

TOWN OF EFFINGHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

WINTER AND INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY AND PRIORITIES

Pursuant to RSA 231:92-a, the Effingham Board of Selectmen hereby establishes the following policy and procedure for winter and inclement weather road maintenance.

PART A:

POLICY OBJECTIVES:

1. OBJECTIVE:

The Town of Effingham seeks to provide timely, efficient and cost effective winter maintenance, snow removal, and ice control for the Town's residents and general motoring public.

2. PROCEDURE:

The objective stated in Section 1 may best be achieved by implementation and execution of the procedures and tasks outlined in Part B of this policy, the Town's Winter Operations Snow Removal and Ice Control Procedures. Due to the many variables that are inherent in New England weather, each storm or weather event may require slightly different effort or emphasis on any number of maintenance tasks which, together, determine the overall winter maintenance, snow removal or ice control strategy.

3. LEVEL OF SERVICE:

It is not reasonably possible to maintain a black, snow and ice-free, road during a storm. The Town intends to utilize its best efforts, within the means available, to provide practical, safe access to homes, businesses, and municipal facilities during and after winter storms.

- a. November 1st to April 30th no parking on Town roads or in a Town right of way is allowed.
- b. As a general policy, the Town will start to conduct snow removal operations upon accumulations of two inches of snow fall. The Road Contractor may, at their discretion, based upon weather information reports or prevailing conditions, elect to not remove snow until greater or lesser amounts have accumulated.
- c. Pre-treatment and ice control may be implemented prior to, during, or after a storm, as determined to be most effective, noting that salt has a much slower effect on melting snow and ice at temperatures below 25 degrees Fahrenheit, and thus may not be applied until it is warmer.

4. COMMAND:

The Effingham Board of Selectmen, or designee, shall direct all winter maintenance activities for the Town.

5. EXECUTION:

This policy, including the standard operating procedure, is intended to serve as the normal procedure for winter maintenance, snow removal, and ice control for the Town of Effingham. One or more of the following, which may delay or prevent the implementation of this policy, may affect all or any part of normal operating procedure.

- a. Equipment Breakdown
- b. Snow Accumulation in Excess of One Inch Per Hour
- c. Freezing Rain or Other Icing Conditions
- d. Traffic Congestion
- e. Emergencies
- f. Personnel Illness

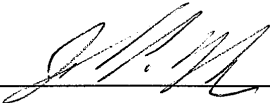
6. NOTICE:

This policy may be posted on the Town's website and in appropriate public places in Effingham as determined by the Selectmen. All residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the contents hereof as it describes conditions that one might encounter before, during and after a winter storm event.

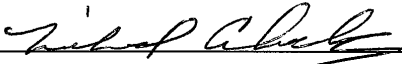
7. ADOPTION:

The Effingham Board of Selectmen has adopted these policies, and the accompanying Part B, encompassing standard operating procedures, on January 7, 2020.


January 7, 2020



John Meisner, Chairman



Michael Cahalane



Chuck Fuller

Part B:

Winter Operations Snow Removal and Ice Control Procedures:

1. EQUIPMENT and PERSONNEL:

The assets available for winter snow removal and ice control are established within the contract for services. In formulating the budgetary funding for these services, the Town of Effingham seeks to allocate sufficient funds appropriated by the legislative bodies vote, at the Town's annual meeting in March. The Town of Effingham advertises for and enters into a multiyear (3 year) contract for winter maintenance operations. The contractor provides personnel and equipment to conduct services for winter operations while the Town pays for sand, salt and material delivery fees.

2. ROUTES:

Plow routes may be altered from time to time for more efficient snow removal or cost efficiencies. The Contractor shall notify the Town Administrator and all relevant personnel of such changes. Limited, temporary changes made in accordance with this section do not require approval of the Town Administrator or Board of Selectman, unless specifically advised to the contrary.

3. MATERIALS:

The Town bases its annual budget for snow removal materials in part on past usage and estimated weather forecasts. The sand is used as an abrasive and is applied to the road to improve traction for motor vehicles. Salt is employed as a de-icing and anti-icing agent. The estimated annual supply of sand is produced each year, can be mixed with salt, and stockpiled at the salt shed. Rock salt is purchased from a supplier as needed. Unless, weather conditions require a different approach, winter maintenance routes are treated with a mixture of sand and salt, generally with a minimum amount of salt to prevent freezing of the mixture. This mixture may be adjusted according to the nature of the storm with additional salt added if needed. This mixture is applied to traveled ways. At the beginning and at the conclusion of a storm, salt may also be applied to the center of the paved roads where traffic can work the salt traveling either way. The salt, in conjunction with traffic action, creates a watery brine melting snow and ice, and resisting snow and ice packing on the roadway. The road crown further assists with the spreading of the brine mixture. The sand/salt mixture as well as salt itself, is only effective to approximately 25 degrees Fahrenheit. Other deicing agents are effective to lower temperatures but cost and need for specialized equipment have forestalled their use at this time. Highway salt and sand/salt supplies are for use on municipal property only.

