majority of which are connected to high volume lines. An aerial ladder truck is based at the fire station in Orange. All firefighters are certified under Commonwealth of Virginia training standards; in addition, the Commonwealth of Virginia also certifies numerous Gordonsville firefighters as First Responders or Emergency Medical Technicians.

Until 2009, the Orange County Volunteer Rescue Squad actively operated a satellite rescue facility on High Street in the Town of Gordonsville. In March 2011, the Volunteer Rescue Squad reported to Council that Orange County was no longer providing staffing or funding for the Town's station, and that due to a decrease in volunteers and the outdated condition of the facility, it was being closed.

Rescue response for the Town comes from Barboursville, approximately 6 miles to the west of Town. The chart below illustrates the number of EMS calls from the Gordonsville area (EMS District 14) from 2008 to 2012.





Since 2008, the number of calls has increased 11%. This increase in the number of calls is expected to continue, particularly as the Town's population continues to age. Information available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a direct correlation between an aging population and an increase in the number of fire and rescue calls within communities.²

Cemeteries

Maplewood Cemetery

The Town of Gordonsville owns Maplewood Cemetery just west of the Town on U.S. Route 33. This cemetery was established in the mid-1800's. After the Civil War it was the final interment site for the dead from the Gordonsville Receiving Hospital at the Exchange Hotel. The Town has formed a Board of Trustees to oversee the administration and financial concerns of the cemetery. The Board consists of seven members who are nominated by the Town Council and are appointed by the Orange County Circuit Court judge. The trustees serve an indefinite term. The trustees contract out all maintenance.

Woodberry Cemetery

Woodberry Cemetery is an African American landmark where people of color have been buried for over 120 years. The 5-acre cemetery is located at 753 Woodberry Cemetery Drive, outside the corporate limits and east of the Town of Gordonsville. According to Orange County court records, it was formed from land donated in 1900 and designated as a cemetery in September of that year.

The Woodberry Cemetery is governed by a Board of Directors/Trustees. All trustees and support persons are volunteers who serve without compensation and donate their skills and resources throughout the year on projects to promote, maintain and beautify this final resting place.

Educational Services

The Town of Gordonsville does not provide its own educational services but is served by the Orange County Public School system. Gordon-Barbour Elementary School is located within the town limits and contains grades kindergarten through fifth grade. Prospect Heights Middle School, located in Orange, serves grades six through eight, and the Orange County High School, also in Orange, serves grades nine through twelve.

Gordon-Barbour Elementary School



The property on which Gordon-Barbour Elementary School is located today has always been a school site within the town. *The Gordonsville Female Institute was actually the first school built on the same site [as present-day Gordon-Barbour Elementary School]; it was constructed in 1878 and was a*

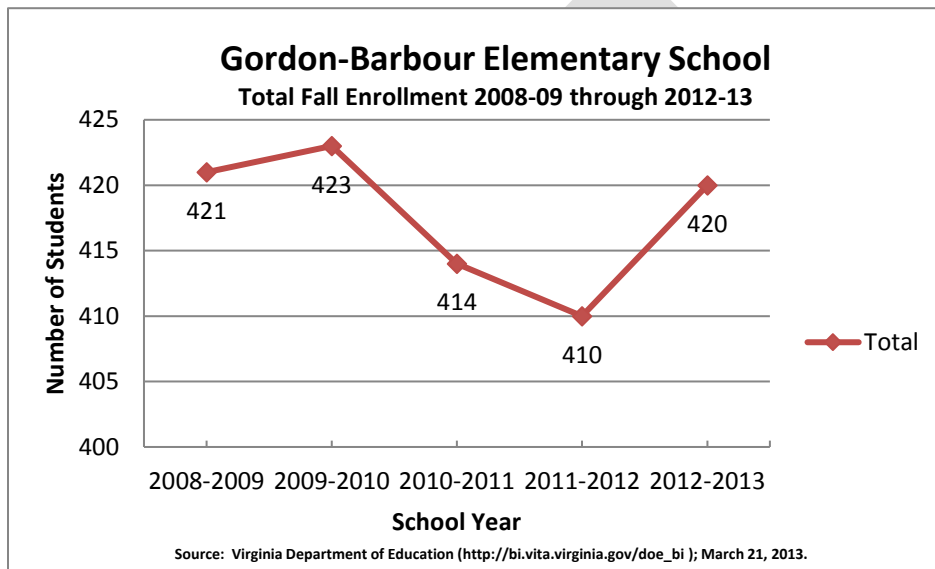
Figure 4. Gordon-Barbour Elementary School, 2013 (staff photo).

