



## TOWN OF WINSLOW

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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### Monthly Report to the Town Manager and Town Council      December 2023

December came in fairly mild with warm temperatures and little snow. The week before Christmas changed that. When the rain and wind hit on Monday, December 18, Winslow as we know was demolished. We lost power town-wide which meant I now had nine pump stations without power. I quickly called in two septic trucks from Stanley Septic and two from B & B Septic. They maintained our pump stations 24/7 until Thursday. Together, they pumped for a combined total of 205.5 hours at a cost of \$55,000.00. We were able to prevent the stations from overflowing and from backing into resident's basements. As we move forward from this disaster, we will need to explore supplementing our existing portable generator with at least one additional portable and one stationary unit.

Our main pump station at Chaffee Brook did not fair so well. We fueled the generator around 5:00 pm Monday night before leaving for the night. When we came in Tuesday morning and explored topping the fuel tank, we realized we couldn't because the river had risen high enough to prevent access to the building. The generator ran out of fuel around 5:30 pm on Tuesday and the station went down. When the water receded enough on Wednesday to allow access to the building to refuel the generator, it was discovered that the pump room had approximately 12 feet of water in it, submerging the pumps. It took until Friday morning for the KSTD crew with help from my crew to dewater the pump room. KSTD then removed one of the motors and installed our only spare and had the station running by 3:00 pm Friday afternoon. The other two motors were removed on Tuesday, 12/26, and all three were taken to a repair shop in Auburn. One of those has already been returned and installed. We now have two out of three pumps running. A huge thank you to the crew from KSTD.

The river crossing project has been put on hold until spring or summer, depending on permits. The Friday before the storm, the contractor lost control of the pipe strings and had to tie them to the shore on the Waterville side for the weekend. On Monday, they had to relocate all their equipment to higher ground. After the water receded, they had lost their timber mat ramp and the crane pad. The pipe trench that had been excavated was now filled with sediment. With the high flow and upcoming cold weather, they requested to shut down the project and demobilize. They will remove the two pipe strings from the water and store on the Winslow side. Once our engineers confer with DEP and the Army Corps about amending the permit, we will have a better idea when we can resume the project.

The Cushman Road project is progressing slowly. They are probably a week from getting to an appropriate stopping point for the winter. Before people comment that our storm drain project did not prevent flooding, it should be noted that the flooding resulted from the river rising high enough to back feed through the storm drains.

Lastly, my crew just started their third week collecting storm damage from our town roads and streets. We plan on starting debris removal at Fort Halifax on Thursday, 1/4. The park was hit very hard. Except for the fort itself, all the structures were damaged or destroyed. I have requested a discussion item for the upcoming Council meeting to ascertain the Council's wishes moving forward with the park.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Paul E. Fongemie  
Public Works Director