

2020 Annual Meeting Road and Property Report

The past year has been a busy one and one with many changes. The biggest change came with the resignation of the road foreman, Bob Lang, followed by me being hired for the Foreman position. I'll admit, I don't have the knowledge and experience that Bob had, but I am learning every day. Also, with Bob's resignation was the change in manning for the Road Dept, going from 3 full time employees to just 2. We also chose to maintain the lawns on town properties ourselves instead of contracting. We hired a seasonal worker to take care of the lawn maintenance needs.

We completed a number of projects in 2019 and started a few also:

- 1) We lifted about 400 ft of S. Tahkodah Lake Rd that was underwater. We raised the road with fractured rock and then graveled over the top.
- 2) We graveled about 3100 ft of Big Brook Rd. The blacktop in this area had completely failed. We spread about 3,000 tons of gravel on this section of road. The rest of the bad sections of blacktop should be graveled.
- 3) We completed the signage in accordance with Act 193, which required signs at town boundaries for ATV's. I have noted that our signs don't include UTV's in the wording, so this may have to be changed to match with surrounding Towns in the future.
- 4) Sections of sidewalk in the village and the apron in front of the Fire Dept. were replaced.
- 5) Started the reconstruction of the first $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of Tahkodah Lake Rd. The remaining gravel will be spread during the summer of 2020, as well as the required ditching and paving later this fall.
- 6) Removed stumps from the 2 miles of road in Wilde River and the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of Tahkodah Lake Rd that was cut back for the FireWise grant.
- 7) We widened Ole Lake Rd quite a bit with just grading. We also put in 2 culverts and lifted an area just beyond the Harris Rd intersection. There is

more work needed on Ole Lake Rd. Currently this is one of our “as we have time” projects.

- 8) Most of the village streets and a number of town roads were chip sealed. We are working with the chip seal company about the areas where the aggregate is either blown off or driven down into the sealant.

There have been numerous small projects that were completed as well. A culvert on Spider Lake Firelane had bowed up through the road, causing a traffic hazard as well as hold back an extra 18 inches of water. We hired Mark Rasmussen to assist with replacing it with a larger plastic culvert. We reset the culvert at the intersection of Tahkodah Lake Rd & Lake Owen Dr. This culvert had been replaced in 2019, but this spring the north end started lifting up through the road. We dug it out and reset it without damaging the culvert.

The depot at the park has a new deck and a small porch on it. It looks pretty nice now after having a new roof put on, being repainted and now the decks. Norvado has installed new security cameras at the park, which has already helped identify a ATV tearing up the parking lot and illegal camping.

In between all the previously mentioned projects, we did the servicing on the fire trucks for the fire dept, we do our own servicing on all of the town equipment (ie, oil changes, greasing, other hourly servicing, minor repairs, etc.). We only farm out work that we cannot do. Most of the work that we farmed out was done by Arnie’s Repair out of Hayward. They can usually beat the dealership shop rates, which can save the town hundreds of dollars on a repair bill.

Some of the changes we have made this year were things like: switching our fuel supplier to Midland Services, which automates the ordering of fuel and delivers by transport truck directly from the refinery. So far (7-7-2020), we are saving 40 – 50 cents per gallon of fuel compared to pump prices. We also switched to Midland to supply our motor oil & hydraulic oil. While there wasn’t much of a difference in cost, it did switch us from 55gal. drums, to bulk tanks, which cleaned up the shop and minimizes lost oil from leakage. We changed suppliers for DEF (diesel exhaust fluid), changing the cost of def from \$190/55gal drum to \$80/55gal drum.

We were awarded grant money through LRIP (Local Road Improvement Program) for paving 3/4m of Tahkodah Lake Rd in 2020 and to pave about 1 mile

of Cable Sunset in 2021. We were awarded grant money through the Wildfire Risk Reduction/Firewise, for the tree removal along Frels Rd and I was also able to switch grant money awarded to the town from Bayfield County to be used for Frels Rd. That money was originally awarded for Randysek Rd, but that project never transpired.

Aside from everything previously mentioned, we have been keeping busy with grading, patching, mowing, maintaining the buildings and town properties.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Swanson
Road and Property Foreman