² "National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2010 Emergency Department Summary Tables," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010, http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ahcd/nhamcs_emergency/2010_ed_web_tables.pdf.



girls' school. Orange County bought the building in 1910 and converted it into a public school in 1914. Originally known as Gordonsville High School, it housed both secondary and elementary school students. In 1952, the high school students were moved to Orange County High School and Gordonsville Elementary School served students in grades one through seven. In 1965, that structure was razed and the present building was constructed; the elementary schools at Gordonsville and Barboursville were combined to form Gordon-Barbour Elementary School.³

Gordon-Barbour Elementary School has a current enrollment of 420 students. The school is staffed with 32 teachers for a teacher/student ratio of 1:13. In addition, 10 instructional assistants are employed at the school and provide assistance to teachers at the Head Start, primary and elementary levels of instruction. The chart below illustrates enrollment at Gordon-Barbour from 2008-09 through 2012-13.



In general, school enrollment at Gordon-Barbour has remained fairly stable over the last five years. The capacity of the school is currently 444 students. While enrollment for 2012-13 shows the school is still just under capacity, enrollment trends are again on the increase after a slight decline from 2009-10 through 2011-12. A continued increase in the student population will have an impact on the community, whether through the addition of modular classrooms or other capital improvements to the campus to accommodate additional students and programs, or the resulting increase in school traffic on streets and intersections surrounding the school.

Gordon-Barbour is unique in that it is community-based, with many members of the local community volunteering in the school. The school, in conjunction with the county Department of Parks and Recreation, also operates the largest after-school care program in the Town.

Hornet Technology Center

With the increased use of technology in the workplace, the Orange County School System has developed a technology-training center located at the high school. This has been accomplished using support from the school system, state government, and the local business community. The

³ <http://www.ocss-va.info/gbes/default.aspx>, March 21, 2013.



goal of the Hornet Technology Center is to train students in technology who are not planning to attend college.

Post-Secondary Instruction

Gordonsville does not lack accessibility to institutions of higher learning; numerous colleges and universities are located in proximity to the Town. There are eight within a one-hour commute of Gordonsville: the University of Virginia and Piedmont Community College in Charlottesville; James Madison University in Harrisonburg; Germanna Community College, which has campuses in both eastern Orange County (on Route 3 near the Orange County/Culpeper County border) and Fredericksburg; University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg; Mary Baldwin University in Staunton; and the University of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. With the exception of the two community colleges, all of these colleges and universities offer Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees in broad areas of study.

Library Services

The Gordonsville branch of the Orange County library was located for many years in the old town hall building on Main Street. In 2002, the county purchased the former St. Mark's Catholic Church building at the corner of Main and West Baker Streets with the intention of transforming it into a new branch location with expanded services to better serve the Gordonsville community. In May 2010, the transformation was completed and the new Gordonsville library branch was opened to the public. With over 2,500 square feet of space, the new library branch provides a wide variety of reading material and programs for all ages. The former church sanctuary adjacent to Main Street provides community meeting space within the library.



Figure 5. Gordonsville Library, 2013 (staff photo).

Community Meetings and Survey Responses

During the community meetings held in the fall of 2011, public facilities and public safety were discussed and the following issues were identified by meeting participants:

Public Facilities

- Need more sidewalks and wider streets in certain areas of Town
- Renovate the pool
- Develop an independent Town water source
- Provide for stormwater management/improved drainage
- Develop additional public restrooms (comfort stations) in Town, including Verling Park
- Develop a sidewalk maintenance/construction plan

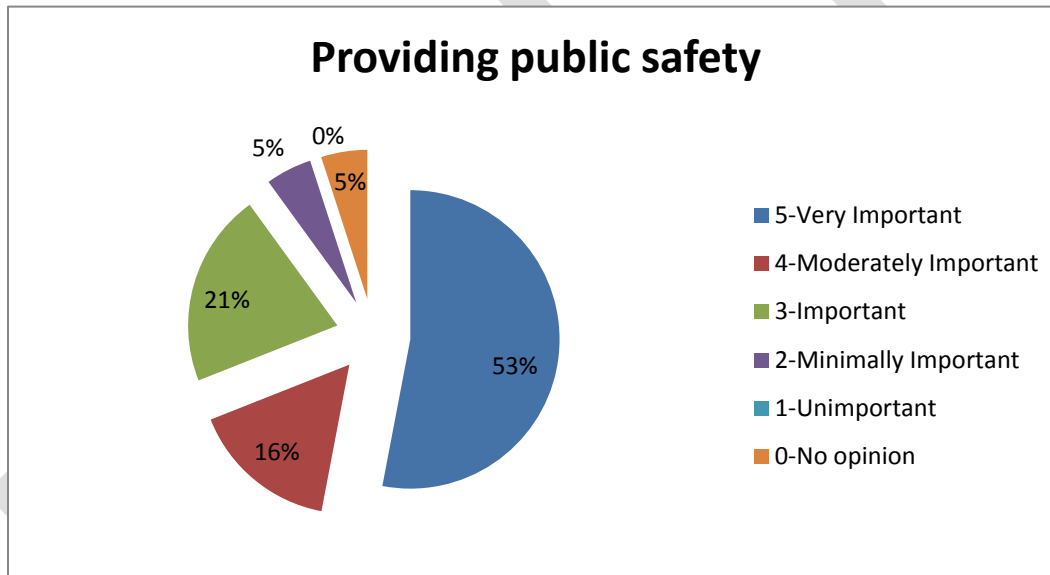
(sidewalks and the pool are addressed in other sections of the plan)



