

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Highway Department staff includes the Superintendent, three Heavy Equipment Operators, a Department Mechanic, a driver/laborer and a part-time administrative assistant. This primary work force maintains over eighty miles of public and private roadway. The department performs all highway maintenance including paving and resurfacing, sweeping of streets and sidewalks, repairs and/or replacement of subsurface drainage and culverts, plowing, sanding and snow and ice removal.

The department performs maintenance and repairs on highway department equipment and plows including all welding and fabricating repairs at a considerable savings to town taxpayers. Our goal is to continue upgrading our equipment resulting in the department having a fleet of new and used reliable multi-use vehicles. In addition to routine operations throughout the year the Highway Superintendent plans and coordinates road resurfacing and/or reconstruction projects and infrastructure repairs.

Fiscal Year 2019 Chapter 90 local transportation aid apportionment of \$309,884 was accepted at the June 2019 Special Town Meeting.

A five-year priority list was provided to the Board of Selectmen to include North Street, Brickyard Road, Town Farm Road, Bullard Road, North Main Street, Gilbert Street to Route 148 North.

The 2001 F450 has new cab and body. The costs associated with this came to about \$6,200 versus the purchase of a new truck at the cost of \$70,000 to \$80,000. We hope to get many years of service out of this truck.

Thanks to the approval of \$5,000, a sander body was also rehabbed with three more sander bodies still in need of the same.

Also, thank you to the good people of North Brookfield for the transfer of money to purchase a 1997 grader which took the place of the 1987 grader. It has already proven to be a very effective machine for our quest to improve our dirt roads.

Due to the absence of Chapter 90 funds for paving, time and manpower was made available for extensive culvert replacement work and road patching throughout town.

MassDOT has approved funding through the Small Bridge Program for replacement of Cider Mill Road Bridge at Coys Brook. This contract has been signed by the Board of Selectmen and bridge design and surveying has already taken place. Fuss & O'Neill, Engineering Group is expected to present a design proposal. Upon acceptance of the new bridge design construction and installation will follow and completion of this project is expected through June 2021.

In meeting great challenges placed on the Highway department the hard work and dedication of the Highway crew does not go unnoticed. The success of the department is attributed to

teamwork and accomplishments of the department employees. Special thanks to supporting departments, the Police Department, Dispatch and boards and committees, as well as a very strong positive support from the residents of our community.

The on-call part-time employees called upon to help in the long and enduring task of snow removal operations is also very much appreciated.

In the upcoming year we look forward to the challenges of providing our community with the best service possible for public safety on our roads.

Respectfully,

Jason Benoit, Superintendent