

March 2026

Public Works Report

Spring is supposed to begin this month, but it sure doesn't seem that way. We have had several snow events this month that brought us nearly 3 feet of snow. The biggest storm this month was on the 13th through the 15th totaling approximately 20 inches. The warm temperatures leading up to this storm made plowing the gravel roads especially difficult, but we were able to stay on top of it and keep the roads and lots cleared.

March is also when we start to see significant snow melt, leading to culverts backing up which can cause flooding. The crew monitors County H and Town roads regularly to prevent flooding and road washouts by using equipment to clear ditches of snow and steaming open frozen culverts. We were lucky to have a relatively slow thaw this year allowing most culverts to open on their own, but we still had to steam around 15 culverts.

The LaPointe School remodel project is under way, and the school has temporarily relocated to the Rec Center building. They will be occupying this space for the rest of this school year. The public bathrooms connected to the rec center will NOT be open to the public until the school year is over. The White Fish Street bathrooms and Joni's Beach bathrooms will be open. Another thing that will be impacted by this project will be parking at municipal parking lot adjacent to the school. There are approximately 10 parking spaces on the south side of the school that will be reserved for contractors and material storage while this project is underway.

The Town of La Pointe and Ashland County posted weight restrictions for Town and County roads on March 5th. The maximum load is 4 tons per axle. These restrictions will be in place until further notice. Special hauling permits for Town roads are available at Town Hall and permits for County H are available through the Ashland County Highway Department website.

Town Roads

- Plowed 5 times.
- Scraped slush in spots 3 times.

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Initial: dg

- Sanded as needed.
- Steamed 12 culverts
- Cleared snow from ditches with the grader and 410 backhoe several times.
- Cleaned up several downed trees.
- Began installing fire number signs again.
- Inspected several culverts to establish a replacement plan for the coming season.
- Trimmed back trees on North Shore Rd, and Mondamin Trail.

County H

- Plowed 5 times.
- Sanded corners and intersections as needed.
- Scraped slush 4 times.
- Cleared snow from ditches with the grader and 410 backhoe several times.
- Removed several downed trees near Big Bay Town Park due to beavers dropping trees in the Road.
- Cleared out a beaver dam inside a cross culvert near Big Bay Town Park.

Equipment

- Repaired and re-engineered the frame on our homemade plow for the loader.
- Replaced a hydraulic cylinder in the grader that was leaking. This part was under warranty.
- Performed annual DOT inspections on 2020 Western Star Dump truck, 2001 1-ton Dump Truck and the 1998 ¾ ton GMC pickup truck.
- Performed annual maintenance on the John Deere 120 excavator.
- Replaced plow lights on the MRF pickup truck. These were 30 years old, and a candle would have been brighter...
- Took the snow blower off the tractor and mounted the broom. Street sweeping season is right around the corner.

Respectfully submitted by,

Pete Wiggins, Public Works Director.