



TOWN OF WINSLOW

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Monthly Report to the Town Manager and Town Council January 2022

At the beginning of January, I met with our clearing contractor to discuss the upcoming project along the river. They have since been coordinating with Pan Am Railroad to obtain the proper permits and insurance to work adjacent to their right-of-way. We hope to start the project towards the end of February.

January was definitely a more active month weather wise. The crew put in quite a few extra hours and we used a lot of de-icing materials. All was going well until the last week when the large storms hit. We had four employees plus myself that went out with Covid. With the sewer crew and mechanics we were able to keep all the trucks on the road. At the height of the storm we had one truck go off the road and another one freeze up, so keeping things passable became quite a challenge. I think my foreman and his crew did a great job handling things. It was tough for me to be sitting home and listening to the chaos. The next storm I was able to come in to help.

Before the first major storm, Kennebec Sanitary District was going around checking stand-by generators and discovered that the engine oil in our generator was contaminated with coolant. We procured a temporary stand-by generator and we are making plans to repair the permanent generator. I hate spending money on this old generator since it is slated to be replaced as part of the Chaffee Brook project but this is still a year or two out and we need dependable stand-by power for this station.

Finally, as most everyone is aware, we were experiencing supply issues for road salt. Our vendor, Morton Salt, exhausted their inventory in Searport and Portland. They will not receive another shipment until Monday, February 14. I was able to procure 4 loads from last year's vendor at a 40% premium. After ordering these four loads, Morton filled my last order of six loads. These had been ordered of January 30 and were delivered on February 8. My initial thoughts are that MDOT will not renew with Morton Salt next year, but we still have to make it through the rest of this winter.

Respectfully submitted by,
Paul E. Fongemie

Public Works Director