

# REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS

Respectfully submitted to the Residents through the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen:

I can imagine that upon first glance at this report some folks will think they are reading a fiction story. I say that because it is hard to believe that my first order of business is to notify the Town of a resignation which I reluctantly accepted this past year, the Assistant Superintendent of Streets, Mr. John Sniger.

John was employed by the Highway Department April 30, 1973 and in research for this article I find a recurring description of this man over the 34 years employed, always included are qualities such as integrity, devotion, honesty and loyalty. I can also attest to the fact that each of these words is deemed appropriate whenever John Sniger is involved.

Countless examples of John's experiences could easily fill many pages of this report however in respect to the wishes of John I shall keep it short and simple. We at the Highway Department wish John and his family all the best in a happy and healthy retirement and I personally thank him for all of the influences he has had on me personally and professionally.

## Staffing

Working closely with the Town Manager I presented an idea which seemed very appropriate to the difficult financial times forecasted for the near future. The retirement of my Assistant presented opportunity, however this restructuring would require much cooperation from our employees. Basically what we were able to accomplish is upgrade Mr. John Caine (Jack) from his position of Vehicle Maintenance Foreman to the open position of Assistant Superintendent. We did not fill the Foreman position, instead we hired two new laborers (into open positions residual from previous layoffs), now all divisions of the Highway Department report directly to management and although the office staff may experience increased workload the labor force now has the ability to provide better for the Town.

Newly employed are:

Mr. Peter Tornari

Mr. Scott White

Both men are fully qualified and licensed to perform all duties of the Highway Department.

Current Staff includes:

(1) Superintendent, (1) Assistant Superintendent, (1) Part Time Clerical, (2) Heavy Equipment Operators, (3) Truck Drivers, (3) Laborers, (2) Mechanics.

## Snow and Ice

<b>Snow and Ice Appropriation</b> .....	<b>\$ 80,000.00</b>
Total Expenditures .....	\$ 161,260.34
Total Federal / State Reimbursement .....	\$ 0.00
Total Snow deficit .....	\$ 81,260.34

## **Road Work**

Regular work for the Highway Department includes sweeping, road repairs, roadside 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 and the State Chapter 90 grant program allowed for the following pavement installations.

**Catherine Drive:** Curb to curb cold plane, level and profile with bituminous concrete, adjust castings and gate boxes and finish with 1 1/2" top surface.

**Karen Lane:** Curb to curb cold plane, level and profile with bituminous concrete, adjust castings and gate boxes and finish with 1 1/2" top surface.

**Daniel Drive:** Curb to curb cold plane, level and profile with bituminous concrete, adjust castings and gate boxes and finish with 1 1/2" top surface.

Where applicable the sidewalks on the aforementioned roadways were repaired and resurfaced.

**Linwood Street:** approximately one mile from Groveland Street to the State Park was cold planned and resurfaced. The intersection at Rockland Street was intentionally narrowed in an effort to reduce high speed traffic while turning and "cutting" the corner. Over the years the roadway had encroached onto the adjacent property.

## **Private Development**

Recent (substantially) completed roadways which occupy new Abington Residents deserving of Town services.

**G. Gillespie Way** (off High Street), does not include two common driveways toward the back of the development.

**McCue Circle** From Crabtree Lane extension to dead end. (Proposed through to Grants Place).

## **Sidewalk / Drainage Restoration**

Unfortunately reallocation of funding from this program was necessary to bridge gaps in the articles voted in the fall Town Meeting. Working closely with the Town Manager we realize the need for continuance of the Capital Funding for walkways and drainage and look to restore this program as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, walkways and drainage issues which are located on roads scheduled for re-construction through the State grants are incorporated to the best of our ability.

## **Abington Public Schools**

All of the Schools parking areas, fire lanes and walkways were swept and cleaned. Crosswalks were painted.

Working together with the School Department, The Park and Recreation Department and the following contractors and volunteers: Glenn R. LaPointe Inc., Barcellos and Kane Inc., Lee Mann, Frank Macowitcz (Town Tree Warden) and Mr. Shawn Riley.

It was with great pleasure that the Highway Department was able to be a part of the restoration of the practice field behind the Frolio School.

Also, while the contractors of the Glenn R. LaPointe Company worked tirelessly to refurbish the grandstands, I took it as an opportunity to learn more about concrete repairs and epoxy paint and bonding agents. This education was quickly put to use on a concrete bridge deck repair on Central Street, where I hope to see a long term result.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

For at least ten years now I have been acknowledging the Vehicle Maintenance staff for their extraordinary contributions to the department, actually all departments! Now as I have previously described we have incorporated the VM staff into a broader range of highway department work.

Mr. Caine is the lead man in responsibilities of all highway department operations inclusive of public works and vehicle maintenance. I believe my willingness to adjust the department speaks volumes as to my faith in Jack's ability to handle this role.

Our Head Mechanic has also stepped up to assume a higher level of responsibility in a shared effort to make this new configuration work and down the line to our newest mechanic (currently a mechanics laborer) who is working toward a full mechanics title hopefully to be achieved this coming year.

Without providing a "list" of all of the achievements of the VM division, I believe this to be one of the most cost effective units in this Town. The "in house" diagnostic and repair abilities of these men saves the Town an incredible amount of time and money.

### **Summary**

- This past year was extremely busy and a lot of good work was performed by all. Looking forward to this Spring season the Water Department shall complete a water-main installation on Washington Street which will be followed by a curb to curb re-construction of the roadway from Adams Street to Centre Avenue.
- The Highway Department compound shall be meshed with the Police Department and we also intend to provide any manpower and equipment necessary to complete the Police Department building project to a finished product
- Highway department buildings shall be evaluated, particularly the roofs and also any potential environmental issues.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Mrs. Lisa Dodge for adjusting to advances in technology in the office, new policies and procedures throughout the Town and the increased workloads due to our new configuration. I am very thankful to have her as my Administrative Assistant for almost seven years.

Respectfully Submitted

Kenan J. Connell  
*Superintendent of Streets*