

September 2021 Public Works Report

Roads/Dock

- The final dust abatement and gravel road binding test of the year took place with the Road crew spreading a 1/2 ton of flake magnesium chloride on the MRF road via sand spreader, directly after grading and watering, and it has held up even better than anticipated. The Mag Chloride we would like to purchase next year is very high grade, and its hygroscopic qualities draw moisture which eliminates dust and binds the fines of the gravel mix. The crew also spread 1 ½ tons amongst Chippewa Trail, Old Fort Road, Sunny Slope Road, Voyager Lane, and Big Arn's Road.
- Sidewalk repairs took place on Whitefish Street and Michel Cadotte Road while the Roads crew piggybacked on a concrete delivery for the library's outdoor classroom.
- As I worked through the budget, including the Roads and Parks anticipated Capital Equipment Plan through 2030, the crew and I will be suggesting the auction of some larger items and equipment that we either do not have a need for, have become obsolete, or we do not use for any purpose any longer. I hope to set these items up for auction next spring, stay tuned.
- 4 culvert replacements around the island, as well as some spot ditching along areas of North Shore Road are planned for this fall, weather depending.

Parks

- Nelson Construction crew did a fantastic job with the long awaited and much appreciated Joni's Beach shoreline stabilization project, which essentially saved the memorials from erosion and future Lake Superior wave action.
- After years of work, along with many displeased public bathroom seekers and playground users, I am very happy that the Town has contracted with Angelo Luppino to remodel the Rec Center building. With modern ADA restrooms, a renovated Rec room, and Town crew completing the playground, the Rec Center facility is finally on track to be better than ever by the spring of 2022.
- The solar arrays behind the Clinic and Library were adjusted accordingly after the Autumnal Equinox.
- Big Bay Town Park's steady flow of campers has dropped off, but there was a considerable amount of day trip visitors this month. The lagoon is substantially closed off from the Lake due to the lower Lake levels and lack of rainfall. Overall, the weather has been good and projected Fall shutdown is Monday, October 18th.

Misc./Admin.

- I spent a lot of time working through the MRF, Roads, Parks, Airport and Cemetery budgets this month. Thank you to Barb Nelson's heroic efforts and patience with me. We have a good plan looking forward and I will be lobbying for department specific proposals at the public meetings next month.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram
Public Works Director