

TOWN OF KOSHKONONG WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The Town of Koshkonong is responsible for maintenance of approximately 70 miles of roads. Winter weather conditions subject these roads to freezing rain or fog, ice, snow and drifting of snow. Winter storms can occur at any time from October through April.

Under Wis. Stat § 82.03(1)(a) the Town Board is granted oversight for town roads, including keeping the highways passable at all times. Furthermore, Wis. Stat § 893.83(1) allows the town up to three (3) weeks to remove natural snow and ice accumulations.

The Town of Koshkonong's goal is to maintain town roads in good winter driving conditions as weather, equipment, and budgets allow. Roads will generally be clear of ice and snow. Adequate traction will be maintained for vehicles which are properly equipped for winter driving conditions. This does not mean bare, dry pavement should be expected during or immediately following each winter storm event.

PLANNING SNOW REMOVAL AND ICE CONTROL OPERATIONS

Planning and preparing for snow and ice operations are difficult due to the uniqueness of each winter storm. No two storms are ever identical. Factors such as rate of snowfall, moisture content, accumulation, temperatures, time of day and wind velocity determines the uniqueness of each storm.

Planning for a snow removal or ice control operation begins when snow accumulations of three (3) or more inches or heavy icing conditions or strong winds are expected. Additional factors, including predicted storm duration and intensity, will be used in determining the start and duration of snow removal and ice control operations. Operations will generally begin near the end of winter storms.

Due to limited budgets, the Town may not have sufficient equipment to handle severe snow and ice storms as rapidly as usual. No guarantee is made or implied as to the length of snow removal and ice control operations.

The Town Chair or his/her designee, along with the County Highway Department, has the authority to suspend snow and ice control operations in severe storm conditions when there is danger to operators or it is not practical or cost effective to continue.

EMERGENCY CONDITIONS

During snow and ice storms, town road crews will respond to emergency conditions to the extent practical. Furthermore, the Town will only respond to verified emergency requests from an emergency agency (i.e., fire, Sheriff, etc.) and not from the general public.

SNOW REMOVAL

The Town's main objective for snow removal operations is to plow the road surfaces to the shoulders. After roadways are opened, additional snow removal may be done. These activities may include wing and bench plowing techniques and removal of snow from the shoulders and road right-of-ways. Attempts will be made to clear the center of roads to bare surfaces whenever possible.

ICE CONTROL

The Town may use either rock salt or sand/salt to aid in the control of ice on road surfaces. There is no State or Federal law that requires the Town to apply sand or salt. Salt or sand/salt mixtures applications may be limited due to budget constraints or material availability.

Sand/salt is a mixture of abrasive sand treated with rock salt. The salt is necessary to keep the sand from freezing.

Salt or the sand/salt mixture will be applied primarily at curves, intersections, hills and steep grades. Sand or sand/salt mixtures will be applied when weather conditions are favorable. Certain weather conditions may allow the salt or sand/salt mixture to promote a thawing or clearing of compact snow and/or ice.

PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS AND PARKING LOTS

Private driveway and parking lot maintenance is the property owner's responsibility.

The Town of Koshkonong is not responsible for removal of snow or ice that is plowed into private driveways during road clearing operations. Furthermore, The Town of Koshkonong, the Town Board, Town employees and operators are not responsible for snow removal or ice control from, or any damage incurred during snow removal or ice control operations to private driveways, parking lots or yards.

PRIVATE ROADS

Winter maintenance, including snow removal and ice control, from private roads is the property owner's responsibility. The Town of Koshkonong is not responsible for the removal of snow or ice that is plowed into private roadways during road clearing operations.

The removal of snow and ice control on private roads by the Town of Koshkonong is allowed under Wis. Stat. § 86.105. Private roads must have a written request approved by the Town Board of Koshkonong prior to the winter season. All charges for services will be billed back to the party responsible for paying all charges. Any charges not paid, will be placed on the party's tax bill.

The Town will have public roads opened before having private roads opened. An approved private road must be clear of all obstructions or the Town or its contractor will not plow the road. During snow removal or ice control operations on approved private roads, any damages or injuries incurred to plowing vehicles, equipment or personnel due to obstruction will also be the responsibility of the designated responsible party.

The Town of Koshkonong, the Town Board, Town employees and operators are not responsible for any damage incurred to private roads during snow removal and ice control operations.

RESTRICTIONS ON PRIVATE SNOW REMOVAL ACTIVITIES.

The Town of Koshkonong is responsible for maintaining safe road conditions and has determined that certain restrictions to private snow removal activities are required. Authority is derived from Wis. Stat. § 346.94(5), which states that no person may place or cause to be placed upon any highway any substance that is or may be injurious to any vehicle and from Wis. Stat. § 86.022 which prohibits placing obstructions in a road ditch.

Prohibited activities include, but are not expressly limited to the plowing snow across town roads and filling ditches with compacted snow. Prohibited acts will be referred to the Jefferson County Sheriff's department and a citation may be issued under § 346.95(3). A warning may be issued at the discretion of the Town Chair or his/her designee.

Furthermore, Wis. Stat. § 86.02 allows the Town of Koshkonong to collect from anyone who damages town roads, including damage done by private snow removal and ice control activities.

MAIL BOXES

Operators are instructed to be very cautious near mail boxes. In most cases, a properly installed mail box will permit a snow plow to clear the snow underneath it. Most cases of damaged mail boxes are caused by heavy snow hitting the box. Mailboxes are seldom hit by the plow.

The replacement of mailboxes by the Town is covered by Town of Koshkonong ordinance 6-3-7 and is limited to a \$25.00 payment. Special decorative mailboxes and/or posts will not be provided. If the owner wishes to install a decorative mailbox and/or post that meet standards, it shall be at the owner's expense.

The Town of Koshkonong is not responsible for clearing snow from mailboxes. Town of Koshkonong Ordinance 6-3-6(f) states that snow and ice must be removed within twenty-four (24) hours after each snowfall both in front of and for a distance of fifteen (15) feet on each side of the mailbox.

COMPLAINTS

Reports of emergency road situations must be made to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department will notify the Town Chair or his/her designee.

Complaints about winter road conditions may be made at the Town Hall during posted business hours. A voice message may also be left at by calling the Town Hall at (920) 563-4510. Email may also be directed to the town hall at koshkonong@compufort.com.

Complaints may also be directed to any Town Supervisor. In the event that the Supervisor is unavailable, a complaint may be given to spouses or other family members and will be relayed to the proper personnel.

The Town Supervisors, employees, contractors, spouses and family members will not deal with rude, obscene or belligerent complaints.

This Winter Road Maintenance Policy shall be deemed to be in force after its approval by the Town Board.

Town Chair

Supervisor 1

Town Clerk

Supervisor 2

Date

Supervisor 3

Supervisor 4

(This was signed and adopted at the January 9, 2008 Town Board meeting at W5609 Star School Rd, Koshkonong Township, Jefferson County, Wisconsin.)