

## April 2020 Public Works Report

### Roads/Equipment

- Schoolhouse Road had a culvert collapse which unfortunately kept the road closed over a weekend until the Norvado fiber running along the west ditch could be located. The crew replaced the failed culvert with plastic pipe as quickly as possible.
- The last snowplow and wing were taken off the 2005 Sterling (102) later in the month as temps increased and the threat of snow finally went away. Despite a few snow days during load limits, no plowing of the paved roads was necessary.
- Ditch clearing, sign straightening, bike lane sweeping, and curb/gutter cleaning will continue as much as possible, and the sod ruts around town are a top priority as soon as wet conditions allow.
- The scraper blade was taken off the new Westernstar (220) in preparation for hauling season.
- The crew and I have made the most of load limit season to work on reshaping and spreading on North Shore Road, hauling from the Town's north end gravel pile. Pete spent some long days in the grader doing spring rehabilitation to reclaim the crown of the road in the worst spots. We will continue to do so as time and material allow and will be working on the South End gravel roads in May.
- To encourage more clean up towards the west of the airport hangers in the material storage area, a three-day effort was launched to finally finish and improve the Industrial Zone, and 'Industrial Drive' was widened in the southernmost section.

### Parks

- Camping is PROHIBITED and Restrooms are CLOSED at Big Bay Town Park until at least June 1<sup>st</sup>. A decision will be reached by May 12<sup>th</sup> concerning future closure or restrictive measures, possibly the remainder of the season.
- There will be no trash or recycling receptacles downtown, nor any of the downtown restrooms opened until at least June 1<sup>st</sup>, possibly longer.
- Dick H. and Ciara W. will be back to work seasonally on the Parks crew in early May as the mowing and infrastructure maintenance is needed despite the health concerns.

### COVID-19

- As I write this, it is clear that conditions downstate are not improving. I would like to reiterate the same information from last month's report - that myself and the Town crew are doing all we can do to perform our tasks safely. Each employee is assigned their own vehicle when performing these tasks. 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 still home to Fire and EMS equipment, is something we all take very seriously during this time. I believe there will be some difficult decisions to be made very soon, and I am working closely with Barb and Lisa on the financial end of things. However, weighing the cost of unnecessary health risks for this small community is not difficult in my eyes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ben Schram, Public Works Director