

# February 2026

## Public Works Report

February has been a pretty mild month for snow fall and temperatures this year. We had several small snow events that were easily managed by the crew and one major snow event over a 2-day period which brought well over 12 inches of wet heavy snow. The crew put in some very long hours between plowing and snow removal on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The gravel roads were especially challenging due to warmer temperatures exposing and thawing the top layer gravel which means only the grader and loader can plow these roads and usually takes 4 very slow passes to get it as clean as possible while minimizing damage to the gravel.

We have used 90% of our 170 yards of salt sand mix. We have plenty of untreated sand that we can still use. We will be making 200 hundred or more yards of salt sand for next year.

With the warmer temperatures the crew had several days of scraping slush and cleaning out storm drains and sluice ways downtown, pushing back piles on intersections, winging back snowbanks and moving large snow piles at parking lots and cleaning off what we can from the sidewalks on main street.

We assembled our culvert steaming equipment in preparation for the coming thaw but have not had to steam any culverts yet. We typically patrol County H and Town roads a couple times a week to monitor flooding, and I encourage the public to report any backed up culverts we may have missed to my office line, 715-747-6855.

Trevor Krueger has completed the first step of his CDL training and has obtained his temporary CDL permit which allows him to drive a commercial vehicle with a valid CDL holder.

The Town Board approved funding to purchase a new Roll-off truck for the MRF in the 2026 budget and we have found a truck that will work for us in our price range. Evan and Matt traveled to Rice Minnesota and the 26<sup>th</sup> to look at several trucks and decided on a 2020 Western Star 4700. If the numbers work, we will hopefully purchase this truck in the next couple months.

The Ice Road has taken a beating, and I don't foresee it lasting much longer, so be prepared for lengthy wind Sled season.

## **Roads**

- Plowed/Scraped slush 5 times.
- Wing back snowbanks in the grader.
- Cleaned up several downed trees.
- Opened culverts ends at usual problem areas with the 410 backhoe.
- Sanding corners, intersections and sometimes entire roads as conditions require.
- Trimmed overgrown trees on Voyageur, Herring Street, Mondamin Trail and North Shore Rd.
- Cleared snow from sluice way on the lake side of Brummer Co. on main street.
- Several storm water inlets were opened on rice street and main street.

## **County H**

- Plowed/ Scraped slush 5 times.
- Cleaned up 2 downed trees.
- Sand corners and intersections as needed.

## **Ice Road / Approaches**

- Moved ice piles at Griggs approach with the Excavator 1 time.
- We sand Griggs approach almost daily.

## **Equipment**

- Installed heated front wiper on the grader.
- Replaced the damaged sand spreader on our 2020 Western Star dump truck.
- Installed auxiliary back up lights on 2 pickup trucks.
- Chainsaw maintenance and repair.
- Repaired the snow blower attachment for the TV-145 airport tractor. New bearings bushings and on sprocket for one of the augers.
- New mirrors installed on the 2016 Ram 5500.

## **Airport**

- Plowed 5 times.
- Moved giant snow piles 2 times with the loader.

## **Facilities**

- Monitoring the heat and utility room at the Big Bay Town Park office at least twice a week.
- Repaired the furnace at the Clinic.

- Motoring heat and air exchangers at the Emergency Services Building a couple times a week.
- Replaced several outlets in the Town Shop.
- Deep clean the town shop and Snow Removal Equipment Building.

**Parks**

- Dropped and cleaned up several dead or dying trees at the Big Bay Town Park.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Pete Wiggins, Public Works Director.