

# Lac du Flambeau Town Roads 2009-2022

## INTRODUCTION

At the town board meeting on August 17, 2022 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)), town officials reviewed a [Five-Year Road Plan](#). The discussion included a page-by-page review, comments about the status of the road jurisdiction issue between the town and Tribe, the relationship between road jurisdiction and the town’s state transportation aid, and the need for additional funds for road construction and maintenance.

The Five-Year Road Plan was on town board agendas for consideration at meetings on April 13, May 4,

June 1, and July 21, but was not discussed at any of those meetings for a variety of reasons. At the town board meeting on August 3, 2022, while considering approval of the minutes for the July 21 meeting, Supervisor Hanson asked to have discussion of the Five-Year Road Plan on a future agenda.

Year	Total LdF Town Budget	Total Road Budget	Road Construction Budget
2022	\$1,441,294	\$495,961	\$200,000
2021	\$1,281,583	\$515,281	\$200,000
2020	\$1,264,744	\$523,621	\$200,000
2019	\$1,222,154	\$492,035	\$200,000
2018	\$1,211,396	\$471,000	\$200,000
2017	\$1,168,421	\$464,500	\$200,000
2016	\$1,172,521	\$461,043	\$195,000
2015	\$1,173,021	\$470,010	\$195,000
2014	\$1,166,440	\$467,878	\$195,000
2013	\$1,166,240	\$470,910	\$200,000
2012	\$1,172,090	\$476,760	\$200,000
2011	\$1,188,207	\$494,200	\$200,000
2010	\$1,239,455	\$507,200	\$205,000
2009	\$1,258,161	\$514,900	\$205,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,125,727</b>	<b>\$6,825,299</b>	<b>\$2,795,000</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$1,223,266</b>	<b>\$487,521</b>	<b>\$199,643</b>

## BACKGROUND

**Town Budgets.** Maintaining and improving roads is one of the Town Board’s most important responsibilities, and the town's budgets reflect that importance. Table 1 summarizes relevant data from [town budgets since 2009](#).

The table shows that since 2009 the town has budgeted \$6,825,299 for maintaining 142 miles of roads, an average of \$487,521 a year.

Of the town’s total budget for 2022, \$495,961 is related to road construction and maintenance, the largest category of expenses in the town’s budget. Of this amount, \$200,000 is reserved specifically for road construction. The town’s budget for 2022

reflects an equivalent of \$3493 per mile.

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**Ldf Road System.** More than 200 miles of roads crisscross the [Town of Lac du Flambeau](#) forming a web of state and county highways and Town, private, and Tribal roads. According to the most recent [Certified Mileage List \(January 1, 2021\)](#) the Town submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, 142.22 miles of roads are under the town’s jurisdiction.

**LdF Road Conditions.** The Wisconsin Department of Transportation "requires all local units of government to submit road condition rating data every two years as part of the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads ([WISLR](#))." The town relies on the PASER method to comply with the requirement.

PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation & Rating) is a method of visual inspection used to rate asphalt and concrete roads on a scale of 1 to 10, gravel roads on a scale of 1 to 5, and earth roads on a scale of 1 to 4. The town’s road crew assign the ratings to the town’s roads.

The ratings are included in a PASER report which lists the ratings assigned to individual roads under the town's jurisdiction as well as other information like the names of roads, types of road surfaces, and length of roads. Information about the PASER program is available in the [PASER Asphalt Manual](#) and the [PASER Sealcoat Manual](#).

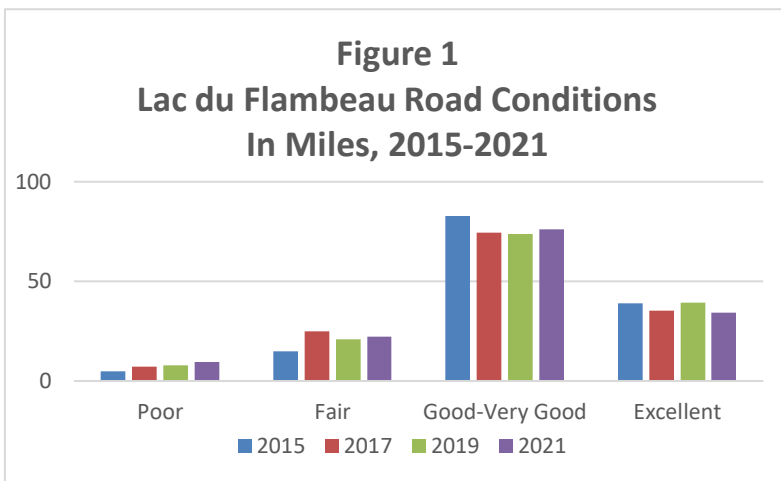


Figure 1 summarizes the data in PASER reports for [2015](#), [2017](#), [2019](#), and [2021](#) on the conditions of the 142 miles of roads under town jurisdiction.

The figure shows that most of the roads have condition ratings of good to excellent, though the trend for roads rated good to excellent may be in decline while the trend for roads rated poor to fair may be of incline. About 30 miles (20%) of town roads currently have ratings of poor and fair.

## CHRONOLOGY OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION 2009-2022

The following chronology traces road construction for Lac du Flambeau since 2009 as documented in minutes of town board meetings and other documents. The “official” documents are available through the town hall on request.

