

PIVFD EMS REPORT 2019

Presque Isle EMS responded to 70 911 calls during 2019. We transported 43 patients to the Emergency Department, 11 of these required ALS care during transport. We responded 24 times to 911 calls that did not require transport. We assisted neighboring departments three times during the year.

Due to COVID-19 the financial report has not been completed by our billing agent. A copy will be provided to the town as soon as available.

YEAR	2018	2019																		
NEW HOUSES	3	9																		
NEW GARAGES	22	11																		
NEW ADDITIONS	7	8																		
COMMERCIAL	1	0																		
MISCELLANEOUS	21	19																		
SUBDIVISIONS	1	3																		
TOTAL PERMITS	57	47																		

EXAMPLES OF MISCELLANEOUS PERMITS ARE STORAGE SHEDS, DRIVEWAYS, STAIRS TO THE LAKE, DECKS, ETC

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
FORREST JUKICH
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

— WISCONSIN'S LAST WILDERNESS —
PRESQUE ISLE

Chamber Report to Town Board - June 2020

I'd like to start by thanking the Town of Presque Isle for their continued financial support. We try hard to spend smartly while keeping our mission of tourism, publicity, and business/nonprofit support at the forefront.

We focus our efforts in large part on bringing visitors near and far to Town to support our businesses and the Town's economy. We try to draw visitors and second home owners to our region and our advertising efforts key in on our area's beautiful natural environment and outdoor recreation -- from paddling to snowmobiling. Last summer, our FT Director Scott McPherson resigned. Thankfully, Joan McDonald was able to step up and serve as Administrative Secretary to the Board. The Board turned more into a working board and Joan helped keep the office open and the board, members, and visitors informed. The relationship has worked well and it has also allowed the Chamber the opportunity to set up new contracts including visitor guide development, event management, and social media marketing. Our 2020 Visitor Guide included a design change - we tried to make it a bit more "throwback" with focus on history and also on our outdoor amenities via development of a new centerfold map.

Regarding social media, we have over 3000 followers which is quite good for our little town. In addition, we have transitioned our print and video advertising to now include the popular *Our Wisconsin* magazine, a *Discover Wisconsin* TV commercial, and we are also engaged with a consortium of Northwoods counties on a newly funded "We Love the Northwoods" marketing campaign. The focus throughout these efforts has been on outdoor and recreation based travel (versus events and gatherings), and on the fact that we can offer a safe and naturally socially distanced setting. Pipke Park, our Bike Route, and our Lakes have all been quite busy these past months -- showing us that people are getting outdoors in our area significantly more.

Regarding events... in following with Vilas County Public Health Department's recommendation, we have elected to cancel Presque Isle Days, but we are still moving forward with Friday Market which begins Friday, June 26 and also with our Kids Fishing Days in July and August. We are planning a couple outdoor

concerts late summer that will feature live bands at Pipke Park. People can listen from their cars, chairs or picnic tables. We are securing bands with 3-5 members and ones that can bring sound systems that will project their "tunes across the water". We'd like to keep this monthly live music series going in future years as well.

Lastly, we are working on a print newsletter to help keep the community informed of events, ways to get involved, town news, and the like. We hope to launch that this month and to continue year-round. We have heard from many people that we need to work better on keeping people informed in the absence of a local newspaper so this is our effort to try and help out.

Board: Chair: Sarah Johnson, Thinking of Today Yoga. Bonnie Byrnes, Headwaters Real Estate. Brenda Dyre, Karsyn's Korner/Do It Best Hardware. Christine Strand, Skyview. Stephanie Sybeldon, P.I. Pub

EDC Report to Town Board - June 2020

Chair: Bonnie Byrnes, Headwaters Real Estate. Committee Business
Representatives: Beth Marohn, Retreat Bar; Brenda Dyre, Karsyn's Korner/Do It Best Hardware; Christine Wolter, Wolter Sand, Gravel & Excavating. Community Representative: Chuck Hayes. Chamber of Commerce Liaison: Sarah Johnson. Town Board Liaison: Carl Wolter. As many of you know, we lost an awesome friend and community member, and one of our shining stars on the EDC - Steve Smith. It is a huge gap for us as he was a selfless, behind the scenes worker bee that got a lot done for our town, and that was also in the midst of working on some new projects. We have an individual interested in filling his seat and hope to provide a recommendation for appointment at the Town's next meeting.

