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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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MEMORANDUM

Date: 2/19/26
 To: P. Cohen, Town Manager
 From: C. Clancy, DPW Director
 Cc: Joe Eriksen, Highway Superintendent; Joyce Cote, DPW Business Manager
 Subject: 2025/2026 Snow and Ice Program Update

DPW has closely been monitoring the FY2026 Snow and Ice budget and is facing a budget deficit as of February 10, 2026. The FY2026 Snow and Ice Budget is \$1.15 million, which has been the same budgeted amount for the past several years and has been sufficient given the winters the Town and region have experienced. This 2025/2026 winter has included more events compared to prior years, including one significant storm that brought over 20" to the region, and storms that have occurred over the weekends and holidays, outside of normal business hours. DPW has purchased above typical quantities of salt given the number of increased snow and ice events. The cost of salt has increased over the past several years and is now \$73/Ton.

There have been a total of 19 snow and ice events this season, of which 6 were plowable events and 2 were brined prior to the plowable event. DPW has purchased 6,408 tons of salt, totaling \$468,320 in salt. The size or type of the storms varied from a freezing rain event or dusting that only requires the application of salt, to a plowable storm of 2-3" of snow, and then to an approximately 20" snow storm with a response duration of 52 hours. The January 25/26th storm that resulted in over 20" of snow accumulation cost approximately \$200,000 alone in labor and material costs. The total snow accumulation as of 2/10/26 is approximately 49.5" which is above normal for the region compared to recent years.

	TOTAL BUDGET	SPENT TO DATE	AVAILABLE
Overtime	\$310,000	\$440,470	-\$130,470
Equipment Repair	\$120,000	\$69,729	\$50,271
Plow Contractors	\$200,000	\$203,560	-\$3,560
Salt	\$470,000	\$468,320	\$1,680
Miscellaneous	\$50,000	\$30,802	\$19,198
TOTALS	\$1,150,000	\$1,212,881	-\$62,881

As of 2/10/26, the DPW's Snow and Ice Budget is facing a deficit in the amount of \$62,881. With more snow and ice events likely to occur this season, DPW will continue to closely monitor the snow and ice budget spending and look to reconcile the account after the season through Town Meeting. Despite the current budget deficit, snow and ice operations remain essential to maintaining public safety and ensuring the continued functioning of our community. These services are critical for keeping roads passable, supporting emergency response, and allowing residents and businesses to operate during winter weather events.