

March Road and Property Report

Our big news this month is the completion of our new pickup. The truck bed we built in house turned out incredibly well. We put a lot of thought into the configuration, and Travis demonstrated his artistic talents and skills with steel. We utilized heavy materials and had it powder coated at Fast Lane in Ashland, so it should last for many years.

I believe we are at the conclusion of our Loader saga. On February 15th, Titan Machinery sent down their most senior mechanic along with the technician who had been here before. They disassembled most of the electrical control/computer system, tested it, and then put it back together. They did find a loose connection and a questionable power module relay. We haven't had a glitch since, so I'm hopeful that it is finally repaired.

We were able to get the tree removal for the new Ole Lake Road intersection done during the last week of February. I hope to remove the stumps and do the construction on that segment of road in May or early June.

The West Cable Lake road construction scheduled for this summer is going to require us to rent an excavator. The large rocks on this road are a challenge we haven't had to deal with on this scale before. I have started making contacts with Caterpillar and John Deere for pricing and availability. I have also started contacting the land owners along this road to inform them of our intentions.

Road Weight Limit Restrictions were implemented by Bayfield County and the Town of Cable on February 20th. This is extremely early, but was necessary due to the warm weather we had at that time. Although we have had many cold nights since, the frost that we lost during that warm spell has not been replaced. Unless the weather pattern warms up again, it is going to be the longest spring break up period I've ever experienced.

Travis, Jason, and I attended a DOT sponsored training hosted by the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department last week. We were trained on how to respond to road emergencies, how to set up temporary and longer term traffic safety zones for

accidents, and how to work with emergency services and law enforcement at these incidents. It is becoming more common to utilize highway trucks and equipment to protect emergency personnel while on an accident scene.

I have met with a couple of insurance agents to go over the Town's property and building, as well as highway and fire department equipment policies during the past month. We discovered a few areas where we were lacking coverage, and some properties that were over insured. Municipal insurance agencies have different methods of approach to these policies so it is difficult to compare them to each other.

Bayfield County Zoning is assessing the non-metallic mining permits (gravel pits) in the county, so I spent some time trying to define our boundaries and needs with their personnel this month. A couple of trips to Washburn and a bit of time with their new CAD software, and we figured it out. We also had to file a storm water permit with the DNR for the first time this year. We have had a reclamation plan on file with both agencies for many years.

We have been working on a few maintenance needs at the Community Center and the Community Services Building (Fire hall) as time allows. We recently discovered some rot in the fascia boards at the fire hall, so we will be contacting local contractors to do proper repairs there. We have also been discussing what to do with the old village garage and old fire hall recently. Some of our older infrastructure is getting quite fragile.

Please plan to attend our Open House at our new Highway Department Garage on April 22nd from 10am to 2pm. We are combining this event with our Annual Town Picnic. We show our appreciation for everyone who helps pick up garbage and debris along our roadways as well as all of the other volunteer efforts in our community during this event.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Lang – Road and Property Foreman