Panfish Stocking: About a year ago, we worked with the WDNR to stock the south pond at Pipke Park with bluegill and large-mouth bass. We spent ~ \$1500 of donated funds from community members and Team Retreat to make this happen. We will have approximately \$1300 of donated funds left, to restock when/as needed in future years. Parks and Rec may be able to help us with assessment of the success of this project as they are in touch with WDNR on a potential small-scale survey of the pond. Also in the works with the WDNR is designation of this as a Community Fishing Pond, which will take approximately two years by the State but all paperwork/resolutions from Town are in. This will include year-round panfishing and signage. The Town's resolution of support for this was key and Lorine was a great help.

We are excited at the opportunity to identify/market an **Off-Road Bike Trail**. This is a 2.8 mile trail loop preliminarily approved by the Town and DNR. It is on existing logging roads-WDNR land. The P.I. Lions have committed to trail maintenance. The WDNR will have a Land Use Agreement (LUA) ready soon that will identify needed details connected to parking lot (to accommodate 5 or less cars), insurance, etc. This will be brought to Town for approval. In addition, we are working on an entrance sign to identify allowable uses, trail map, and site history, and we'd also like to in some way establish that this has been done in memory of Steve Smith who was working on this project prior to his passing. The Town's support and guidance related to this project has also been essential and much appreciated.

Main Street: Two years ago, the EDC received \$10,000 in Room Tax funds to pay for a conceptual plan for the downtown that involved citizen input (this is Visitor Lodging \$\$ that by statute has to be spent on tourism- and recreational infrastructure). The plan brought together ideas, community input, and design concepts from a professional firm and got some important ideas and priorities down on paper, along with possible timelines and funding sources. The ideas included both aesthetic and functional improvements that could happen for the improved function and appearance of Main Street, and that could be done in concert or in parallel with the County's Main Street road replacement, scheduled for Spring 2021.

Last fall, we met to boil down the plan a bit further and in January 2020, we presented 5 priority items to the Town/County/Engineer at public meeting. At the meeting, the engineer asked that we continue communications with him to determine what ideas from the plan may be feasible and what would make sense to happen in concert with the County project. It was/is understood that some of the ideas would lead to extra expenses which the County would not cover (but that could potentially be completed at the same time of construction). We were told the final design plan will be completed fall 2020 and now is the time to make changes to the plan. Some of the projects from the Ayres plan are: crosswalks and a walking path, street lighting, and burying and/or movement of power lines.

The EDC's goal moving forward from the Jan meeting... was to move ideas into real options and recommendations by doing research and legwork on feasibility as well as on costs. Steve Smith was the EDC's point person for this and was in communication with the Engineer. Just prior to Steve's passing, he was informed he was no longer able to communicate with the County or Engineer and that future communications should come through the Town Board/Chair. The EDC is willing to provide the legwork for the Town Board, so options, firmer ideas, costs, etc. can be presented. We are excited to try and make the process work and to help take advantage of this awesome opportunity for our Town's future and for the betterment of Main Street.

2020 Presque Isle Annual Meeting – Heritage Society Report

I am pleased to report a revitalized Heritage Society over the last year. We have a new volunteer member group and several new officers. Winnie Sievert remains, in her 90th year, our President emeritus, and John McLean, Chris Wolter, Barb Cober have joined our board with Carmen Farwell and myself continuing as officer and/or board members.

After rousting out the critters & accumulated junk in the attic and doing some patching on the museum the group continued to rally around a project to increase the town's awareness of its rich history through a historical sign project that would coordinate with our Main Street revitalization. Throughout the winter and lately during the covid shutdown we concentrated on internet research, organizing heritage society pictures and documents to begin putting together a historical timeline for our town. From its earliest days in 1905 as a company town founded by Fred Foster who owned the Vilas County Lumber Company to the William Winegar era ending with the closing of the mill in 1927, there is a wealth of information being prepared for our website. Many of us know the town changed its name from Fosterville to Winegar but did you know that most of our lakes also bore the names of early landowners & settlers – Horsehead Lake was Slocum Lake – Armour was Margaret Dwer Lake – Lynx was Henry Casson Lake and Oxbow was Elliott Lake. Eric Benn & Pete Cober are working with none other than Jack Winegar, a great nephew of William Winegar on the history of the mill and the railroads that once served Presque Isle. –

Meanwhile we are continuing with the signage project and expect to have that ready for our new Main Street next summer. The signs may coordinate with the website project by means of QR code which would lead interested tourists and citizens to the “rest of the story” on the website.

We will also have the museum open on Fridays during the farmer's market/ flea market throughout the summer. The building will be re-stained a “historically correct” dark green and white in the next month.

