

## November 2023 Public Works Report

### Roads/Equipment

- On 11/2 Michael Haben backhauled 10 yards of salt from the County shop with the MRF Roll-off. Evan hauled 200 yards of sand over to the SRE building to make our annual 5% salt/sand mixture per the County Road Winter Maintenance Policy.
- The gaps along the steel cap on the north side of the dock were sealed with marine grade silicone, and the crew will continue to monitor any waves splashing through.
- On 11/9 two Ashland County Hwy. Dept. crew came over and accomplished some much-needed guardrail repairs, along with a few signpost and sign replacements.
- With warmer temps during the week of 11/13, the wing was taken off the grader and Pete spent multiple days out on the gravel roads, getting everything shaped up before the first real freeze. The crew patched a sandy sinkhole at the corner of North Shore Road/Cty H, and hauled gravel to Capser Road for repairs and grading.
- On 11/15 I attended the County's Town Road Improvement Committee meeting in Highbridge to lobby for the Town's LRIP TRIS (Town Road Improvement Supplemental) application. This application is available every two years, and was put together with groundwork from Pete and myself, assembled by Michael Kutcha, and reviewed by current County Highway Commissioner Matt Erickson and former CHC Emmer Shields. The proposed project focused solely on the rehabilitation of Mondamin Trail from the Penny Lane intersection to the South Shore Road intersection. This included culvert replacement, ditching, and repaving, with a projected cost at just over 1 million dollars. Overall, LaPointe was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of seven, which means our odds of receiving 50/50 State funding are low, but at least La Pointe is in the running. It is now in the hands of someone at the State level to decide. For the foreseeable future, the Roads crew will continue to patch the worst deteriorating areas and remove the insufficient subbase as needed. In addition, we hope to accomplish serious ditching and culvert replacement in the next few years regardless of the awarded outcome.

### Parks

- The Rec Center had an ADA sidewalk connection installed from the parking spots alongside the road, to the bathrooms, and heading up to the pavilion.
- 11/20 was a nice calm day, so the crew hung lights on the gazebo and put up a holiday tree, as this is not a fun task when there are strong winds on the island dock.
- Dead tree removal will continue as needed at BBTP, as there are no snow plowing days in the future as this report is being typed.

### Misc./Admin

- With the annual budget approval meeting scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup>, I would like the written record to show that I asked the Town Board to consider setting aside \$100k for future gravel purchasing. This hasn't been done since 2008, and will likely include barging, trucking, and all associated costs. Gravel will be needed for future paving projects, not just the gravel road network. However, it was not feasible for 2024, and I hope 2025 will be different, as all costs will almost certainly be higher.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ben Schram  
Public Works Director