**July 21, 2022.** At a town board meeting on July 21, 2022, the town clerk briefly noted a department report submitted by the road department foreman. [Click to access the report](#). Also on the agenda, but not discussed, was Discussion of the Five-Year Road Plan. ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#))

**June 1, 2022.** On June 1, 2022, town officials approved bids submitted by Pitlik and Wick for \$138,201 for work on To-To-Tom Drive (a carryover project from 2021), and \$56,143.75 for work on Audubon

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Lane. Considering the town's budget for 2022 provides \$200,000 for road construction, work on Plummer Lake Lane was postponed ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

Also at the June 1 meeting, town officials said they would discuss the [Five-Year Road Plan](#) by the end of July. The plan projects \$1.45 million is needed for road construction for 2022-2026, which is about \$450,000 above what the town traditionally budgets for road construction projects ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). The plan was shared initially with the board on April 13, 2022 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

**May 18, 2022.** On May 18, 2022, town officials opened road bids for work on To-To-Tom Drive, Audubon Lane, and Plummer Lake Lane, and then referred them to the road foreman to double-check and report back to the board ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

**May 4, 2022.** Due to the absence of the road crew foreman, town officials held off on discussing a [Five-Year Road Plan](#) that was presented initially at a town board meeting on April 13, 2022. Even so, the board approved submitting a "[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)" application to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to perform work on 4.8 miles of Thorofare Road from Highway 47 to County F. If the application is approved, the Federal Government will provide \$773,160 and the town will provide \$193,290, for work sometime from 2023-2026. ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#))

**April 13, 2022.** On April 13, 2022, the town board authorized soliciting bids for road construction during 2022 for To To Tom Drive, Plummer Lake Road, and Audubon Lane. Work on To To Tom Drive was postponed in 2021. In addition, the road foreman verbally presented the Five-Year Road Plan, which the board decided to discuss at a meeting on May 4, 2022 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

**July 21, 2021.** On July 21, 2021, Town Officials rescinded the motion made on July 7, 2022 to buy the Komatsu loader because the company withdrew its original financing option. Instead, officials approved buying the FABRICK CAT 930 for \$249,726.58 at 2.99%. ([agenda](#), [audio](#), [minutes](#))

**July 7, 2021.** On July 7, 2021, Town Officials awarded Pitlik & Wick \$222,092.31 to complete several road construction projects: Adventurers Camp Lane, Bobidosh Point Lane, North Bolton Lake Lane Thunderbird Lane, Winifred Lane, and East Boundary Trail. Work on To To Tom Drive (\$125,941) was postponed to 2022. The town's 2021 budget provides \$200,000 for road construction. The additional funds needed for the projects will be drawn from a reserve fund. [Click for a bid summary](#). ([agenda](#), [audio](#), [minutes](#))

Also on July 7, 2021, Town Officials approved purchasing equipment for the road department: F250 truck (\$39,9015), F450 truck (\$61,966), and Komatsu loader (\$260,050). Officials said funds are available for the trucks, but financing is needed for the loader (0% for 36 months, .99% for 48 months, or 2.49% for 60 months). [Click for a bid summary](#).

**June 16, 2021.** On June 16, 2021, Town Officials opened bids for road construction projects and for purchasing new road equipment. Due to the quantity and complexity of information revealed, the Road Crew Foreman was directed to put the information on spreadsheets for review at a future board meeting. The foreman was also asked to prepare a five-year schedule for road repair and maintenance. Officials then postponed discussing options for financing equipment purchases. ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#))

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**June 2, 2021.** On June 2, 2021, Town Officials authorized the Road Crew Foreman to solicit bids for purchasing two new trucks and a front end loader. The action followed a presentation during which the Town Board was informed that the total cost of the equipment could reach \$350,000 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

**May 5, 2021.** At the Town Board Meeting on May 5, 2021, Town Officials directed the Road Crew Foreman to issue bid documents for 2021 road construction projects, project equipment needs for the coming five years, and develop a five-year plan for road reconstruction ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

**August 5, 2020.** On August 5, 2020 ([agenda](#), [audio](#), [minutes](#)) the Town Board indicated that Fahrner's

**Thunderbird Lane Road Project:** Mr. Gaulke left the room to avoid any conflict of interest as one of the bidders is his employer. Mr. Gaulke is also leaving the building so asked the board to continue with their business and adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Mayer brought to the board's attention that a situation came up with the bidder they had decided to go with that they were not going to perform the full duties asked, which would void the bid. They were not going to put the road base down or pulverize which explains the price contrast between the bid amounts. Supervisor Mayer stated other discussion has been brought up about should we do chip and seal on Thunderbird Lane or asphalt the road. There are 19 residents and it gets a lot of traffic on the road, perhaps we should consider asphaltting it. Motion by Supervisor Cobb seconded by Supervisor Mayer to have Thunderbird Lane asphalted. Motion carried. Asphaltting bids came in at \$64,804.80 from American Asphalt and \$58,671.50 from Pitlik and Wick. Mr. McCutchin stated that the asphalt bid from Pitlik and Wick had the wrong road name on the top of the bid sheet which appears to be a clerical error, however the road length was correct and the envelope which contained the bid stated the correct road name. Motion by Supervisor Cobb seconded by Supervisor Mayer to table this item until we seek legal advice. Motion carried. It was mentioned that we should prepare a priority list of future road projects and do some road inspections in the spring to update priority lists.

chip seal bid for Thunderbird Lane was invalid, then it immediately approved Fahrner's bid to asphalt the road instead and, following a question about a change that had been made to a bid document after it had been submitted, approved a motion to table the entire issue until hearing from the town's attorney on how to proceed. The board has since not commented on the attorney's involvement. The town chair, however, during the budget hearing on [November 19, 2020 \(audio\)](#)

described the Thunderbird Lane situation as a *fiasco*.

