

Public Works Report February 2019

Winter Routines: This time of year our crew spends the majority of their time fighting back Mother Nature. This year has been no exception. Our crew has been doggedly been pushing their way through another winter of rain, snow and much too much ice. With an increase in rain and ice events they have spent much of their time sanding roads and then when done with that hauling and mixing more sand and salt so they can do it all again, and again... After each snow storm our goes about their normal winter routine of doing snow removal at all our facilities and conducting maintenance checks and services on all our snow equipment to get ready for the next round. Not terribly exciting but then again it is winter in Maine...

Major repairs done this past month include: The 1995 Champion road grader transmission issue I told you about last month was not solved at that point like we had hoped. It is now. It failed again during a snowstorm so we dug in deeper and found several failed gear selection control solenoids that were working intermittently. We replaced all six solenoids and it's working good now. Luckily that was a much cheaper fix than our original suspicion of a failing transmission controller. This machine is a heavy hitter during winter storms and is relied upon to clear many miles of road.

Some of these repairs are very technical and can be caused by more than one thing and can be very difficult to diagnose and repair correctly. It took several attempts to solve the "making oil" problem in our FL-80 six wheeler. High pressure diesel fuel was getting into the engine oil and causing oil viscosity failure very quickly which once that happened required an immediate oil change to continue operating safely. Our mechanics finally got the problem corrected without having to send it out to the dealership which would have downed that snowplow for weeks and cost much more.

Water Production for January 2019 was the same as last month: 9.5 Million Gallons. We are also using about 1/3 less chemical to treat for PH each month.