

Public Works Report

September 2025

September has come and gone ushering the change of the seasons. While the busiest months are behind us, The Public Works Dept. has not slowed down at all. I have spent considerable time updating our local road information into the Wisconsin DOT WISLR system for road conditions and maintenance treatments. WISLR stands for the Wisconsin Information system for Local Roads. Every two years we update our information in the system to help WisDOT improve decision making for local roads and to meet state statute requirements.

Evan Erickson and I have also spent a lot of time preparing the 2026 MRF and Public Works Department budgets for Town Board review. We have made several capital requests for equipment and facilities upgrades this year as some of our equipment is getting quite old and repair parts are becoming harder to find or can't be found at all.

Parks maintenance is constant. Plumbing and electrical issues at the Big Bay Town Park are almost a daily occurrence. Ray has been working very hard to make timely repairs and upgrade facilities in addition to tree removal, trash collection and regular maintenance and repairs to the Big Bay Town Park, Joni's Beach, Library, Town Hall, La Pointe Community Clinic and our shops.

Trevor has been maintaining our green spaces as best he can. He takes care of all the parks mowing, trimming and cleaning during the week. Ray and Trevor also swap weekend days for trash collection and bathroom cleaning, I fill in where and when I can.

Matt has been staying on top of our equipment repairs and maintenance, most notably, our motor grader and excavator and the MRF's Roll-off truck.

Fire number installations are moving along. Steve Wakem has been doing a great job working with myself and our Zoning Administrator on this project.

Our Camp Hosts Julie Hedges, Rand and Fern did an amazing job this season assisting Campers and visitors to the Big Bay Town Park. This has been one of if not the busiest years for the Town Park, we owe them many thanks for their work this year.

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Initial: dg

The Ashland County highway department has done a ton of crack sealing and repainted all the traffic lines on County H. Traffic line painting is done every two years. Town roads also had line painting done while the striping truck and crew were on the island. The crew was here for 1 day, so they made sure to get all the yellow center lines done but could not get all the white shoulder lines done due to time constraints.

Xcel Energy's underwater power line project is underway. There will be several phases of this project so expect lots of utility work and trucking along White Fish Street and Sunny Slope.

Roads

- Graded sections of North Shore 3 times
- Graded Benjamin Boulevard 1 time
- Graded School House Road 1 Time
- Graded Equasayway 1 time
- Graded Raymond 1 time
- Reshaped shoulders and cleaned out .95 miles of North Shore Road ditches
- Cleaned up 5 downed trees on North Shore Road
- Cleaned up 2 downed trees on South Shore Road
- Mowed the shoulders on North Shore Rd, School Hs Rd, Chippewa Trl, Krohn Dahlin Rd, South Shore Rd, Big Arn's/Brians Rd, Mondamin Trl, Penny Ln, Equasayway, Old Fort, Raymond Road White Fish and Sunny Slope for the second time this year.
- Hauled our last 300 yards of gravel from Nelsons pit to the Town stockpiles

Equipment

- Tri-axle trailer brakes repaired
- 04 Chevy 3500 door handle replacement, rear brake replacement, rear wheel hub bearing replacement
- 772 grader Hydraulic Front Wheel Drive diagnose and repair
- Replaced rear drive tire on Roll-Off truck
- Repair drive belt and mower deck belt on Ferris riding lawn mower

Airport

- Diagnosis and repair battery charging issue in TV 145 tractor
- Tv 145 Mower maintenance
- Mowing and stump removal along runway

County H

- Swept intersections and corners in preparation for traffic line painting
- Cleaned up 2 trees in the right-of-way

Facilities

- Culligan Water installed a commercial grade water filtration system at Town Hall
- Replaced water filters at the Emergency Services Building
- Tree trimming in front of Town Hall
- Repaired crawl space window coverings at the library
- Insulated the sump-pump drain line at the library
- Repairs to plumbing at the Rec center, Big Bay Town Park, Joni's Beach
- Replaced several electrical outlets and breakers at the Town Park

Parks

- Mowing/weed whipping all parks once a week
- Daily trash collection
- Cleaning and restocking bathrooms every other day
- Repaired fence lines at the Rec Center and Town Park
- Tree removal at Town Park

Respectfully submitted by,

Pete Wiggins

Public Works Director