Minutes of the meeting on August 5, 2020 include the statement above.

**July 15, 2020.** Officials opened and reviewed returned bid [documents](#) at its regular meeting on July 15, 2020 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)), and awarded the chip seal project to [Fahrner](#) pending a compliance review of the bid by the town's road crew foreman. Minutes of the meeting on July 15, 2020 include the following statement.

**Opening of Bids for Thunderbird Lane Road Project:** Mr. Gaulke left the room to avoid any conflict of interest as one of the bidders is his employer. Mr. Mayer began opening the bids that were received 7/1/2020. The bidders were asked to bid with two options: Chip Seal or Paving.

**June 3, 2020.** At a Regular Town Board Meeting on June 3, 2020 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)), town officials approved issuing bid documents for repairing Thunderbird Lane. Minutes of the meeting held on June 3, 2020 include the following statement.



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**Thunderbird Lane Road Repair/other road repair.** Supervisor Cobb asked for this item on the agenda. She reported that Thunderbird Lane is in great need of repair. Mr. Gaulke stated we still have some additional funds available for road construction. We will also be getting the LRIP funds. Thunderbird Lane would be a good road to look at as well as some repairs on E. Boundary, N. Bolton, Florsheim Rd. There have been some complaints for Thunderbird Lane repair. Thunderbird Lane is a high volume use road. Motion by Supervisor Cobb seconded by Supervisor Mayer to solicit bids for Thunderbird Lane bidding it both ways of chip seal and asphalt. Motion carried. If there is still budget money left the repairs needed on E. Boundary, N. Bolton, Florsheim can be looked at.

**May 22, 2020.** At a Special Town Board Meeting on May 22, 2020 ([Agenda](#), [Minutes](#)), town officials opened bids submitted by Northeast Asphalt and Pitlik & Wick for work on Amik Lane (.53 miles), Circle Drive (.63 miles) and Winifred Lane (.29 miles). After reviewing the [documents](#), the board awarded all work to [Pitlik & Wick](#) in the amount of \$165,933.60. Initial approval to solicit bids occurred at a board meeting on March 18, 2020 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

Surface age	Visible distress	General condition, drainage, and recommended improvement	Surface rating
1 year old	No distress. Excellent surface and ride.	New surface condition. Excellent drainage. No maintenance required.	<b>5</b> Excellent
2-4 years old	Slight surface wear from traffic. Slight loss of surface aggregate. Minor flushing or tracking.	Excellent or good drainage. Little or no maintenance required.	<b>4</b> Good
3-5 years old	Moderate surface wear and/or flushing. Slight edge cracking. Occasional patch or loss of top layer of sealcoat.	Good or fair drainage. May need spot drainage improvement and/or minor patching. Preventive maintenance sealcoat recommended.	<b>3</b> Fair
more than 5 years old	Severe wear or flushing. Moderate to severe edge cracking or patching. Potholes or significant loss of surface sealcoat. Alligator cracking.	Fair or poor drainage. Ditching or culvert improvements needed. Patching or surface wedging needed. New surface sealcoat required.	<b>2</b> Poor
more than 5 years old	Extensive loss of surface sealcoat. Severe edge cracking and/or alligator cracking. Extensive patching in poor condition and/or rutting.	Extensive poor drainage. Needs base improvement and new double sealcoat.	<b>1</b> Failed

The cost of repairing Amik Lake Lane was to be covered through the State's [LRIP](#) program, while costs for repairing Circle Drive, Winifred Lane and Thunderbird Lane was to be covered through the town's [general fund budget](#).

An assessment of the condition of the town's roads [conducted in 2019](#) indicates Amik Lake Lane and Circle Drive have a condition rating of 2 while Winnifred Lane and Thunderbird Lane have a condition rating of 3. The ratings are defined in the table to the left ([PASER: Sealcoat Manual](#)).

Minutes of the meeting held on May 22, 2020 include the following statement.

as one of the bidders is his employer.  
**Opening of Road Construction 2020 bids:** Bids came in as follows:  
 Northeast Asphalt: Circle Drive which is paving. Total \$116,046.90.  
 Pitlik & Wick: Circle Drive Total \$ 87,112.88.  
 Pitlik & Wick: Winifred Lane which is Chipseal Total \$ 26,321.34.  
 Pitlik & Wick: Amik Lake Lane which is Chipseal  
 This is also a LRIP Project: Total \$ 52,499.38.

Pitlik & Wick total for all three projects comes to \$165,933.60.

Motion by Mr. Mayer seconded by Gloria Cobb to approve the bids received from Pitlik and Wick for all three projects for a total of \$165,933.60 contingent upon Pete Kolzow's review of the bids and meeting the requirements specified. Motion carried.

Mr. Gaulke was called back into the meeting. Mr. Mayer explained that the bid was awarded to Pitlik and Wick upon Pete Kolzow's approval.

