

December 2020 Public Works Report

Roads/Equipment

- With what felt like an extended fall season into the month, the crew was able to spend extra time servicing, updating where needed, and completing some thorough equipment maintenance. The grader wing was mounted, and brand-new blades installed. The airport's TV145 tractor was fully serviced along with the snowblower, which needed some repairs. All working plows and sanders are ready for action. Pete and Evan are doing excellent work in the shop.
- There were a few plow worthy days in early December, but it looked like it was going to be a brown and gray holiday season. We finally had a worthy blizzard begin on the afternoon of 12/23 that required some long hours by the crew into Christmas Eve to properly clear the roads.

Parks

- Bayfield Lumber and the Bayfield VFW donated a holiday wreath to the Town honoring all veterans, which was put up at the Gazebo.
- Big Bay Town Park nightly camping rates have increased by \$5 and are in effect, bringing the cost of camping to \$33 per night for non-electric and tent sites, and \$40 per night for electric sites. The Park is beginning to fill up for the 2021 season as expected, with 538 camping reservations at year's end.
- The crew will continue to make every effort to create and maintain a skating rink at the Rec Center, with the help of La Pointe FD, as demand is high. It wasn't possible last season, but things are shaping up and temperatures are cooperative, so the crew will make every effort.

MRF

- MRF rates have increased and are in effect. Please refer to other article in this Gazette for detailed information. There has been a mixed response to these changes as anticipated, but I believe the numbers are indisputable and will answer all questions.
- A plan for a new 'Exchange' is in the works, and it has the potential to benefit everybody, which is a rare occurrence.

Misc./Admin.

- With the extended dry weather and solid or near frozen ground, attempts at brush cutting areas surrounding the runway at Major Gilbert Field were taken, and a large area of tag alder that is otherwise impossible to access due to standing water was successfully cleared. Efforts will continue when possible.
- I am very glad that the Town has hired Ray Hakola as our new Facilities Manager. Ray is a great addition to the Public Works team and will be working with the crew and I, as well as staff from other departments to get up to speed on old and new projects and continued upkeep. We all look forward to combining efforts and developing better maintenance schedules for all Town buildings and properties.
- Happy New Year and good riddance 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram
Public Works Director