

February 2014
Foreman Report

Roads

It just keeps snowing in northern Wisconsin. The crew has been plowing, blowing, and shoveling snow for the last two months. All roads have been winged with the grader. The snow banks that were creeping in on Main Street have been removed to bring back the full width of the road again. The parking lots have been reclaimed minus the spots where cars/trucks have come to live. All in all we are ready for the next big storm or the spring thaw which ever comes first.

Temporary street signs saying "Ice Road→" have been installed on Big Bay Rd. and on the curve on Whitefish/Sunny Slope to help visitors navigate back to the ice road.

It was brought to my attention that there is a need for a light at the top of Griggs Approach and possibly in the parking lot as well. I contacted Xcel energy about putting a street light on the existing pole on Sunny Slope Rd. with the request to be able to turn it off in the summer months, to respect the privacy of the neighbors. This was not an option with Xcel energy. All of their street lights are dusk to dawn 365 days a year. They will however bring power where ever we want and the Town can put up its own lights, this would ultimately require Town Board approval.

Parks and Rec.

The lights at the ice rink have been put up and the ice is in great shape. We will continue to put water on at least once a week as weather permits.

All contractors at BBTP have all been notified to take advantage of the ice road and finish their work. The plumbers and electricians are waiting on warmer temps and have assured me BBTP is a priority. Arnie Mackey has sent a mason over to remove the stains on the floors in the shower facility.

All of the picnic tables have been constructed and moved to BBTP by the crew. I'm sure the punch list for BBTP will continue to grow as summer approaches, but something that has not been addressed is the need for a painted crosswalk and lights crossing Big Bay Rd. This seems like a huge liability with pedestrians on each side of the road, crossing at all hours of the day and night. Also, during the summer months the town may consider the option of reducing the speed limit by the park to 25mph on Big Bay Rd. I'll leave it up to the Town Board to address this concern.

Trucks and Equipment

The orange '90 pick up truck was not operating for a few weeks due to a bad distributor, and has now been fixed. Evan informed me that the truck was new when he started with the town and says it has to stay running until he retires. We'll try and keep that truck running as long as possible.

The new pick up sander that was ordered in October is ready and will be delivered on 2/11/14. The old one will be parted out and scrapped.

A new cutting edge was installed on the belly board of the '91 plow truck. The TV 145 blower received some metal fabrication and a new cutting edge as well.

The old blue windsled van was removed from our insurance policy. Last year this van was used by the invasive species inter. The chemicals and gas they use should never

be transported in the same area as people. The solution is for them to use a pick up truck, which they will this year. As for the van, my recommendation is to put it up for auction.

Buildings

The WTB, EMS, Shop, and SRE buildings have all been turned down to 50 degrees in an effort to conserve on propane usage. If the town board agrees we can purchase and install programmable thermostats in all town buildings to help with future conservation.

Administrative

Advertising for the Mechanic position has begun and will continue until filled. Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve (MIWP) has secured a grant from the WI-DNR for 2014 at the amount of \$13,000. This money is specifically for control work on private lands. MIWP will also contribute an additional \$10,000- \$15,000 for this summers work on controlling our invasive species. We will be advertising for two inters to perform the work of removing our invasive species, primarily barberry and buckthorn.

Last years BBTP campground host(s) will not be returning. This position will be advertised for in the near future.

I have been communicating with Pete Clark about this summers goals and future projects which have included:

1. Crosswalks down town (Maintain and add where necessary)
2. New Winter Transportation Building by Griggs Approach
3. Lights/crosswalk at BBTP
4. Rice Street Extension
5. Sidewalk continuing from existing sidewalk on Main St. that dead ends by the Water Front Gallery, wrapping around the 90 degree turn on Big Bay Rd., traveling Northeast to the school/library sidewalk.
6. Joni's Beach. I would like to see new everything. This beach/park should be a focal point in our community as it is the only public beach down town and many, many people use it.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristian Larsen
Town Foreman
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