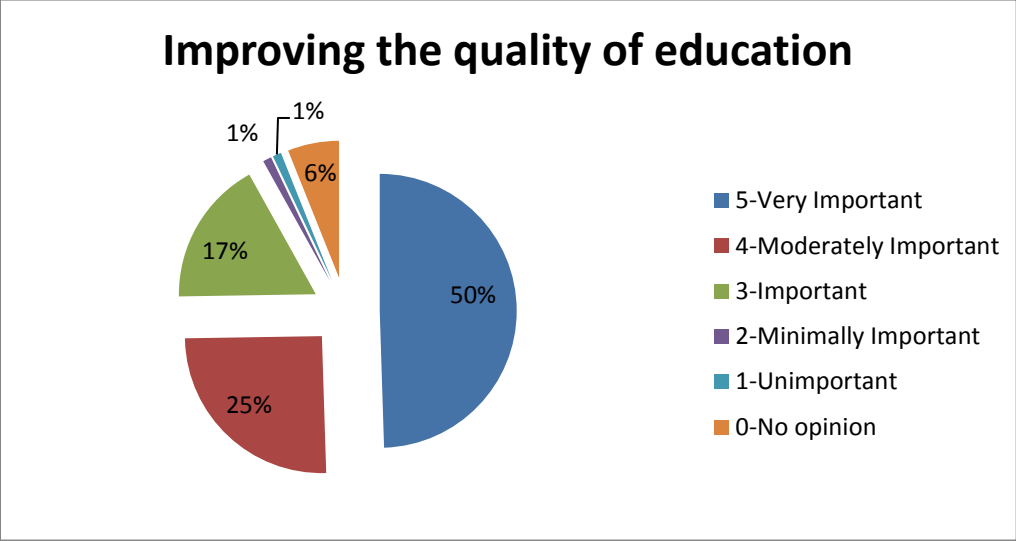
Public Safety

- Bring a rescue squad station back to Town
- Have paid fire/rescue staff in Town (encourage cross-training with the Police Department)
- Update the 911 system to ensure correct addresses for timely, accurate response
- Bring back Police Department bike patrol/community policing
- Create higher wages for police officers
- Put brighter lights on emergency vehicles
- Make public safety a priority

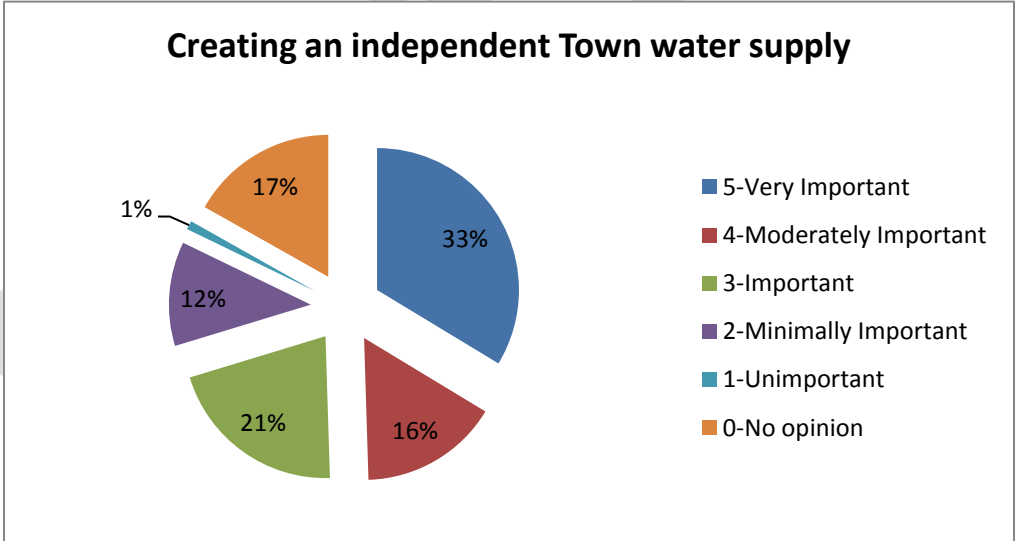
Of the issues identified, developing an independent water source and bringing a rescue squad facility back to the town were mentioned at each of the three community meetings held. In the community survey that was distributed in the fall of 2011, residents were asked to rate the provision of public safety, improving the quality of education in the community, creating an independent town water supply, and providing wireless/broadband service within the town. The following charts illustrate the responses to these different issues:



