

January 2020 Public Works Report

Roads/Equipment

- Relocation of snow piles has continued through the month. The crew kept up on the necessary plowing and sanding. During the last few weeks there were a few days in the mid to upper 30's that made it possible to scrape off the snowpack and slush on paved roads. The worst icy areas and washboard spots were cleared off to the approval of many motorists, and we will continue this practice when temperatures allow it. As a reminder, the Ashland County Highway Department does NOT have a bare pavement policy for County Trunk Highways. The Town uses a 5% salt/sand mixture which is intended to provide some degree of traction at intersections, curves, and grades. When the Town crew is scraping off County H, it is solely for the residents here, not per County policy.
- The Westernstar plow truck (220) had its cut edges on the front plow and scraper blade replaced with carbide steel cut edges, which should last for years.
- McCoy Construction and Forestry of Ashland will have a technician over soon to do the first full service (250 hours) on the leased 2019 John Deere 444K wheel loader. This machine has been an incredible asset to have at our disposal this season for snow removal.
- The Ice Road approaches on the Bayfield side (base of Washington Ave.) and the Island side (Griggs Approach) were flooded multiple times with the portable flood pumps, however the ice in Bayfield disappeared the last week of January and it is currently open water. Flooding will continue at the Griggs approach to keep the area as thick as possible for Windsled use.

Parks

- An attempt was made to open up and remove snow from the Rec Center ice rink area, but the ground insulated under the snow continues to be far too soft for any equipment. Another attempt will be made when we get some colder temperatures.
- Big Bay Town Park continues to book up for the season, there are currently 489 reservations, slightly lower than this time one year ago.

Misc./Admin

- Evan Erickson Jr. joined the Town crew at the end of January and is a welcome addition to the team. Evan's experience with equipment operation, diesel mechanics and maintenance, truck driving, snow removal, and many other skills will be a tremendous asset as we work on our Town road rehabilitation goals to execute within the next several years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ben Schram
Public Works Director