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**March 18, 2020.** The Town Board approved soliciting bids for road construction projects for completion during 2020 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). Minutes of the meeting held on March 18, 2020 include the following statement.

**Authorize bids for Town Road 2020 construction projects:** Pete Kolzow is here this afternoon to go over the roads he suggests for the 2020 road projects. He stated Amik Lake Lane which will go under the LRIP Funding Project. It will be 6 inches of gravel with double chip seal. .53 miles. Circle Drive will have 2 ¼ inch blacktop with 4 inches gravel and will be pulverized first. .63 miles. Winifred Lane .29 miles if we have additional funding available. Motion by Mr. Mayer seconded by Mr. Gaulke to authorize bids for the 2020 road projects. Motion Carried.

**August 7, 2019.** On August 7, 2019 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)), the Town Board opened bids submitted by Pitlik & Wick and Fahrner. Fahrner offered bids of \$27,167.10 for work on North Squaw Lake Road and \$45,940.35 for work on Duner Point Road. Pitlik & Wick offered bids of \$35,739.00 for work on North Squaw Lake Road and \$56,434.00 for work on Duner Point.

The Board awarded the contracts to Pitlik & Wick for both roads. Minutes of the meeting indicate the reasons for not selecting Fahrner's bids for the projects include that its bids were not complete and the company was unsure whether it could complete the projects in 2019. Minutes of the meeting include the following statement, italics added.

*Mr. Gaulke excused himself from the meeting at this time to avoid any conflict of interest as one of the bidders is his employer. Two companies have submitted sealed bids to be opened today. The work in question is for chip seal projects on Deer Trail –Mitten Lake Rd. to W. Tippecanoe Lane, North Squaw Lake Lane-East Squaw Lake Rd. to W. Terminus, Duner Point Lane-Florsheim Rd to A-ki-Wen-Si Lane. These roads were to be bid separately. The bids from Fahrner came in as: Deer Trail \$77,189.60 North Squaw Lake Lane \$27,687.10, Duner Point Lane \$45,940.35. It was noted on the Fahrner cover sheet that this proposal does not include furnishing, hauling or placement of base material. There is also a statement on the cover sheet that states due to seasonal limitations all work highlighted in this proposal would be scheduled for completion in the 2020 season, however we do not see anything highlighted When Pete had originally talked to Fahrner they were not sure they could complete the work in 2019. The bids from Pitlik and Wick came in as: Deer Trail \$52,671.50, North Squaw Lake Lane \$35,739.15, Duner Point Lane \$56,434.00. After consideration motion by Mr. Mayer seconded by Gloria Cobb to accept the three bids received from Pitlik and Wick. Motion carried. Mr. Gaulke was called back in to the meeting.*

**July 10, 2019.** On July 10, 2019, the Town Board approved specifications for work on Deer Trail, North Squaw Lake Lane, and Duner Point Lane ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). Minutes of the meeting include the following statement, italics added.

*Road Crew Foreman Peter Kolzow presented to the board a copy of the road construction specifications for the 2019 road work projects. The roads involved are Deer Trail, North Squaw Lake Lane, Duner Point Lane. Motion by Mr. Mayer seconded by Gloria Cobb to approve the specifications as presented. Motion carried. The clerk will post the proper notice for the projects.*

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**May 1, 2019.** On May 1, 2019, the Town Board opted to rebid work on North Squaw Lake Road but postpone again work on To-To-Tom because other roads with more traffic, Deer Trail and Duner Point, now need attention ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). Minutes of the meeting include the following statement, italics added.

*Peter Kolzow road crew foreman stated that the roads that are in the most need of repair after their inspection are Deertrail 1.62 miles, Dunner Point Lane .59 miles, N. Squaw Lake Lane .39 miles. These are all chip-seal roads. Part of the decision is made on the volume of traffic use on the roads. Chip seal roads are less expensive, about 60% of an asphalt road. Longevity of chip seal is approximately 20-25 years, asphalt roads approximately 25-30 years. The important factor is the base. Motion by Mr. Mayer seconded by Gloria Cobb to authorize to advertise bids for the above town roads. Motion carried. Opening bids would be at the June 19, 2019 meeting. The board has not been going out for road inspections for the past several years. They have left it up to the road department due to previous recommendations. Mr. Gaulke has looked at the roads, Mr. Mayer is going to go look at the roads and Gloria Cobb is making arrangements with the road crew foreman to look at the roads.*

**June 6, 2018.** At the regular meeting of the Town Board on June 6, 2018, the board accepted a road construction bid submitted by [Pitlik and Wick](#) in the amount of \$186,714.25 for work on 1.38 miles of Florsheim Road. The board postponed consideration for work on North Squaw Lake Road and To-To-Tom Drive for a year due to lack of funds ([Agenda](#), [Audio Recording](#), [Minutes](#)). The [minutes of the June 6, 2018](#) meeting include the following statement (italics added).

