

February 2023 Public Works Report

Roads/Slush/Ice/Snow

- Early in the month, the Town crew continued to work with Windsleds Inc. crew preparing the windsled and ice road approaches with flood pumps. The Town crew put up the tree line on Monday, Feb. 6th.
- The Roads crew plowed and pushed a lot of slush with the warmer temps on and around 2/8. The roads and ditches were messy once again.
- 2/14-2/16 saw an even worse peak in temperature, and after a day and a half of rain, the crew spent two days clearing ditches, unclogging slush and snow bound culverts, and steaming frozen culverts as needed. Sections of the island road network that are common problem areas became hazardous frozen slush. The crew continued to combat these areas with salt sand and scraping.
- 2/22-2/23 brought some decent snowfall, and then high winds which blew apart the ice in the channel. The crew moved some of the tree line so as not to confuse any travelers, especially in the dark with a patch of open water. Posted on the Bayfield side, the “ice unsafe” sign means just that.
- 2/27-2/28 brought even more significant snowfall, but it was light and fluffy. We will be pushing, winging, or snow blowing it back as much as time allows until temps continue to rise for the spring season.
- I am glad we budgeted extra funds in 2023 for fuel use. The constant fluctuation in temperature this entire winter season has left us no choice but to clear the roads, parking lots, airport, and ditches more than usual, which requires considerable equipment drive time. However, with the ferry boats operating we don't have to think about shuttling fuel in a truck bed fuel cell over the ice road.

Parks

- The busy season is only two months away, and I will be posting all of the seasonal Parks jobs at the March 14th Town Board meeting. There will be five job openings. Each position is a great opportunity to enjoy the Parks system on the island while working in the outdoors and making money.

MRF

- The MRF is looking for an experienced over the road driver to take on the responsibilities of hauling trash and marketable recyclables off the island. You can view the job posting on the Town's website.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ben Schram, Public Works Director