

March 2022 Public Works Report

Roads/Equipment

- Snow clean-up continued throughout the month as temperatures fluctuated. Banks were pushed back with the grader wing, corners and intersections with the loader buckets as needed, and ditches scooped out in preparation for culvert steaming.
- As of this report, the crew has either successfully unclogged or steamed approx. 53 culverts around the island with the new diesel powered Landa power washer purchased in early 2021. This set-up, along with the 900-gallon water carrying capacity on the Town's tilt trailer, has proven to be the most efficient method of culvert maintenance this time of year.
- Michael and I met with Matt Erickson at the Ashland County shop to discuss BIL funding options. We intend to apply for 80/20 funds (80% Federal cost/20% Town cost) to reconstruct by way of mill and overlay or pulverize and overlay three Town paved roads. Those on the list include Mondamin Trail, Hagen Road, and South Shore Road in the next few years. These are applications only, but the best hope for road repair funding I have seen since working for the Town. LRIP and TRID funding through the State will also be pursued in 2023 if necessary, and when the Town's debt service is in better shape.
- Plows were taken off the pick-ups and 2-ton sanding truck but were re-mounted for a day of slush plowing on 3/30. Despite being a wet, heavy, (but temporary) mess, I think most were glad that it wasn't the blizzard conditions predicted originally.

Parks

- Big Bay Town Park is on track for another full season, with 1,368 reservations made to-date.
- The ice road has been both beneficial and sometimes frustrating for progress on the Rec Center remodel, but much progress has been made. We are still on schedule to open the new bathrooms by June.
- All six seasonal Parks positions are posted and open.

Misc./Admin

- The crew completed the annual MSHA refresher class, and we look forward to more work in the County pit this season. We will be installing some used gates and additional safety signage as visitor traffic out there has increased in past summers. I don't want any rogue mopeders gone motocross (or anybody else) to put themselves in harm's way without a warning.
- As I mentioned in the last report, we are ramping up preparations with Roads, Parks, and MRF as this season is expected to be quite busy with the return of events after two years. I hope to improve our non-reflective signage, keep the intersections and bike accommodation lanes cleared of gravel, and get the dock and downtown striping done as soon as the weather allows.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram
Public Works Director