As shown in the chart above, 90% of survey respondents indicated that the issue of providing public safety is important, moderately important or very important. More than 50% of the respondents indicated the issue is very important. Five percent of respondents indicated the issue of providing public safety is minimally important, while 5% of respondents offered no opinion on the issue.



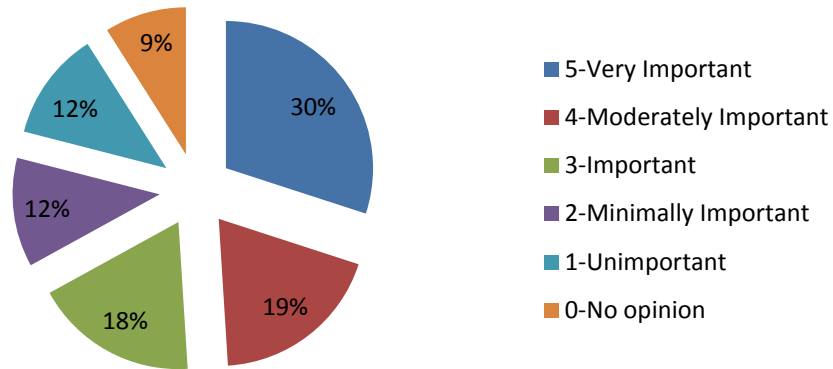
Improving the quality of education is an issue that survey respondents indicated is just as important as providing public safety. Over 90% of respondents indicated that the education of town citizens is very important, moderately important or important. Fifty percent of survey respondents indicated that improving education quality is very important. Two percent of respondents indicated the issue of improving education is minimally important or unimportant.



A majority of respondents to the fall 2011 survey indicated that creating an independent water supply for the town is very important, moderately important or important. One-third of respondents indicated an independent town water supply is very important. Twelve percent of respondents indicated that an independent water source was minimally important—some indicated that the cost of an independent source was an issue. Surprisingly, 17% of survey respondents offered no opinion on the issue of an independent water source for the town.



Providing wireless/broadband service



The technology of today requires efficient access to high-speed internet, and two-thirds of the respondents to the community survey indicated that providing wireless or broadband service to the town is very important, moderately important or important. Interestingly, nearly a quarter of respondents indicated they felt access to wireless or broadband service is minimally important or unimportant for the town. Nearly 10% of respondents offered no opinion on this issue.



Public Services Goal

Through systematic improvement of Town infrastructure, the Town should endeavor to provide an ever expanding and increasing level of services and facilities to the residents of Gordonsville.

Objective A. Explore the development of an alternate municipal water source for the town.	
A1.	<i>As a follow-up to the 2004 water needs study prepared for the town, engage the services of an engineering firm to develop a preliminary engineering study for the use of the quarry as an alternate water source for the town.</i>
Objective B. Provide an efficient and safe water supply system for all water customers.	
B1.	<i>Continue to replace water meters as needed.</i>
B2.	<i>Develop a plan for needed water system improvements.</i>
Objective C. Explore the expansion of wireless or broadband service within the town.	
C1.	<i>Work with Orange County and local internet providers to expand wireless or broadband service in town.</i>
C2.	<i>Encourage local businesses to establish public wireless hot-spots for internet access.</i>
Objective D. Enhance public safety for all town residents.	
D1.	<i>Work with Orange County to locate a rescue squad station within or in proximity to the corporate limits of the town.</i>
D2.	<i>Work with regional healthcare providers to locate an urgent-care facility in Town.</i>
D3.	<i>Enhance community policing efforts through the use of bicycle patrols.</i>
D4.	<i>Work with Orange County to ensure all town streets have clear signage and all homes have visible 911 addresses for improved emergency response.</i>
D5.	<i>Work with the Public Works department to develop a lighting plan for the installation of street lights where needed in all neighborhoods.</i>
Objective E. Continue to provide efficient waste management to the town.	
E1.	<i>Establish a recycling program that is affordable for town citizens.</i>
E2.	<i>Pursue the recycling of wood and brush material for use as mulch in landscaping of public areas throughout the town.</i>