

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen, Town Manager and Residents of the Town:

I herewith submit my report as Superintendent of Streets for the year 2006.

As I begin this report I am immediately compelled to inform the Town of a Highway Department Employee who after faithfully serving for over thirty six years has decided to retire. Mr. Paul Clockadile will be surely missed and we at the Highway Department wish him a long and healthy retirement. I also extend our appreciation to the rest of the Clockadile family for many years of holidays, birthdays and other events which were celebrated at times without the company of Paul who may have been plowing snow or performing other "emergency" tasks in the interest of public safety.

Snow and Ice

Snow and Ice appropriation	\$ 80,000.00
Total expenditures	\$ 269,067.60
Total Federal reimbursement	\$ 0.00
Total Snow deficit	\$ 189,067.60

Road Work

Regular work for the Highway Department includes sweeping, road repairs, road-side mowing, line striping, sign repair/installation, drainage maintenance, traffic lights, tree care, ditch clearing, crosswalks, sidewalk repairs, snow and ice removal, equipment maintenance, etc...

Paving

Funding provided in the Highway Department budget, Water Department budget and the State Chapter 90 grant program allowed for the following pavement installations:

Centre Avenue Water main installation, cold plane and resurface from Plymouth St. to Rockland Town line.

Diane Circle Top course pavement overlay including sidewalks and driveway aprons.

Jennings Drive Top course pavement overlay including sidewalks and driveway aprons.

Private Development

Recently roads have been completed which are already occupied by Abington taxpayers deserving of Highway Department services they include:

Bradford Road extension

Crabtree Lane extension

Mahoney Circle

Thayer Street

Tupper Farm Road

Sidewalks

The fall Special Town Meeting funded \$ 40,000.00 through the Capital Plan to re-establish the sidewalk restoration program. The majority of this funding was dedicated to the reconstruction of the Blanchard Terrace sidewalks; we were only able to provide new walkways on one side of the street due to the costs associated, still a dramatic improvement to this area and increased safety for the student walkers. Many spot repairs were completed to the sidewalks on route 139, North Avenue and several secondary roadways around Town.

A new gas line was installed down Central Street primarily to service the municipal facilities located there, as part of the project new walks were installed over the work area from Washington Street to the Police Station. This work was done with "In House" labor and equipment.

Drainage

The fall Special Town Meeting also funded \$ 20,000.00 in the Capital Plan toward drainage repairs. A large number of aging storm drains was re-built and a serious effort was given to alleviate flooding conditions on McKinley Drive.

Crosley and Dorsey Streets experienced water problems as a result of an antiquated drainage system overburdened by the influence of new development. Our department was able to remedy a portion of the problems by making a few corrections to the existing pipeline and flushing and cleaning by way of water jet and vacuum.

Abington Public Schools

All of the School parking areas, fire lanes and walkways were swept and cleaned.

Crosswalks were painted. Through a combined effort with the School maintenance department and working closely with Mr. Peter Schafer improvements were made at the Woodsdale School by removing much of a grass island located at the bus turn-around and paving this area. Drainage was installed to eliminate a large puddle in this driveway.

The North School had the small parking lot on the south side of the School re-constructed and paved. Consideration was given to re-design the flow of traffic for school functions, but at this time no changes have been made.

Vehicle Maintenance

A re-direction of staff assignment provided additional help in the Vehicle Maintenance division of the Highway Department. When a vacancy became available due to a retirement, I opted to hire a mechanic to assist in the heavy work load of the fleet repairs.

Abington's annual capital plan has proven to be a great improvement to the Towns overall fleet, vehicle replacements have been realized in several Town Departments over the past two years under the Town Managers structure. This is a tremendous relief as far as vehicle repairs are concerned however many man hours have been devoted to specifications, ordering, installing fleet colors, vehicle radios and lights and many more efforts impossible to list all done in the interest of keeping the new units in a condition which will increase their longevity. Much effort was also given to decommission the surplus vehicles so that parts salvage is maximized and the units could be sent to auction, the proceeds of the auction were re-applied to the Towns general fund.

Because the department maintains and operates the fuel station for all town departments, all of the necessary invoicing and ordering is handled by the V.M Foreman. As have mentioned in previous reports every department in this Town has come to depend on the V.M. department in so many ways and specifically, for his expertise, John Caine.

Administration

While this decision to adjust staffing for the needs of Vehicle Maintenance has improved some of our issues, I certainly have a serious problem for all of our other Public Works functions because of the diminished staff size of the labor crews. I continue to request

to replenish the Highway Department back to a conservative level of eight men. This only provides 2 equipment operators, 3 truck drivers and 3 laborers; currently I have only 1 employee specifically classified as a laborer.

Mr. John Sniger, Assistant Superintendent, continues to provide a high level of service working with a limited budget and an enormous work load. In his role John takes it upon himself to fill the void of the missing personnel, he labors, drives trucks and equipment as well as actually operating as a driver during plowing and salt/sand operations, often times because he is working with the crews, his office work is performed after hours on his own time. A more dedicated employee would be hard to find.

I am quite fortunate to have such a wonderful group of people with an inbred work ethic that the Town of Abington can be proud of. At top the list of such people is Mrs. Lisa Dodge My Administrative Assistant. Lisa does so much during her 19.5 hour work week that I actually have changed department structure over the years to incorporate additional part time staff as much as possible, We have proven without question that a significant amount of work may be achieved with limited hours, without the high costs associated with full time employment.

This coming year we look forward to an extremely busy construction season with improvements targeted toward Linwood, Catherine, Karen and Daniel Streets

Water-line replacements are funded and scheduled for some of our secondary roadways and related roadwork will be incorporated so that pavements will be corrected "curb to curb" rather than trenching.

I look forward to a continued shared effort with all of the employees of this Town, in an effort to provide services to all Residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenan J. Connell
Superintendent of Streets