

March 2020 Public Works Report

Roads/Equipment

- Despite the big snow early in the season, the gradual melt has been great for island culverts, and there has been very minimal need for culvert steaming, with only a few days necessary and very minimal road flooding in comparison to Spring of 2019. The major problem areas, especially on gravel roads, are on the radar and will be addressed.
- It has been a good month for maintenance. Evan and Pete have spent many days going through trucks and equipment, including changing fluids, filters, wiring inspections, misc. upgrades and repairs, deep cleaning, and mending little things that have been overdue for some time.
- The 1998 Ford Louisville dump truck (298) is scheduled for a complete brake repair as soon as parts arrive.
- The 772 grader wing and tower were disassembled for the upcoming gravel road maintenance season.
- The conveyer sander was taken off the 2016 Dodge 2-ton (22) and the truck will be put to work hauling materials as needed during load limit season.
- The crew and I will be out as much as possible cleaning curbs, ditches, sod ruts, and straightening or replacing sign posts throughout the Spring.

Parks

- The holding tank that services both the Town garage and the seasonal RV dump station had new risers and lids installed by the crew, along with piping, paint, and signage upgrades. This project has been on the to-do list for some time.
- Hiring seasonal staff has been delayed, but the grass will still grow, and Spring clean-up still needs to be done, and I hope to hire Parks #1 and #2 by the end of April.
- Both the Rec Center and Joni's Beach playground were officially closed by the LPPD to comply with The WI Dept. of Health Services and Governor Evers Emergency Order.
- With a heavy heart but a practical mind I've decided to keep Big Bay Town Park closed (camping and restrooms) until at least June 1st. All May reservations made online will be refunded. There is a detailed notice posted on the Park website, and signs posted at the Park. The beach access, trails, and pit toilets remain open to the public.

COVID-19

- As I write this, the situation nationally has shown no improvement and is deteriorating daily. I would like to inform and remind the public that myself and the Town crew are doing all we can do to perform our tasks safely. Our number one priority is always the best interest of the island's infrastructure of which we are responsible for. The security and well-being of the Public Works buildings, which are home to Fire and EMS equipment, is something we all take very seriously during this time. Strict rules are in place and everyone is doing all they can when it comes to sanitizing and taking proper precautions.

Be kind, be responsible, be safe,
Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram, Public Works Director