

March 2023 Public Works Report

Roads

- The theme of this month's report will become evident quickly – suffice to say it has been a messy month for road maintenance.
- March began with a blizzard on the 1st. The crew cleaned up everything the best that we could in the early hours, so that the larger plow trucks could move snow off the gravel.
- 3/10 brought another big fluffy snowfall over wet, soft gravel, followed by more snow that turned wet and heavy on 3/11-3/12. The snowpack on warm asphalt and soft gravel is a challenge to clear, especially when attempting to 'float' the larger snowplows without shoes, to avoid damage to the gravel roads. The tire chains that were previously taken off the 772 grader and 444 loader due to the clear pavement, were put back on to get the needed traction once again. The 444 loader with plow attachment was the only practical way to clear the south end gravel roads, while Pete spent many long days in the 772 grader clearing the north end gravel roads.
- In preparation for what was forecasted to be another large storm system, which included more rain, the crew pushed back intersections, cleared ditches, and moved piles as much as possible, especially in the worst known problem areas. This included steaming 12 culverts.
- 3/16, 3/17, and 3/18 didn't bring as much expected rain, but there was plenty of wet, sticky snow once again. Pete, Evan Jr., and Ray put in long hours to keep the Town buildings accessible, and the roadways and airport clear, and I commend them all.
- The end of March had dry paved roads, but the gravel roads needed some warm, sunny days to really clear off. The crew will continue to keep pushing back the snow piles in ditches and beyond, in preparation for the big melt and mud season ahead of us.

Parks

- I have received some applications for the upcoming season, and the Parks crew is shaping up to be a good team once again.
- With less snow ahead, hopefully, Ray and I plan to use the pre-spring time to overhaul some of the older plumbing at Joni's Beach bathroom next month, as well as some needed shower repairs at Big Bay.

Misc./Admin.

- On 3/29, Evan and I took down the tree line placed across the north channel, as we watched the MV Island Queen and Coast Guard cutter Spar power through the ice chunks nearby.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram
Public Works Director