

We were finally able to get the crew to full strength at the beginning of December with Trevor Tucker coming back from an injury sustained in July. We did not remain at full strength for very long. I lost one of my mechanics, Ryan Bradstreet, to an existing back problem. He is also one of my plow operators who maintains the parking lots and dead end streets. He is scheduled for surgery on January 15, 2014, and is projected to be out of work until at least mid-March. This places a large workload on my remaining mechanic, which means we may have to send some major repairs out commercial shops. I also lost a truck driver the first week of January to an ATV accident. He will be out for a couple of weeks with fractured ribs.

On the equipment side, we have done well. No major problems, just the usual hoses, cutting edges, and lights. We had to use tire chains during the last two rain events. I am told this is the first time in 13 years that the plow trucks have had to chain up. This shows how bad the icing has been during these two storms. We did have major problems with the snowblower on the sidewalk tractor. After evaluating the cost of repairs and the time needed, Mike and I decided to purchase a new unit. This allowed us to open the sidewalks before school re-opened after the holidays. I plan on rebuilding the old unit this summer when we get to our new budgets.

These two major rain events have wreaked havoc on our sand and salt supplies. We have utilized approximately 5000 yds. out of our 8000 yd. stockpile. If we continue on this pace, we may have to haul in more sand before the end of winter. At this point, salt is still readily available, we will probably use more than we have in the last two seasons. The weekend of the ice storm alone, we spread between 800 and 1000 yds. of sand.

The crew and I have also put in some serious overtime during the month of December. Most employees accumulated an average of 80 hours of overtime, most of it during the latter half of December. I believe my crew has done an excellent job of maintaining our town roads.

Finally, on the issue of storms, I submitted a claim to MEMA of \$57,000.00 for the ice storms. Hopefully, we can get some reimbursement. It will definitely help our budgets.

Between the storms, we managed to install a propane line at Johnny's Seeds for their new furnaces. Also, Peachey Builders repaired the damage to our shop caused by Truck #25. We are still waiting for parts for the garage door itself. We also had damage to door #4 caused by Truck #19 hitting the edge of the doorway with his wing plow. This operator is a new employee hired at the end of August and has never operated a plow truck. He was issued a reprimand but some allowance has to be made for his inexperience. Hopefully, we won't experience any more building damage for a while.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Public Works Director