

ARTHUR TOWNSHIP KANABEC COUNTY

SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

With the advent of another Minnesota snow season comes the concern about the access to work, school, and business. The safety and convenience of the traveling public is a main concern of Arthur Township. The goal of Arthur Township is to have all roads passable within a reasonable amount of time after a snow fall.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

In developing this policy for how to best undertake snow and ice control activities in the Town, the Board has had to balance a number of factors including, but not limited to, the following: public safety; the amount of funds available for these activities; the wish to maintain an efficient transportation system; enable the delivery of emergency services; avoid damage to Town property and personal property; and the cost effective allocation of resources. A further explanation of some of these policy considerations follows:

The Township cannot assure a completely bare road as all snow and ice cannot reasonably be removed from the road surface. The traveling public is reminded to exercise caution and drive with care and have your vehicle under control at all times. The legal speed limit may not be possible at all times.

The funds the Town has available for snow and ice control are derived from two sources. The first is the town road and bridge tax levy that is set by the town electors at the annual town meeting held in March. The second source of funds comes from the gas tax imposed and collected by the state, a small portion of which is distributed to towns to help maintain their roads. The Board has no direct control over either source of funding. A proposed levy is submitted to the town electors at the annual town meeting, but the actual amount of the Town's road & bridge levy is determined solely by a vote of the electors. Accordingly, the Township has to allocate scarce resources in a manner to ensure that funding is available to attempt to control ice and snow on Town roads even if the winter is long and severe. This policy attempts to achieve a balance of the factors set forth above in manner that ensures the Township has the resources to make its roads passable through the duration of the winter.

SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURES

1. Dispatching of snowplow:

The town will usually not dispatch the snow plow until after the snow fall has stopped. During extended periods of snow fall, exceptions may be made. The snowplow will not be sent out in situations that may be hazardous due to restricted visibility. The snowplow will not be dispatched if the snow fall does not exceed a total of 4 (four) inches. If snow fall stops during the night or early morning hours, the plow will be dispatched at 5:00 am. Weekend plowing will be handled in a similar manner.

2. Operations:

Generally, the clearing of roads will consist of three phases: 1. Making the road passable, 2, Widening the road, and 3. Cleaning up. Dependent on the situation, more than one phase may be accomplished at one time.

3. Personal Property:

A. Mail boxes and fences damaged during snow removal will be evaluated case by case. Only those mailboxes that were properly located and installed per State Statute 169.072 and which were damaged by actual contact with equipment responsible to the town will be repaired at Town expense.

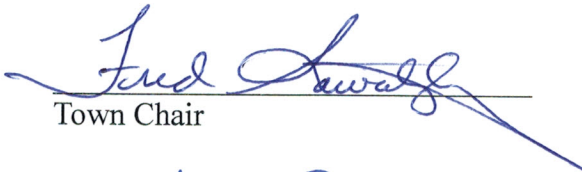
B. Town residents are reminded that it is unlawful to plow snow from driveways onto or across public roads. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass, creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Accidents and damaged caused by snow piles placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner. Piles of snow increase the chance of drifting snow onto the roadway.

C. Town residents are reminded to remove parked vehicles from town road to assist in snow removal.

D. The Town vehicles will not attempt to remove stuck vehicles from Town ditches, snow banks, or any other impediment.

E. When directed by the supervisors or the sheriff's department, the Town will make every effort to make emergency plowing.

Approved by the Arthur Town Board this 22nd day of October, 2018.


Town Chair


Town Clerk