



Department Updates

May 2017

Highway

Mark Servi
Highway Commissioner

I would like to thank all crew members, staff and my management team for all they do to provide for the safe travel of the users of the Barron County Highway system. When you get in your car to drive to work on snowy winter day, they have been out plowing for several hours to prepare the roads for the morning commute. They work all day to keep the roads in winter driving condition, and in many cases are still out on the road at night when most everyone has gone home and had dinner with their family. They get called on weekends and holidays - if it snows they go! The skill's that the crew members have keeps us very cost competitive on the projects that we perform for the county as well as the towns cities, villages and the maintenance work that we perform for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. I believe that your Barron County Highway Department crew is second to none in there ability to effectively perform the vast scope of project that we

undertake. We are properly staffed, equipped and trained - THIS CREW ROCKS!

This winter was a bit different weather wise, as we did not get the big or persistent snow events, we seemed to get more of the nuisance events and ice storms. These are still a challenge, and in some cases can be more difficult to handle then a major snow storm. The many different types of weather events all have different types of responses. Salt does not always work, wind and ice storms are different then heavy snow storms. But the crew strives in each case to provide the best driving conditions possible. Sometimes the weather wins, but never for a lack of effort. I have been told by many that they appreciate the efforts of the crew in keeping our roads in the best winter driving conditions practical.

Operations have now moved onto maintenance and construction activities. We have many projects scheduled all around the county. The CTH A construction project in Sioux

Creek and Dovre is nearing completion. If all goes well, the contractor should have the road completed and fully open by Memorial Day weekend. Of course that is dependent upon the weather. Our crew is currently completing the surface asphalt on the CTH P project south of Almena. When that work is finished we will be moving onto some local work for the towns. Other projects that we have scheduled on the county system include re-surfacing CTH SS from the Chippewa County line to CTH AA and CTH D from CTH K to CTH P. We are also preparing CTH B from USH 63 to CTH V and CTH C from CTH NN to the Rusk County Line. There are also two bridges on the County System that are scheduled for replacement this summer - CTH NN over Spring Creek and CTH A over Sioux Creek. We will issuing press releases when the bridge contractor finalizes their schedule. Both of these roads will be closed for the bridge replacements, and detours will be signed.

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Forestry

John Cisek
Forest Administrator

Timber Sale Activity

The past winter allowed completion of the following sales.

- Turtle Cr. II (Tract 3-2013 / # 350) located in the Township of Turtle Lake, was completed with minimal residual marked trees left standing due to soft ground conditions at the end of the season.
- Shinner Lake (Tract 5-2014 / # 355) located in the Town of Cedar Lk a few miles west of Mikana. This sale has been opened for two winters. The hardwood portion of the sale

has been completed. Two small stands of Tamarack (approx. 70 cords) will not be thinned due to the lack of frozen ground conditions. These stands may be re-visited at a later date if they can be incorporated with other sales in the area.

The Rajek Sale (Tract 2-2013 / #349) located in the Town of Doyle saw significant progress towards completion it is expected to be completed next winter.

Timber Bids

On May 5th sealed bids were opened and accepted on seven (7) tracts of timber with the following combined volumes:

- 343.32 MBF (thousand board feet) of Hardwood Sawtimber
- 19.9 MBF of Pine Sawtimber
- 3830 cords of Aspen and Mixed Hardwood cordwood
- 310 cords of Pine cordwood.

All seven tracts received bids and were accepted. The bid results are available on the forestry page of Barron County’s website.

Human Resources

Rachael Richie, HR Director

New/Replacement Positions				
Position Title	Office/Department	Incumbent	Date Filled	New/Replacement
Death Investigator	Medical Examiner	Tesha Moin	3/20/17	Replacement
Death Investigator	Medical Examiner	Peter Neal	5/3/17	Replacement
PT Civilian Correction Officer	Sheriff	Madison Loftsgaarden	5/22/17	Replacement
Equipment Operator	Highway	Josh Schmidt	5/17/17	Replacement