

January 2026

Public Works Report

Ice Road, Ice Road, Ice Road!!! The beginning of the month wasn't looking good for us, but the extremely cold temps made it happen. A big thanks to Nelson construction for plowing and maintaining the Ice Road. The Town Crew assisted with flooding both the Bayfield and Island approaches for the very short initial Windsled season, and helped Evan Erickson senior, who graciously volunteered his time and equipment, to put up the row of trees between the Island and Bayfield.

It seems like we get a half inch or more of lake effect snow almost every night, so the Town Crew has plowed 11 times this month. We also had a few very warm days where we had to do some heavy slush removal on the County Road and blacktop Town roads. Matt Herriott and Evan JR. have gotten a few hours under their belt running the new grader doing snow removal this year on the roads and airport. I have been the sole grader operator for the past several years, and it is time for the other crew members to get some experience behind the controls.

The last few days the Ferry's were running we helped move Ice at the Town Dock several times. The Town Crew also removed the wood ramp on the south side of the dock so the Island Queen could reach the dock and lowered a steel ramp in Bayfield so the La Pointe could dock for the season.

Roads

- Plowed 11 times.
- Scraped slush and snowpack 4 times.
- Winged back shoulders 4 times with the grader.
- Knocked down the ice ridges at the Griggs and O'Briens approaches with the Towns excavator.
- Cleaned up several downed trees in the right of way.
- Sanding both the County and Town roads as needed.

Dock/MIFL

- Removed wooden ramp on the Island dock and brought it to the MIFL storage yard on Middle Road.
- Lowered a steel ramp in Bayfield for the La Pointe.
- Removed snow piles at the Bayfield harbor and the shop in Bayfield.
- We keep the Island side storage area on Middle Road plowed as well.

Equipment

- Annual maintenance of both EMS ambulances.
- Replaced rear window in our backhoe.
- Diagnosed and repaired blower motor in the Towns skid-steer.
- Replaced worn out tires on the Towns skid-steer.
- Repaired the throttle pedal on the old roll-off truck. This truck is no longer in service but still needs to be able to move. We plan to auction this truck in the spring.
- Repaired heated wipers on our 2004 Chevy 2500.
- Repaired the sander on our 2019 Western Star dump truck.
- Installed heated wipers on the Grader.
- Replaced plow wings on a 9' 2" boss plow.
- Regular greasing and inspections of all our snow removal equipment.

Parks

- We kept the parks and Town Trail heads plowed.
- Sanded the Parks parking lots as needed.
- Flooded the Ice rink 3 times.
- Periodic checks on the public bathrooms and office at BBTP.
- Cleaned up dead trees at BBTP.

Facilities

- Total Energy Solutions performed maintenance and repairs to 3 of our backup generators.
- Superior Plumbing replaced failing parts on the Town shops overhead heater.
- Ray made repairs to the furnace at the La Point Community Clinic. This unit is very old and will need to be replaced next year.
- Assembled the new Smith Machine workout equipment at the ESB. We will be auctioning off the old equipment in the spring.

Airport

- Plowed 9 times.
- Moved snow piles between hangers 5 times.
- Snow-blow around runway lights twice.
- Snow-blow piles along taxiway and ends of the runway twice.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Pete Wiggins, Public Works Director