

HIGHWAY AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

James "Cutter" Galliher, Superintendent

The department's primary mission is the maintenance and improvement of part of the Town's infrastructure: roads, sewage and drainage system, cemeteries and parks. This is performed by a dedicated and professional staff, with many years' experience.

It was a very long and record-breaking winter season. More than 100 inches of snow fell during the season and our personnel worked every holiday during the winter. This dedication and professionalism is a great characteristic of our staff. This is also a heavy strain on our budgets, but a necessity for safe and passable roads for our townspeople. Approximately 5,000 tons of sand and salt were used on the town roads this past season. A major snowstorm occurred over the Presidents' Day weekend when nearly 20 inches of snow fell. Most of the New England and surrounding areas declared emergencies; because of this, the federal and state governments reimbursed the towns for a large portion of their expenses.

All of the sand and salt and winter debris has to be cleaned up each spring. All of the town's streets are swept by a combination of the department's personnel and sweeper and a private contractor. Much of the clean sand is reused by mixing it with stone to make gravel and applying it to our dirt roads. It is also mixed with compost to make loam or just used as fill for our excavation projects. Also during the spring all of the town's dirt roads are regraded and reshaped to repair winter damage and improve drainage.

The springtime is also clean-up time for our four cemeteries in preparation for our Memorial Day observance. Berkshire County Sheriff Carmen Massimiano's community service program is very helpful in both our spring and fall clean-up programs by providing additional manpower. Most of the leaves and lawn debris is put in our compost area and eventually reused as loam by the department.

Springtime is also time to ready the town's parks for the upcoming recreational season. The initial preparation for the baseball and softball diamond is done and also any winter damage to the parks is taken care of. A problem with the completion of the Babe Ruth field occurred this year with the work being unsatisfactory to the town. A new contractor has been hired and this project should be finalized this year.

The sewer and drainage systems were cleaned and flushed on a regular basis. Almost all of the system's catch basins were also cleaned and most of the cross piping was flushed with the high-velocity sewer flusher. Some of the known problem areas are on a scheduled maintenance program to alleviate blockages or flooding.

Regular maintenance and improvements are performed by the department during the summer and fall months. Extensive drainage and waterway work was done on Cleveland Road, Johnson Road, Anthony Road, Grange Hall Road, and East Street in

the past year. The project consisted of milling some of the roadway off and applying that material to Johnson Road and some of the dirt roads in the cemeteries for stability. High Street received approximately 2 inches of new blacktop, and all of the manholes, structures and driveways were brought up to final grade.

An upgrade to our sewer system was constructed on Division Road to allow the proposed Silver Maple complex to have gravity sewer. A new 8 inch sewer main was installed to the Pittsfield sewer system and approximately 1,100 feet of pipe was installed on Division Road, north to the subdivision. The main line was installed this year, and next year house laterals will be installed and the road will be repaved.

The town bought a new front-end loader and a new large dump-sander-plow truck. These vehicles will replace a 1986 front-end loader and a 1983 G.M.C. dump-plow truck. These two pieces will be a great and needed addition to the Department.

South Street and Housatonic Street are currently in the engineering and design stages of the state's Transportation and Improvement Program. The town has allocated funds and received grants for this portion of the projects, which will eventually be constructed by the Massachusetts Highway Department.

It has been a very positive and productive year for the department, due largely to the staff at the Highway-Cemetery Department, which will continue to provide quality workmanship and safe roadways to the town. I would like to thank the citizens of Dalton, the Select Board, the Town Manager, and all town employees and boards for their cooperation, support and guidance in another successful and productive year.