

May 2023 Public Works Report

Roads

- After a rough spring with little or no transition, the gravel roads were in poor shape. It wasn't a gradual shift to warmer temps, and we must have patience to properly do our best to maintain and preserve the gravel road network. The first week of May saw Pete out in the grader with the new scarifying bits. These bits are essentially teeth that help cut out the potholes and spread the binder around the existing gravel. I'm sure gravel road residents were very happy after this was done.
- The second week of May saw multiple road repairs and spot grading take place as load limit restrictions were lifted, and many residents returned for the season.
- On 5/10 the crew replaced another failing culvert on North Shore Road, just south of Stockton Rd.
- 5/17 and 5/18 saw the entire crew working on downtown curb and sidewalk clean-up.
- The 2008 Ford pick-up continues to have fuel issues, and the 1989 2WD Chevy Parks pick-up continues to have transmission issues. I will be asking the Town Board for a replacement Roads Dept. pick-up sooner than later. Time to upgrade the 34-year-old Parks truck.
- Related to the above note, the Town will be putting together a large collection of vehicles and other misc. equipment for the Wisconsin Surplus Auction site once again, likely in July – stay tuned.

Parks

- The Rec Center was officially opened for the year on 5/2. It was satisfying to finally have the building fully operational, and there are many rentals scheduled for the season.
- The week of 5/8 was a big week of opening the downtown Parks, purging water systems, and cleaning public restrooms. The urinal at Joni's Beach was replaced, and new sink faucets installed.
- Big Bay Town Park was fully opened for the season on 5/19. In one month, the 'Town of Big Bay' returns for what is shaping up to be another great year.
- The Marathon organizers did a great job taking care of Joni's Beach and the facilities, and it appears that the Marathon was a success once again.

Misc.

- Zielies Tree Service will be working on the side of many island roads clearing tree limbs for Xcel Energy's overhead lines, please watch for their trucks and workers, and slow down.
- It's almost busy summer once again, drive safe out there.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram
Public Works Director