

December 2022 Public Works Report

Roads/Equipment

- Early December consisted of plow truck maintenance, shop clean-up, as well as sanding intersections and the dock as needed.
- 12/14-12/15 brought a wet and nasty snowfall that resulted in multiple downed power lines, fallen trees, and icy roads. The crew did their best getting the dock cleared off, all roads open and scraped off, and all Town buildings accessible. The subsequent cold temps froze everything into a heavy crust, which was not ideal, except for solidifying the gravel roads. Despite this, we still witnessed water running in multiple ditches around the island for days afterward.
- The 2005 Sterling (102) is scheduled to have both reverse cylinders on the front plow replaced next month.
- The JD 444 wheel loader was outfitted with tire chains, which helped expedite plowing side roads and icy areas immensely.

Holiday Weekend Weather

- The blizzard and windy conditions throughout the Xmas holiday weekend kept the crew very busy. I commend and thank them all for the long days and many hours away from families to keep the island road network open. Special thanks to Pete and Evan Jr. for working Christmas morning to clear thick ice from the Town dock, and just in time for an ambulance run no less. We will continue to work on the dock as the temperatures allow. This includes the completely ice encrusted passenger shelter, which I have heard much discussion about. Ultimately sunny skies and warmer temps will decide the outcome, but we will keep monitoring and intervening when it makes the most sense.

Misc./Admin

- All Public Works Departments have NO major capital improvement projects planned for 2023, which is a nice change, especially for the budget. 2022 saw multiple projects completed, some years in the making, and the entire crew exhibited a great team effort in achieving these goals. We are collectively looking forward to working with what we have and improving efficiency in every area that we can.

Happy Holidays,
Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram, Public Works Director