*Mr. Gaulke excused himself from the meeting to avoid any conflict of interest as one of the bidders is his employer. Two companies placed sealed bids to be opened today. The work in question is for .39 miles of North Squaw Lake Rd., 1.38 miles of Florsheim Rd, .46 miles of To-To-Tom Drive. Bids from American Asphalt came in as North Squaw Lake Rd. \$71,371.46, Florsheim Rd. \$220,356.20, To-To-Tom Drive 78,958.06. Bids from Pitlik and Wick came in at North Squaw Lake Rd. \$55,976.00, Florsheim Rd. \$186,714.25, To-To-Tom Drive \$62,798.00. The clerk reported the road construction budget is set at \$200,000.00. Motion by Mr. Hanson seconded by Mr. Mayer to authorize the bid for Florsheim Rd. only from Pitlik and Wick. Motion carried.*

**May 16, 2018.** At the Town Board meeting on May 16, 2018, the board authorized soliciting bids for road construction projects for 2018, including .39 miles of North Squaw Lake Road, 1.38 miles of Florsheim Road, and .46 miles of To-To-Tom Drive ([Agenda](#), [Audio Recording](#), [Minutes](#)). Minutes of the meeting include the following statement.

*Pete Kolzow road crew foreman suggested three roads that need attention for this year's construction projects. .39 miles of North Squaw Lake Rd., 1.38 miles of Florsheim Rd, .46 miles of To-To-Tom Drive. Motion by Mr. Mayer seconded by Mr. Hanson to authorize bids for the road construction projects for 2018. Motion carried. The clerk will post the required notice.*

**November 16, 2017.** On November 16, 2017, the Town Board approved the town's [budget for 2018](#), which includes \$471,000 for roads. Of this amount, \$148,000 is reserved for labor and \$200,000 for road construction ([Agenda](#), [Audio Recording](#), Minutes Pending).

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**September 6, 2017.** At its regular meeting on September 6, 2017, the Town Board transferred \$13,000 to the road construction budget line item from the equipment budget line item ([Agenda](#), [Audio Recording](#), [Minutes](#)). Italics added.

*Request from the clerk to adjust the budget line figures as follows. Move \$13,000 from Roads Department Equipment Additions to Road Construction to cover our upcoming road construction projects. Motion by Mr. Mayer seconded by Mr. Hanson to approve the budget line item adjustments. Motion carried.*

**August 16, 2017.** At the Town Board meeting on August 16, 2017, the board opened, discussed, and approved bids for road improvement projects ([Agenda](#), [Minutes](#), [Audio Recording](#)). Italics added.

*The clerk received two bids for the crack sealing project. This project was for crack sealing of 3 roads, West Plummer Lake Lane, Strawberry Point Rd., and West Squaw Lake Rd. and the road crew foreman had asked them when bidding to include an optional bid using Mastic sealant. The first opened bid was from Fahrner Asphalt. The bid did not include W. Plummer Lake Lane as they said it was too far gone and dried out. The bid came in for \$7880.00 for the two roads Strawberry Point and W. Squaw and did not include an optional bid using the Mastic sealant. Supervisor Hanson made the comment the bid was not complete. The second bid was from Pitlik & Wick Inc. which came in at \$8970.00 for all three roads. Pitlik also included an optional bid for filling large deep cracks using Mastic sealant. That optional bid came in at \$5435.00. Total bid with option \$14,405. Motion by Mr. Hanson to accept the bid from Pitlik and Wick with the optional bid work to also be done. Motion seconded by Mr. Mayer. Motion carried.*

*The clerk received one bid from Pitlik and Wick for the road reconstruction project. This project was for road reconstruction for 1.45 miles of East Squaw Lake Rd. and .39 miles of North Squaw Lake Rd. The bid for East Squaw Lake Rd. came in at \$190,853.75. The bid for North Squaw Lake Rd came in at \$59,305.00. After review from the board and discussion on our budget limits, it was decided to only accept the bid for East Squaw Lake Rd. for \$190,853.75. North Squaw Lake Rd will have to be done at a different time. Motion by Mr. Hanson seconded by Mr. Mayer to accept the bid from Pitlik and Wick for East Squaw Lake Rd. for \$190,853.75. The total construction projects including the crack sealing would be \$205,258.75, slightly above our budget allowance. The clerk will review the budget and see if the budget line could be increased to allow for this slight increase. The clerk will bring this item up at the next board meeting.*

**June 21, 2017.** At the town board meeting on June 21, 2017, the board approved a motion transferring responsibility for developing road bid specifications to the road crew foreman ([Agenda](#), [Audio Recording](#) 52:49, [Minutes](#)). The minutes for the meeting held on June 21, 2017 include the following statement. Italics added.

*Mr. Gaulke reported he received a letter from the group Citizens for Education in Town Governance President Norm Wetzel questioning whether Mr. Gaulke had a conflict of interest in writing the road specifications prior to sending out for bids. Mr. Galke stated if the board would like we can hire a consulting firm to have them write the specifications for the road work needed. In the past the chairman has always did the specifications for the road work. The road work projects would always go out for bid as required. Mr. Gaulke would always excuse himself from the bid review process to avoid any conflict of interest. Bids are received by the clerk sealed for presentation for an upcoming board meeting. Suggestion was made to have the road crew*



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*foreman write up the specifications for the road work. Motion by Mr. Hanson seconded by Mr. Mayer to have the road crew foreman draft the specifications for the upcoming road projects. Motion carried.*

**June 2, 2017.** On June 2, 2017, Citizens for Education in Town Governance (CETG) submitted a [letter to members on the Town Board](#) regarding the town's bid process for road maintenance and construction projects.

**May 24, 2017.** At the May 24, 2017 Town Board meeting, the board authorized initiating the town's road bid process for 2017 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). The minutes for the meeting include the following statement. Italics added.

