

## January 2021 Public Works Report

### Roads/Equipment

- We had a few decent plowing days with no major equipment issues, and the current plowing crew has a good system in place.
- There are more people living on the island this winter season, and while statistics indicate this for a variety of reasons, the roads are seeing an increase in average daily traffic. For this reason, we have purchased an additional 8 tons of salt from Ashland County, and the crew mixed 160 yards of salt sand. This is in addition to our usual varied amount. The Town will pay 75% of this cost, the County 25%. As an annual reminder for those who complain about slippery roads – The Ashland County Winter Road Maintenance Policy does not encourage attempts to either ‘bare pavement’ or spread salt sand beyond intersections and curves on County H. With that in mind, and for safety above all else, the Roads crew is making extra efforts this year to sand more than usual, and the grader will scrape slush off pavement when temps allow.
- The last few weeks of this month had the crew, along with Windsled Inc. crew, using the flood pumps to build up the approaches in Bayfield and the Griggs Approach on the island. If the wind and snow are cooperative, ideal conditions for ice could cause MIFL to shut down ferry service sooner than later.

### Parks

- BBTP is filling up on summer weekends as expected, with 742 reservations as of 1/31/21. It is projected to be another busy season, despite Covid-19. The staff and I are planning to keep all safety precautions, cleaning schedules, and PPE regulations in place.
- With a lot of help from the Fire Dept., a skating rink at the Rec Center has been established for the first time in a few years. It’s nice to see it being used!
- C&S Design completed the new Rec Center bathroom plans, and the crew and I will spend a few days continuing to demo the interior and do some additional clean-up. I hope to have bid documents for the complete interior remodel ready in March.

### MRF

- Scrap prices were way up in December 2020 and early January 2021, and the Town and MRF crew crushed and hauled 15 junk vehicles off the island. For the foreseeable future, the MRF will continue to accept your junk vehicle free of charge, so long as you can self-haul to the industrial zone. Inquire at the MRF office for more information, and to fill out a form ceding your junk vehicle to the Town for scrap.
- Projects at the facility have begun, including office remodeling/painting, and installation of new polystyrene ceiling. These are the first steps in a multi-year project to create more efficiency and continue to make the facility safer on all fronts.

### Misc./Admin

- Ray Hakola joined the team as our new Facilities Manager, who will be overseeing building and grounds maintenance. There is a lot to update, and a lot to maintain. Ray brings years of relevant experience and we are very happy to have him.
- The ESB crew continues to do a fantastic job, and I can say with confidence that everybody in a Fire/EMS/Police role (as well as the road crew) is looking forward to completion, which is closer by the day.
- Drive safely and be nice,

Respectfully submitted,  
Ben Schram, Public Works Director