

CARLOS TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION 2011-5 Establishing A Snow and Ice Control Policy

WHEREAS, the Town Board ("Board") of Carlos Township ("Town") is the road authority and provides maintenance for approximately 50 miles of road in the Town;

WHEREAS, the Board, as the road authority, provides for snow and ice control on the town roads it has designated to receive winter maintenance;

WHEREAS, the Board secures its snow and ice control services through contract with an independent contractor ("Contractor").

WHEREAS, the Board determines it is in the best interest of the Town to develop a policy to set out how snow and ice control activities will be conducted on town road considering the Town's limited resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby adopts the following as the snow and ice control policy for the Town;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any Contractor performing snow or ice control services for the Town shall follow this policy.

## **Article 1: Snow Plowing Policy**

### **Section 1.1 Policy Considerations**

In developing this policy for how to best undertake snow and ice control activities in the Town, the Town board must consider the following:

1. **Contract for Services:** the board contracts with independent contractors for snow removal services. Because the town obtains snow and ice control services through a non-exclusive contract, it does not have direct control over the availability of personnel, equipment, or the timing of the service delivery. The town indicates through this policy and the service contract the work to be performed and the performance expectations, but the contractor must remain free to exercise initiative, judgement, and discretion in how best to perform or provide the services.
2. **Safety, Equipment Damage, and Effectiveness:** Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of operations or pose an unreasonable risk of damaging equipment. Once initiated, operations will be suspended if conditions deteriorate to the point that operations become unsafe for operators because of factors including, but not limited to, severe cold, significant winds, limited visibility, accumulation of ice, or rapid accumulation of snow. Operations will also be delayed or suspended if existing or anticipated conditions indicate the operations will not be effective.

## **Section 1.2 When Snow Plowing Begins**

1. The Contractor has the authority to determine when plowing operations will begin. The following criteria shall be considered
  - a. An evaluation of the immediate and anticipated weather conditions.
  - b. The likely effectiveness of operations.
  - c. Safety of employees.
  - d. If an unreasonable risk of damaging equipment exists.
  - e. Snow accumulation of three (3") inches or more.
  - f. Accumulation of drifting snow – the plow will not go out until the wind goes down
  - g. Severe icy conditions that seriously effect travel.
  - h. Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of the roads.
2. Snow and ice control operations are expensive and involve the use of limited resources. Consequently, operations will normally not begin until the snow has stopped falling or until at least three inches of snow has accumulated.

## **Section 1.3 How Snow Will Be Plowed**

1. Snow will be plowed in a manner as to minimize traffic obstructions.
2. Under normal conditions, one plowing per snowfall will be considered sufficient
3. Snow plowing under severe conditions will consist of opening roads first and widening at a later time, if needed.
4. Because of limited resources and restrictions on the use of salt, blacktopped roads will not usually be cleared down to bare blacktop.
5. Snow will be plowed as close as practicable to mailboxes located in the road right-of-way. It shall be the responsibility of property owners to clear snow from around the mailboxes to enable mail delivery.
6. Snow plowing unavoidable results in snow being deposited on driveways and approaches. It is the responsibility of land owners to remove snow from their driveways and approaches.
7. In the event of equipment failure, extreme snowfall, or other unanticipated events including the availability or need to rest snow plow crews, deviation from these standard may be appropriate.

## **Section 1.4 Roads That Are Not Plowed**

1. The amount and nature of the uses to which the Town's roads are put can vary significantly by location and season. While some town roads are needed throughout the year or access to homes, businesses, or as a primary transportation route, other roads are only needed for limited purposed only during the summer months. The Board determines that attempting to keep all roads open during the winter regardless of the need or use would unreasonably dilute the funds available for winter maintenance and lower the level of maintenance that could be achieved on those roads that are relied upon year round. In order to properly allocate the Town's limited resources, the Board may determine to close certain roads during winter months, to not

snowplow certain minimum-maintenance roads, and to reserve the right to close other roads as needed to respond to snow emergencies.

2. Certain town roads may be closed during winter months. Rather than commit limited resources to keeping all roads snowplowed regardless of the need for the roads during winter months or the cost to keep them open, the Board will determine when to reopen each road in the Spring depending upon their condition.
3. Minimum-Maintenance Roads may be Snow Plowed: Town's are authorized by Minn. Statute 160.095 to designate roads that are used only occasionally or intermittently for passenger or commercial traffic as minimum maintenance roads. While these roads are not used for vehicular traffic during winter months, the Board does recognize that they are used for snowmobiling.
4. Town Roads Closed in Snow Emergencies: In snow emergencies the Board will close and barricade roads as it deems necessary to respond to the emergency. The Board will determine when to reopen each road that was closed based on need and condition of the road as well as on the availability of funds, personnel and equipment.
5. Special Circumstances: An owner of property adjacent to a road or road portion that the board has determined not to snowplow during the winter months may request the Board to snowplow the road in emergencies or if special circumstances exist. The board will consider each request and determine if it has the sufficient resources to accommodate it.

#### **Section 1.5 Emergency Assistance**

If Law Enforcement requests snow removal to assist emergency vehicles to respond to an emergency situation, reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the request.

#### **Section 1.6 Sanding and Salting**

The Township and/or private or public contractors will use sand and salt when there are hazardous ice or slippery conditions. Sanding is done at problem locations on paved and gravel roads including intersections, curves and hills. The Town must consider the cost, environmental impact, public safety, and the availability of staff and equipment when deciding to, when, and to what extent to apply sand and salt.

#### **Section 1.7 Snow Removal**

The Town Supervisors will determine when and if snow will be removed by truck or heavy equipment. Such snow removal will occur only in areas where accumulated piles of snow create a hazardous condition. Snow removal operations will not commence until other snow plowing operations have been completed. Snow removal operations may also be delayed depending on weather conditions, personnel and budget availability.

#### **Section 1.8 Snow Plowing of Private Property**

The Town will not provide for the snowplowing or sanding of private property except when requested to do so by Law Enforcement to provide access for emergency vehicles responding to an emergency. If private property is used with permission of the owner to turn around equipment or

to store snow, the Town may snowplow the private property as needed to accommodate the Town's use of the land.

**Section 1.9 Depositing Snow in Rights-of-Way**

It is unlawful for anyone to deposit any snow or ice in a public road right-of-way or to otherwise obstruct a public road. Minn.Stat.160.27, subd.5(a)(1);169.42, Subd.1. Depositing snow or ice in a road also increases snowplowing costs, creates a potential public safety hazard and could damage equipment.

**Section 1.10 Complaints and Requests**

Complaints and requests for further services should be directed to the Board, not the contractor. Complaints and requests for further services regarding snow and ice control or damage will be taken during normal Town Board meetings and handled on a case-by-case basis. If the contractor is aware of complaints or requests for additional services, he shall forward such complaints or requests to the Board for consideration.

**Section 1.11 Review of Policy**

The board will periodically review the policy, taking into consideration any changing conditions in the Town's circumstances, any complaints or comments received, and the experience learned from undertaking snow and ice control procedures.

Adopted this day 14<sup>th</sup> of April, 2011

Dwayne Walby, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

Attest: Rebecca Anderson, Clerk

