

February 2022 Public Works Report

Roads/Equipment

- Full services, fluids, filters, greasing, etc. were done on 102 and 220, the primary snow plowing trucks.
- The Town crew continued to work with the Windsleds Inc. crew regarding flooding both the Griggs and O'Brien approaches. I think many people rejoiced when the O'Brien approach opened on 2/3 and the ice road was in great shape. Unfortunately, wind and currents caused the crack to heave again and the road closed 2/6. The Town's JD120C excavator remained at the Griggs approach to smash down the heave and smooth out the width of the hopeful road. Eventually the crack at Griggs healed enough to allow full opening, and the road continues to be in great shape.
- With the ice road open, Evan and Joe made multiple runs with fuel cells in pick-ups to make sure that the Town's supply of gasoline and diesel was topped off, along with all trucks and equipment.
- The new MRF truck had its starter replaced and is currently waiting on a high-pressure oil pump. This is good timing as it is not hauling season.
- The crew continued to push back snow piles, clear guardrails and intersections, and wing back the banks in preparation for more snow, and thankfully all was done before the week of the President's Day mega-blizzard. We had some long days, but all roads were kept open and passable by 2/23. The only exception was temporarily closing the northernmost section of North Shore Road overnight, as the 5-foot drifts were simply not worth pushing through until the wind subsided. Clean up efforts and preemptive ditch cleaning will continue for weeks as we prepare for a big culvert steaming season.

Parks

- As we neared the end of the blizzard's main clean-up, Big Bay Town Park was plowed out with 220. Pete and I assisted the State Park by plowing and winging Haines Road and Wilderness Road, just in time for a busy, sunny Saturday with a lot of visitors and hikers enjoying both Parks.
- I will be posting all the Parks maintenance jobs by the 2nd Town Board meeting in March. With the return of large-scale events, an upgraded Rec Center bathroom facility, and a full campground once again, we're looking at a busy summer ahead.

Misc./Admin

- The entire crew will be participating in various training in March, including recycling conferences for the MRF crew and MSHA refresher training for the Roads crew. Weather dependent, I hope we can collectively attain OSHA 10 training as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram
Public Works Director