

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

2023 Annual Report

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Superintendent: Timothy Gosselin

Working Foreman: Timothy A. West

Truck Driver/Equipment Operator(s):

David Almquist

Cody Tarmy

Stephen Daley (*transferred*)

Garrett Moote, part time

2023 has been a challenging year for the Division that started out with reduced staff and endured staff turnover in management that resulted in lost productivity and leadership. Superintendent, Craig Sartwell, resigned in April and the position remained open until January of 2024. Public Works Director, Todd Cartier resigned shortly afterwards and Truck Driver, Stephen Daley transferred into a different Division within the Public Works Department. These changes in the Division have had a significant impact on operations however the Division continues to persevere. Tim Gosselin was hired as Highway Superintendent in January of 2024 and Truck Driver, Cody Tarmy recently passed his one-year anniversary. The Division is still down one full time and one part time position; however, the Division remains optimistic that 2024 will be a productive year and will become fully staffed in 2024.



In 2024, the Division will train staff on proper gravel road maintenance techniques and continue improving drainage as this will be key to maintaining the longevity of the road surfaces. With the purchase of an updated motor grader, staff will receive training on the new equipment. The Division will explore alternative road stabilization materials and methods and has requested an increase in the summer road maintenance budget for adding more material to roads. It is the Division's goal to improve and stabilize gravel roads. A lot of time is devoted to responding to muddy conditions and the Division plans to be proactive and improve techniques to prevent roads from deteriorating.

On June 22, 2023, the Chandler Mills Bridge No. 086/095 Design-Build Bid proposals were publicly opened at the Board of Selectman's room, where Neil Daniel's Construction came in as low bidder. Daniel's broke ground on November 01, 2023 and have successfully completed the bridge deck project, including the placement of new guardrails (*pictured on last page of report*).

June and July 2023 brought the Town and surrounding areas severe rains, flooding several locations, washing out roadways, overwhelming culverts, and damaging Town and personal property. Some of the highly affected areas *included but weren't limited to*; Whitcher, Old Goshen, East Mountain, Bradford, Blaisdell, and Aspen roads. These rain events have a substantial impact onto division's time and resources. When not repairing damage, the Highway crew was focusing on improving drainage by repairing and replacing culverts, clearing ditches, and cleaning catch basins.



FEMA has declared July 9-17, 2023 Disaster DR4740. The DPW in conjunction with the Highway Division is working on gathering all the pertinent information with supporting documentation for submission in hopes to regain 70% of costs obtained onto the Town affected during this time period. Although this is a lengthy process, we do anticipate submitting any and all damage impacts.



We'd like to thank K.A. Stevens & Son for their contribution, donation of time and equipment to repairs on Coon Brook, and Aspen Roads.

Many thanks to the other area contractors including United Construction, Carroll Concrete, Jeff Starcher, Hall's Excavation, and BMB Excavation.

During 2023, we did not undergo a Paving Project, as we were still in our 2-year projection from the previous large scale Blueberry Ridge Road Paving Project. In lines with the Town's RSMS Study completed by Lake Sunapee Upper Valley Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC), we are taking into consideration the most affected roads/streets to be paved in 2024; road/street determination to be chosen in February 2024 by the DPW and Town Manager. Request for Proposals will be sent out by March 01, 2024. The Town is requesting a substantial completion date of August 31, 2024.



Year ending, we delivered the ice-skating hut to the town's common and cleared an area for the Recreation Department to create the large skating area which many residents enjoy every winter. Flooding the rink was a challenge as the temperatures were record highs ending December 2023.



Please welcome Timothy Gosselin, newly appointed Highway Superintendent effective January 05, 2024. Tim originally started with the Town as a Truck Driver/Equipment Operator in 2023 and came to the town with extensive experience with heavy equipment, plowing and road maintenance operations. Tim was raised in Newport and still currently resides here with his family.

**THANK YOU
NEWPORT HIGHWAY**