*Mr. Gaulke asked the board for approval to go ahead and solicit construction bids for the 2017 projects. He is looking at E. Squaw Lake Road and North Squaw Lake Road. Motion by Mr. Hanson seconded by Mr. Mayer to authorize the chairman to solicit bids for the road projects. Motion carried.*

**June 22, 2016.** The draft minutes of the town board meeting held on [June 22, 2016](#) include the following statement. Italics added. ([Audio](#), [Recording](#)).

*Mr. Gaulke noted that he has just learned that the road project for Florsheim Road should probably be put on hold as there is a tribal logging project going on which might go into the later part of fall and winter which might damage any new work done on that road. Mr. Gaulke excused himself at this time to avoid any conflict of interest as one of the bidders is his employer. Bids were given to Supervisor Mayer for opening. The only bids for the asphalt and chip seal projects were received from Pitlik & Wick, Inc. Asphalt Road projects: The bid for Florsheim Road \$170,789.62. The bid for To-To-Tom Drive \$93,449.35. The bid for Silver Beach Drive \$128,586.05. Chip-seal projects: The bid for S. Plummer Lake Road \$32,378.20. The bid for Sagasunk Lane \$13,278.60. Taking into consideration our 2016 road project budget of \$195,000.00 and the fact that the bid for Florsheim Road should be taken out at this time due to logging on that road a motion was made by Mr. Mayer to approve the bids for Silver Beach Drive, S. Plummer Lake Road, and Sagasunk Lane. Motion seconded by Mrs. Schwanebeck. Motion carried. Mr. Gaulke has returned for the remainder of the meeting.*

**June 1, 2016.** The [minutes](#) of the Town Board meeting for June 1, 2016 include the following statement. Italics added ([Audio Recording](#)).

*Mr. Gaulke stated the road inspection was done last week and he is finishing up the specifications. We are looking to solicit bids for Florsheim Rd. from CTY RD F to Shishebogama Dr. for paving. Silver Beach Rd. from Hwy 70 to Silver Beach Lane for pulverizing and paving, S. Plummer lake Lane and Sagasunk Lane for chip seal. We will get this properly noticed and set a date for the bid opening.*

**May 24, 2016.** Click for a copy of the [agenda](#) related to the road inspection. There are no minutes.

**May 18, 2016.** The [minutes](#) of the Town Board meeting on May 18, 2016 include the following statements. Italics added. ([Audio Recording](#)).

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*Mr Gaulke would like to set the road inspection date to review roads which might be in need of repair. He was concerned about Sagasunk Lane, S. Plummer, Florsheim Road and To-To-Tom Lane. He would like to set the date for the inspection for Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Schwanebeck will be out of town but Mr. Mayer will be able to attend with Mr. Gaulke. This meeting will be properly posted.*

*In preparing for the 2016 road construction projects following the road inspection Mr. Gaulke would like the board to authorize him to obtain bids for the 2016 road work. He would like to send out the bids separately for each road and see what comes back to see what projects will fit with the budgeted amount. Motion by Mrs. Schwanebeck seconded by Mr. Mayer to authorize Mr. Gaulke to solicit individual road bids following the road inspection. Motion carried.*

**December 9, 2015.** When asked for a copy of the town's Road Improvement Plan, the town clerk provided a PASER Report (scroll to page 6) with the following statement: "Attached is our paser road review of the condition and improvements of all the town roads in Lac du Flambeau. Road inspection is done by the town board in early spring (which is posted) at which time decisions are made on what roads are in need of repair or upgrading."

**November 19, 2015.** At the town board's budget hearing held on November 19, 2015 for the 2016 budget, the town chair was asked which roads might be improved in 2016. The response to the question is on the [audio recording](#) of the meeting (approximately 9:10-11:06).

*This year, I haven't shared it with the board yet, but I've been through the summer checking all of them. One of them that is in need of some work is To-To Tom Drive. Another that is in need of some work is Sagasunk up on Sugarbush. Another one I looked at that may need some work is North Bolton which is off of Plummer Lake Road. And then also Florsheim Road and .... I have to put things together and see how it will match with what we have budgeted. (Silver Beach Road was noted later in the hearing).*

**July 15, 2015.** The minutes of the Town Board meeting for [July 15, 2015](#) include the following statements. Italics added.

*Requests for bids for the 2015 road construction chip seal project was revisited by the board. This project was tabled at the last meeting because of confusion on the bid from Fahrner and the board asked if the clerk would get the opinion from the previous Chairman Mr. Chartier to help clarify and give his opinion. Mr. Gaulke left the room as one of the bidders is his employer. The clerk explained to Mrs. Schwanebeck and Mr. Mayer she had spoken with Mr. Chartier who came into her office and took a copy of the bids to study. He returned with the following comments. He stated although it was not stated in the bid specifications he liked the statement on the Pitlik and Wick bid stating all work shall be executed under the requirements of the State of Wisconsin DOT standard specifications for roads. He then mentioned that the bid from Fahrner was not done correctly. The specifications asked for each road to be bid separately, and the bid from Fahrner combined the totals only stated East Boundary (however Mr. McMahan stated it was for all the roads and sent 4 different bids which did not match up with the specifications so it was hard to compare apples to apples. Mrs. Schwanebeck and Mr. Mayer took the comments offered and after discussion a motion by Mrs. Schwanebeck seconded by Mr. Mayer to award the chip seal bid to*

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*Pitlik and Wick in the amount of \$51,499.03 for East Boundary Trail and \$9,022.73 for Lower Sugarbush Trail and Acorn Lane. Motion carried. Mr. Mayer made the comment that the bid should be more detailed and when the bids are opened perhaps the road crew foreman is present. Mr. Gaulke returned to the meeting.*

**July 1, 2015.** The minutes of the Town Board meeting for [July 1, 2015](#) include the following statements. Italics added.

