

October 2023 Public Works Report

Roads/Equipment

- With weather in our favor, the first week of the month saw some substantial road improvement work accomplished. The crew replaced three culverts on North Shore Road, and one culvert on Benjamin Blvd. In addition, just south of the Benjamin Blvd. culvert, the crew ditched down the slope to Cty H. and around the corner heading west towards the next cross culvert. This was a large washout area last April, and we hope these efforts will mitigate any potential spring washouts well into the future.
- One culvert on Chippewa Trail was replaced on 10/18.
- The Town's seven building generators were serviced by Total Energy Systems, with some additional repairs to be made next month. Ray built some great covers for the Town Hall and Clinic generators – also the new Town Hall mini-split. Snow and ice slid off the Clinic roof last spring, kinking the propane line serving the generator.
- Winter preparations continued at the shop, including putting away attachments for the year such as the disc cutter and loader broom, and servicing snow removal equipment. Evan overhauled the 2-ton sander with new hoses and fittings, new gear oil, and a new conveyer.
- The original boiler in the SRE building failed internally, which operates the in-floor heat system, and is scheduled to be replaced next month.
- The wing was mounted on the grader, and the Westernstar (220) was outfitted for the season with plow, wing, and sander.
- The first official plow day was the morning of Halloween, as the crew was out on the paved roads and parking lots to clean up slush.

Parks

- Big Bay Town Park was drained down and blown out on October 23rd. Camping and pit toilets continue to remain available year-round. 2024 camping reservations are being consistently booked for peak weekends.
- The downtown public bathrooms and remaining porta potties were closed for the season following a rainy Fall Fest weekend. I hope to keep the Rec Center bathrooms open well into November, temperature dependent, or until significant snowfall impedes parking options.
- The Town's solar arrays were adjusted to winter season position.

Misc./Admin.

- Thanks very much to Michael K. for taking the time this month to put together the State's LRIP (Local Roads Improvement Program) application for rehabilitation of Mondamin Trail. Hopefully we will hear some good news.
- I hope that the Halloween snow was a good reminder to get ready for winter season driving, prep your vehicle, and slow down when appropriate. Drive safe out there,

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Schram,
Public Works Director