4. COMMUNICATIONS:

Each equipment operator may communicate with the Effingham Police Department or Carroll County Dispatch. The operator is aware of the importance their operation and communication during a storm.

5. SCHOOLS:

a. Maintenance:

On days when school is in session, winter maintenance efforts are timed to coincide with bus routing and delivery of students to the extent reasonably practicable.

b. School Cancellation:

The School Superintendent, or designated official representative, may contact the plowing contractor to determine the condition of the municipality's roads in order to determine the advisability of students using school buses. The school representative(s) shall make the decision to cancel or postpone school for that day.

6. PARKING:

The Town of Effingham has adopted winter parking regulations. There shall be no parking on Town Roads November 1st - April 30th. One purpose of this winter parking ban is to allow winter maintenance crews unobstructed snow removal and ice control routes, as much as possible, to maintain the maximum effectiveness of their efforts.

7. PLOW ROUTE PRIORITIES:

With a total of approximately 42 miles of roads, from which to remove snow and control ice, the plowing contractor is required to assign priorities for winter maintenance route activity in order to maximize the effectiveness of their efforts.

a. Town Roads:

The timing of maintenance on some routes will coincide with the Bus Routes, the intent to provide snow clearing within one hour of the regular bus schedule for that route.

b. Town Facilities:

Fire Stations, Transfer Station, Town Offices and Library parking lots will be plowed and skid resistant material will be applied as needed.

8. ROADS NOT RECEIVING WINTER MAINTENANCE:

The Town of Effingham does not maintain all roadways as part of its ongoing winter maintenance activities. The areas not maintained by the Town of Effingham include:

a. Class VI roads

b. Private roads, driveways and Levitt Rd.

c. Roads and other areas maintained or within the jurisdiction of State, Federal or other units of government.

9. DAMAGE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY:

a. The Town of Effingham assumes no responsibility for damage to private property that is located within the public right-of-way as such property is deemed an encumbrance that is not permitted to be located in the right-of-way. The right of way (ROW) is usually wider than the travelled way and is often mistaken by property owners as their own property. In most cases, the ROW often extends 10' to 20' either side of the paved or gravel surface of a road. Homeowners often cultivate lawns, place mailboxes, erect fences or stone walls in these areas, which improves the appearance of the road greatly, but may obstruct or interfere with maintenance being conducted on the roadway, including winter maintenance.

- b. In the event of personal property damage occurring as a result of winter maintenance activities conducted by the Contractor on behalf of the Town of Effingham. The Contractor and/or the Town may be held responsible only for damages arising from negligence or fault properly attributable to the Contractor or the Town. The Town and/or the Contractor will not be responsible for the repair or replacement of damaged property, without exception.
- c. The Town and/or the Contractor will not be responsible for damage to any vehicle which may be damaged during winter maintenance if the vehicle is parked in violation of any State law or local regulations or ordinances, including any winter or snow removal parking limitation periods.

10. PLACEMENT OF SNOW IN RIGHT OF WAY:

No snow is to be shoveled, blown, plowed or placed, by any means, onto Town roadways or across roadways to the opposite roadside snowbanks.

11. ROADWAY OBSTRUCTIONS:

If any pedestrian, vehicle, or other item interferes with snow removal operations, the Town's contracted maintenance operator shall contact Carroll County Dispatch, Effingham Police Department or Carroll County Sheriff's Department for assistance.

12. POST STORM OPERATIONS:

As determined by the Contractor or the Board of Selectmen, snowbanks resulting from the previous accumulations may require to be pushed back, or shelved, using suitable equipment to make space for future snowstorms.

13. SNOW REMOVAL FROM TOWN ROADS:

During the initial stages of a storm, Town roadways will be plowed and receive surface treatment as appropriate in accordance herewith. As parked vehicles are removed from streets, snow removal equipment may swing wider through the street to push back-accumulated snow.

- a. Any vehicles that violate winter parking regulations are subject to ticketing and towing. Any vehicle which otherwise interferes with the reasonable efforts of the Town's winter maintenance is subject to removal.
- b. Snow removal operations may be delayed or ended in areas where vehicles are improperly parked or where they might interfere with snow removal operations.
- c. The Town is not responsible for damages to such vehicles arising out of Winter Maintenance Operations or a result of towing.

14. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Shall be notified of any vehicle obstruction and/or damage.