*Requests for bids for the 2015 road construction projects were put out for bids. Mr. Gaulke left the room as one of the bidders is his employer. Mr. Mayer and Mrs. Schwanebeck opened the bids.*

*Project 1: Reconstruction of East Fence Lake Road: 6330 feet from CTY Hwy F to Hershey Lane. One bid was received from Pitlik and Wick Inc. for \$154,775.25. Motion by Mr. Mayer seconded by Mrs. Schwanebeck to accept the bid from Pitlik and Wick for the reconstruction of East Fence Lake Road. Motion carried.*

*Project 2: Chip Sealing for East Boundary Trail, Lower Sugarbush Trail and Acorn Lane. The bid request designated each road to be bid separately. Fahrner presented several bids for the work which ranged from \$56,666.00 to \$66,825.00. Each bid contained different specifications which were confusing, and it also only listed East Boundary on the bid, however Bob McMahon from Fahrner stated the bid were for all the roads for the chip sealing project. The other bid from Pitlik and Wick was also opened. Bid was \$60,521.76. It was hard for the board to compare the two bids received because nothing compared apples to apples. The closest comparable bid from Fahrner was \$58,512.00. Mrs. Schwanebeck made a motion we table the chip sealing bids for now and have the former Chairman Mr. Chartier review the bids and offer his recommendation or comments to the board and award bids at our next board meeting July 15, 2015. Motion seconded by Mr. Mayer. Motion carried.*

*Mr. Gaulke returned to the meeting.*

**August 6, 2014.** The minutes of the Town Board meeting for [August 6, 2014](#) include the following statements. Italics added.

*Road Project Bids: Mr. Gaulke asked to be excused to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest as one of the bidders is his employer. Mr. Gaulke was excused and will return after the bidding selection has been made. Specifications for two separate road projects were proposed. Shishebogama Drive: Two bids were received for this project along with lists of references. Pitlik & Wick came in with a bid of \$103,420.00 and Angelo Luppino, Inc. bid came in at \$128,485.20. Motion by Mr. Hoover seconded by Mrs. Schwanebeck to award the bid project to Pitlik & Wick. Motion carried. Chequamegon Forest Road: Two bids were received for this project along with lists of references. Pitlik & Wick came in with a bid of \$93,372.00 and Fahrner Asphalt bid came in at 103,859.00. Motion by Mr. Hoover seconded by Mrs. Schwanebeck to award the bid project to Pitlik & Wick. Motion carried.*

*For the record two other companies took out bids but did not return them. They were Musson Brothers and American Asphalt.*

*Mr. Gaulke was called back in for the rest of the meeting.*

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**July 15, 2014.** The minutes of the Town Board meeting for [July 15, 2014](#) include the following statements. Italics added.

*Discussion/Action Road Bid Procedures: Mr. Gaulke stated after our last meeting he contacted the town attorney Greg Harrold regarding the possibility of separating the two road bid projects. Mr. Gaulke's concern was not to violate the Davis-Bacon Act. He did not want to separate the bids and have the appearance of trying to bid jobs for lesser amounts to get around the Davis-Bacon Act. Attorney Harrold got back to Mr. Gaulke and said we could bid the projects as two separate projects without violating the David-Bacon Act. We would have to revise the specifications to spell out what specifications were for project 1 and project 2. We should also re-notice the bid projects as amended stating there are two separate projects. With that information, Mr. Gaulke asked what the board's opinion or thoughts were. Mrs. Schwanebeck stated she is still in favor of dealing with only one contractor; however, the specifications did seem a little unclear as to whether the projects could be bid separately or together. This year she would be willing to go along with the separating of the two projects, but in the future only having one bid for the road projects. Mr. Gaulke stated sometimes having two contractors would mean more work for him but he is willing to go along with two separate bids.*

*Motion by Mrs. Schwanebeck seconded by Mr. Gaulke to approve the new bid specifications, separate the jobs and take separate bids on the two road projects. The amended bid due date is August 6, 2014 at our regular meeting at 3:00 p.m. Motion carried.*

**July 10, 2013.** The minutes of the Town Board meeting for [July 10, 2013](#) include the following statements. Italics added.

*Road Construction Bids: West Squaw Lake Rd. Two bids were received for the W. Squaw Lake Rd. construction project along with a performance letter attached stating their previous work experience with other local governmental entities. Mr. Gaulke excused himself from the room to avoid any conflict of interest as one of the bidders is his employer. Chair handed over to Mrs. Schwanebeck. Bids were received from Northeast Asphalt Inc. for \$204,562.50, and Pitlik and Wick for \$173,207.30. Motion by Mrs. Schwanebeck seconded by Mr. Hoover to accept the low bid by Pitlik and Wick for \$173,207.30. Motion carried.*

**July 25, 2012.** The minutes of the Town Board meeting for [July 25, 2012](#) include the following statements. Italics added.

