

## September 2019 Public Works Report

### Roads/Equipment

- The Big Arn's/Brian's Road project is about 95% complete as of this writing – The west end of Brian's Road turnaround, a few more ditched areas require straw mat, final grading and packing, and installation of new signage will indicate the end of the project. I believe I can speak for all crew involved in this project when giving tremendous thanks to the Ashland County crew for all they did. Extra commendation to Pete for very long days due to weather, equipment operation, etc., to make the project run as smooth as it could. Thanks to both Brian Nelson and Greg Nelson for assistance with extra-large tree removal.
- Zielies has been trimming the trees and vegetation in Xcel Energy's right-of-way, and likely will continue until AppleFest.
- Ashland County crew is cutting the backslopes and right-of-way with their boom mower along Big Bay and Middle Road at the time of this writing, and it looks great. I intend to eventually have the boom mower attachment for the TV145 tractor repaired, and would like to see similar cutting results on every Town Road.
- The new WesternStar truck (#220) has been put to work on the BAR/BR project and is working out very well.

### Parks

- Thank you to all who participated in the Bill Nelson Memorial Golf scramble fundraiser, which raised \$5,000 for Joni's Beach improvements. Thank you to Sharon and the Chamber for organizing this event.
- What was left of the Lagoon Outlet sandspit at BBTP has all but disappeared into the Lake. Again, concerned citizens should be aware that this situation is being monitored, but there is no practical or financially feasible plan of action at this time.
- BBTP facilities will be shut down for the season early in the third week of October.
- Treaty Days celebrations and events took place 9/29-10/1 but had to be relocated from the Rec Center to Red Cliff due to heavy rainfall.
- The Old County garage, used for Parks equipment and general storage, was completely cleaned out and will be insulated and renovated beginning in early October.

### Misc./Admin.

- I will be investing in Labor during the upcoming budget meetings. It is my goal to encourage proper training and build a crew of diverse and well-rounded skillsets to tackle the much-needed Town Road maintenance and upkeep around the island.
- There were many learning opportunities and knowledge to be gained from Emmer Shields and Matt Erickson of Ashland County Highway Dept., as they were around more than usual due to the road project, and I sponged up all I possibly could.
- Kevin Wiggins joined the Town crew on 9/26 and his equipment operation experience and welding skills are welcomed.
- I anticipate a challenging Fall season due to Lake levels, and the crew will do everything within our means to keep the Island's roads clear, drained properly, and safe.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ben Schram  
Interim Public Works Director