

Foreman Report  
August 2015

Roads

- General maintenance and grading of all gravel roads was continued throughout August.
- We began clearing all brush for visibility around blind corners, intersections, signs, and impeding branched in the ROW. This will continue into September and greatly increase the safety of our roads.

Parks

- Karen's last day at BBTP was August 13<sup>th</sup>, she did an outstanding job for the town this year as camp host. She has returned to college to complete her education.
- The invasive species interns finished their season on August 26<sup>th</sup>. They were a great team and worked extremely hard and efficiently all summer. This work would not happen without the dedicated volunteers from the MIWP seeking out grant money each year to fund it. I have had countless people tell me how grateful they are for the control work on their property all summer. This is a program that needs to continue in order to have a lasting effect, I hope the Town and MIWP continue to support it.
- Jake W. worked in the parks dept. for July and August his last day was August 26.
- Kemptner P. foot has healed and he is back to work for the parks department. He will work through Applefest.
- The ball field at the Rec Center was prepped for Star Bar weekend, by removing all of the weeds in the infield, cutting all the grass, setting the bases, and painting the lines. I hope to purchase more Agra-lime for the infield in the coming year or two.

Equipment

- The one ton has been outfitted with a new 9' Boss V-plow. This is a much needed improvement to our slow plowing fleet as we move to update the 1990 and 1996 pickups we currently rely on. We also found a nice used self-contained sander for the bed of the truck for \$1500. This truck will be our main plow/patrol truck for in town parking lots and dead ends. These upgrades to this truck will also allow us to buy some time as we look for a new two-ton patrol truck in the coming year.
- We are working on fixing our boom mower that serves as the primary brush cutter on our roadways, cutting the back slopes on the ditches and any impeding tag alders. Ashland county loaned us their very expensive hydraulic flow meter to help us problem solve what is wrong with it, and that has been very helpful. We hope to have it fixed in early September.
- A used two-post shop lift was purchased for \$1000 and installed in the shop. This has been a GREAT improvement to the shop! We will be able to lift all of our pickups and town cars for quick and easy service or maintenance now.
- The 10 yard sander that is used on truck 54 has been completely rebuilt on the bottom structural frame. This sander was bought new by the county in 1998 and purchased by us in 2012. It was completely rusted out on the bottom and had a good chance of catastrophic

failure at any time. A new conveyor chain has been purchased and will be installed in September. My guess is that these improvements will give us an added 8 years of life for this sander. The total cost of these much needed improvements was around \$1800 including man hours. The approximate cost for a new sander is \$35,000.

Admin/Misc.

- New LED flood lights were installed at the Airport and at Griggs approach. These LED lights replace the old yellowish color high pressure sodium fixtures and will cut the operating cost in half. In September/October all of the lights on the town dock and parking lots will also be upgraded with new LED lights.
- I laid out a 40 year Capital Equipment Plan that will give the town a better understanding of when our trucks and equipment should be replaced and how much to budget for. In most cases I doubled the states recommended replacement time, due to miles used and budget constraints.
- I have started my 2016 budget and plan for the Roads, Parks, and Rec Center.
- I attended a training class in Hayward on August 18<sup>th</sup> to learn more about the WISLR computer program. This program is set up by the state to help municipalities manage their local roads with the PASER grading scale. This in essence can help map out and budget for minor to major road repairs such as; crack sealing, overlays, chip sealing, and complete reconstruction. You will be pleased to know that our roads have been maintained superbly, past and present.
- Upcoming projects include and are not limited to: Town hall generator install, sidewalk repair on Big Bay Rd., Culvert replacement on South Shore, Handrail on the stairs and bridge at BBTP, Dead tree removal at BBTP, fill by Marina Bridge, LED lights at Dock and Parking lots, and more Ojibwe signs installed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristian Larsen  
LaPointe Town Foreman