*Adventures Camp Lane and Indian Village Road Construction Bids: Only one bid was received from Pitlik and Wick, Inc. for the two road construction projects along with a performance letter attached stating their previous work experience with other local government entities. The bid for Indian Village Road which is a LRIP Project was for \$203,150.00. The necessary state forms will be completed for this project. The bid for Adventures Camp Lane also from Pitlik and Wick, Inc. was for \$61,716.00. Motion by Mr. Christensen to accept both bids as presented. Motion seconded by Mrs. Schwanebeck. Motion carried.*

**June 6, 2012.** The minutes of the Town Board meeting for [June 6, 2012](#) include the following statements. Italics added.



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*Re-bidding of road projects discussion: Mr. Gaulke reported that because of a letter received from Construction Business Group regarding our bidding process he met with Town Attorney Greg Harrold. Mr. Gaulke would like to re-bid the road projects and will lay out the actual specifications of what is to be included in the mixes and processes. Once he gets this together he will share the information with the board and Attorney Harrold to review. Hopefully this will eliminate any questions on how our bidding process is done. This will be done before publication in the paper. Motion by Mr. Christensen seconded by Mrs. Schwanebeck to approve the re-bidding of the road projects. Motion carried.*

**May 30, 2012.** The minutes of the Town Board meeting for [May 30, 2012](#) include the following statements. Italics added.

*Road Construction bids: Mr. Gaulke reported that a letter was received from Construction Business Group stating our methods for bids and bid specifications are incorrect. Two bids were received. One from American Asphalt of Wisconsin and one from Pitlik and Wick. Based on the letter Mrs. Schwanebeck made a motion recommending we table the bids for possible rebidding pending further instruction from our attorney. Motion seconded by Mr. Gaulke. Motion carried. Bids were put in the safe unopened.*

**April 4, 2012.** The minutes of the Town Board meeting for [April 4, 2012](#) include the following statements. Italics added.

*Crack Sealing Contract: Mr. Gaulke presented to the board for approval a Crack Sealing Contract with Pitlik and Wick not to exceed \$25,000.00 for work on various town roads. Mr. Gaulke stated this should pretty much take care of what's left to be done. Motion by Mr. Christensen seconded by Mrs. Schwanebeck to approve the contract with Mr. Gaulke abstaining to avoid any conflict of interest as it involves his employer. Motion carried. Nancy will see that the notice is properly noticed.*

**October 19, 2011.** The minutes of the Town Board meeting for [October 19, 2011](#) include the following statements. Italics added.

*Crack Seal Maintenance Contract: The proposal from Pitlik & Wick, Inc. for a Crack Seal Maintenance contract not to exceed \$25,000.00 was presented to the board for approval. Mr. Gaulke presented a list of roads for the scheduled maintenance work. This work hopefully will still be completed in 2011, weather permitting. Motion by Mr. Christensen, seconded by Mrs. Schwanebeck to approve the maintenance contract as presented. Motion carried with Mr. Gaulke abstaining to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest as the contract was submitted by his employer.*

**June 8, 2011.** The minutes of the Town Board meeting for [June 8, 2011](#) include the following statements. Italics added.

*Road Work Bids: Chairman Gaulke will be excused from the meeting to avoid any conflict of interest. Ginger Schwanebeck opened the one bid received for the upcoming road project. The specifications call for Tar and Chip surfacing for Center Sugarbush Road 3,225 feet in length x*

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*20 feet wide, Pokegama Lake Trail 13808 feet in length x 22 feet wide, East Muskesin Road 2229 feet in length x 20 feet wide and 5 miles of fog sealing on the above mentioned roads for a total bid of \$288,975.10 We did have inquiries from other companies but they were not interested in tar and chip work.*

*After discussion between Ginger Schwanebeck and Mr. Christenson, motion by Ginger Schwanebeck to approve \$200,000 of road work now and the remainder contingent on finding the funding for the remainder 88,975.10. Motion seconded by Mike Christensen. Carried.*

*Notice was taken that the roads were badly damaged this past winter and spring and we have good roads and we want to maintain them correctly.  
Mr. Gaulke returned for the remainder of the meeting.*

**April 13, 2010.** The minutes of the Town Board meeting for [April 13, 2010](#) include the following statements. Italics added.

*A motion was made by Mr. Chartier and seconded by Mr. Christiansen to publish notice that a contract with Pitlik &\* Wick, Inc. for crack sealing, not to exceed \$25,000.00 was entered into. The motion was carried.*

**May 6, 2009.** The minutes of the Town Board meeting for [May 6, 2009](#) include the following statements. Italics added.

*A motion was made by Chairman Chartier and seconded by Mr. Christiansen to accept the low bid from Pitlik & Wick, Inc., \$194,108.50, for the 2009 road projects. The motion was carried with Mr. Gaulke abstaining.*

**April 14, 2009.** The minutes of the Town Board meeting for [April 14, 2009](#) include the following statements. Italics added.

*A motion was made by Mr. Chartier and seconded by Mr. Christiansen to publish notice that a contract with Pitlik &\* Wick, Inc. for crack sealing, not to exceed \$25,000.00 was entered into. The motion was carried with Mr. Gaulke abstaining to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest.*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau, [Transportation Aid Information Paper 37 – January 2019](#)