



# SNOW PLOWING POLICY

## 1. Introduction

The City of Pequot Lakes believes that it is in the best interest of the residents for the city to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on city streets. Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The City will provide such control in a safe and cost effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns. (To be provided by City employees, equipment and/or private contractors).

## 2. When will City start snow or ice control operations?

The Public Works Supervisor will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations. The criteria for that decision are:

- A. Snow accumulation of 3 inches or more;
- B. Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel;
- C. Icy conditions which seriously affect travel;
- D. Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets.

Snow and ice control operations are expensive and involve the use of limited personnel and equipment. Consequently, snowplowing operations will not generally be conducted for snowfall of less than 3 inches.

## 3. Suspension of Operations

Operations shall continue until all roads are passable. Widening and clean up operations may continue immediately or on the following working day depending upon conditions and circumstances. Safety of the plow operators and the public is important. Therefore, snow plowing/removal operations may be terminated after 10-12 hours to allow personnel adequate time for rest. There may be instances when this is not possible depending on storm conditions and other circumstances. Operations may also be suspended during periods of limited or zero visibility. Any decision to suspend operations shall be made by the Public Works Supervisor and shall be based on the conditions of the storm.

#### 4. Plow Routes and Sequencing

There are City streets, public sidewalks and public parking lots under the City's jurisdiction which are affected by this policy. Sidewalks maintained by City crews and sidewalks servicing public facilities shall be cleared by City forces after street routes are completed. City parking lots shall also be cleared by City crews. However, they may be cleared in conjunction with street routes or after street routes have been completed.

The Public Works Supervisor has the responsibility of determining plow routes and sequencing of operations. The Public Works Supervisor shall retain the latitude to adjust sequencing of route assignments based on storm conditions, equipment availability and/or other conditions warranting changes.

#### 5. Priorities and schedule for which streets will be plowed

The City has classified city streets based on the street function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. Those streets classified as "Snow Plow Routes" will be plowed first. These are high volume which connect major sections of the city and provide access for emergency fire, police and medical services.

The second priority streets are those streets providing access to schools and commercial businesses. The third priority streets are low volume residential streets. The fourth priority areas are alleys and city parking lots.

#### 6. Level of Service

The intent of this policy is to provide safe winter driving conditions appropriate for the type of travel necessary on City streets. The level of service described herein shall be considered a guideline with the understanding that immediately after a storm the level of service provided may be less than described herein and may vary across the City depending on storm conditions and other circumstances.

Streets shall be plowed and/or sanded to provide intersection approaches and curves to be as safe as conditions allow. Gravel and dirt road services shall be plowed to provide a hard packed surface with sand and/or abrasives spread as necessary for traction. A minimum of chemicals will be used to achieve the conditions stated.

During light to normal snowfalls streets will be plowed full width as soon after the initial pass as possible. During heavier snowfalls the streets shall be plowed as wide as possible initially and widened as the storm intensity lessens. After the storm passes, clean up operations shall begin to clear intersections and snow storage areas along corners and boulevards. It is the City's intent to complete the initial plowing and widening operations within twenty-four (24) HOURS OF CESSATION OF THE

STORM. Clean up operations should be complete within twenty-four (24) hours for light snow falls and within seventy-two (72) hours for heavy snowfalls. Major blizzards may require additional time.

## 7. Parking Restrictions

On-street parking is not compatible with efficient snow plowing operations. Vehicles left parked on the street for extended periods of time create problems for snow plows as well as safety problems with packed snow and ice around the vehicle. Ticketing and/or towing these vehicles may occur in conformance with City ordinance. Additionally, after large accumulations of snow the City may find it advisable to prescribe parking restrictions to facilitate snow plowing and clean up operations.

## 8. Responsibility of Residents

Snow storms create numerous problems and inconveniences. This policy has identified streets, sidewalks and parking lots that the City will clear. The residents will also have certain responsibilities. These include clearing their own driveways and private sidewalks, clearing areas for trash cans, clearing around mailboxes and/or delivery tubes and if possible fire hydrants adjacent to their property. These areas should be cleared without depositing any snow into the street. There also must not be any large piles which obstruct vision of driveways or walks. Trash cans must not be placed on the street surfaces. The city will not clear private drives or walks.

Snow plowing can cause additional snow to be deposited in driveway approaches and around roadside obstacles. Operators are instructed to attempt to minimize these instances; however, it is not practical to eliminate the situation. Residents should be aware they may have to clear their driveways a second time after their street has been plowed.

Complaints regarding snow and ice control or damage shall be taken during normal working hours and handled in accordance with the City's normal complaint procedure. High priority complaints ( those involving access to property or problems requiring immediate attention) shall be handled on a priority basis. Response time should not exceed twenty-four (24) hours for any complaint. It should be understood that complaint responses are to ensure that the provisions of this policy have been fulfilled and that all residents of the City have been treated uniformly. It is the City's intention to log all complaints and upgrade this policy as necessary in consideration of the constraints of our resources.

Date: April 3, 2012