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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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MEMORANDUM

Date: 3/3/26

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 reporting a budget deficit for this winter season. 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 two significant storms that brought over 20" to the region in one event and 11" during a blizzard in another event. Outside these two significant events, various other storms 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.

As of 2/24/26, there have been a total of 22 snow and ice events this season, of which 8 were plowable events and 3 were brined prior to the plowable event. DPW has purchased approximately 6,900 tons of salt, totaling \$503,746 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 February 22/23rd blizzard was deemed a state of an emergency and those labor costs are tracked below separately in the event we can be reimbursed through MEMA for the efforts spent in the storm. The total snow accumulation as of 2/24/26 is approximately 65.5" which is above normal for the region compared to recent years.

	TOTAL BUDGET	SPENT TO DATE	AVAILABLE
Overtime	\$310,000	\$603,380	(\$293,380)
Equipment Repair	\$120,000	\$88,173	\$31,827
Plow Contractors	\$200,000	\$222,220	(\$22,220)
Specialized Labor (Blizzard 2/23)	\$0	\$74,840	(\$74,840)
Salt	\$470,000	\$503,746	(\$33,746)
Miscellaneous	\$50,000	\$30,802	\$19,198
TOTALS	\$1,150,000	\$1,523,161	(\$373,161)

As of 2/24/26, the DPW's Snow and Ice Budget is facing a deficit in the amount of \$373,161. With some winter still remaining, 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.