We will not have large scale programs this summer but will work to re-establish our membership and will concentrate on our website and continuing to research and preserve the fascinating story that is Presque Isle.



Presque Isle Town Lakes Committee
All Town Report June 4, 2020
By Nick Williams, Chairman

We have continued to study our Presque Isle lakes.

In 2019 we fully finished 2 grants from 2015 and 5 grants from 2016.

In addition, we worked on 4 grants from 2017 which covered 8 lakes. The reports from these 8 lakes were sent to the DNR for final review in May 2020.

Finally, we began work on 4 grants from 2018 which covers a total of 13 lakes. These should be completed in 2022.

As you heard in the financial review of 2019 we spent, gross, \$71,198.
From the DNR we received \$37,733 in advance payments for the 2018 grants.
This means the town had a net cash outflow in 2019 of \$33,465.

In late 2019 the DNR completed and approved our 2015 and 2016 Lake Study grants. In the first quarter of 2020 they paid us \$13,715 to finish things off. In 2019 we had asked the town for a budget of \$14,300. Subtracting these two amounts from the 2019 net outflow means we overspent our usual budget by just \$5,450.

I know this is a lot of numbers. However, the most impressive numbers are to follow:

For all fully completed lake study grants - those awarded from 2006 through 2016 - the town has spent, net, \$120,420. This averages out to only \$10,900 per year. On the other hand, during the same timeframe the DNR has spent, on our behalf, \$308,650.

By the time all the current in process grants are completed we will be well under our usual budget of \$14,300 per year over 17 years!

As far as documentation is concerned, the Town Lakes Committee will be updating the town's website in 2020 to supply DNR internet links for the recently completed 2015 and 2016 grants. This means all completed reports ever commissioned by us since 2005 will be publicly available for everyone's review.

There is one new requirement which is now part of each lake's study reports for the 2017 and 2018 grants. The DNR has directed us to have the vendor, Whitewater Associates, perform three different shoreline assessments property by property for the entire Wisconsin perimeter.

First for each platted parcel the vendor will evaluate the shape of the individual shoreline owner's land and report to us, the DNR and the town using a sliding scale. The scale ranges from full untouched woods to cut over land to mowed grass as observed from out on the lake. This shoreline report is from as far back as can be seen to the ordinary high-water mark. This generally suggests that to improve lake health and diminish runoff certain owners' shoreline may need to be restored to a more natural state.

Next the parcels are evaluated as to how developed they are. This is to note how much the impervious surfaces might be creating excessive runoff.

Finally, there is an evaluation of the littoral zone, the area from the ordinary high water mark out into the lake. The vendor will check each property to see if downed trees, which normally provide fish habitat, are in place or if the shoreline has been cleaned up or modified in any way. This would perhaps suggest eventual remediation by adding something called 'fish sticks' to improve fish habitat and diminish erosion potential through wave activity. As part of this evaluation each property with enhanced or disturbed shoreline will be noted. Enhanced shoreline might include fill, dredging, installing riprap and more.

These three new evaluations may be studied at some point to help evaluate each lake's condition and health. Currently we do not know what will be done with the information.

Once the 2017 and 2018 grants have been completed, most water bodies will have been studied between two and three times. So far PITLC can report there still are no aquatic invasive plants in our high quality lakes.

Town of Presque Isle Annual Meeting
April 15, 2020

The library, with support from The Friends group was able to offer weekly, monthly and ongoing programs in 2019! Attendance for these programs was over 1200. We had travelogues featuring Antarctica, Iceland and Argentina. We hosted international best-selling author, Karen Dionne as part of Northwoods Book Festival. Along with area libraries, we sponsored Lunch and Learn, a monthly event offering free lunch followed by a program such as Identity Theft. We partnered with the Presque Isle Ambulance to provide a dementia program called "The Purple Tube". These are just a few examples of the programs we offered in 2019.

Last year, we offered 8 Summer Kid's program including survival skills, folk singing, water, reptiles & amphibians, creative writing and bats. For 2020 we are thrilled to once again be able to offer summer programs for kids and this year, we are adding a 4-day art workshop.

In 2019, we had 10,149 people come in the Presque Isle library and had 22,045 visits to our website. Our circulation was 13,169, which includes our electronic checkouts.

In 2020, the library is more than the books and other materials patrons check out. We offer resources such as 24-hour Wi-Fi access, public use computers, access to digital electronic books, Ancestry, Library Edition and Gale Courses.

We would like to thank the town, our volunteers, staff, residents and library patrons who make the library a wonderful place to gather. We look forward to serving our patrons in 2020.

