



TOWN OF UNION *Maine*

February 2024 was one of the least snowy on record. We only received about one to two inches of snow all month. In total we only went out seven times this month, all to simply sand the roads except for that one time for the small amount of snow we got. We had plenty of abnormally warm weather and plenty of rain with many days above freezing and a few reaching into the 40's which prompted us to post all the town roads, restricting heavy loads over 23,000 pounds unless the temperature is below 32 degrees and there is no standing water in the cracks of the road. There are certain exceptions to the restriction such as heating oil delivery trucks.

With the extra down time we had from not having to plow this month we were able to take time to fix some of the equipment issues that we had been putting off, including repairing a significant hydraulic leak on the backhoe that took several days to complete. We also spent a day cutting brush on Shepard Hill Rd.

Due to the rain and warm temperatures at the end of the month we had several mud issues on some of the dirt roads. The only thing we can do to combat the problem during this time of the year is spread crushed stone on the worst parts to keep the roads passable. It won't be the smoothest road you've ever driven on but it at least keeps the roads open until we can do the fine grading in the spring when we're sure that winter is finally over and all the frost is out of the ground.

Also, this month we welcomed a new employee to the department. Matthew Russell was hired to replace Jacoby Leavitt who left in January to take a job in the private sector. Matt is a Union resident and I think he'll be a good fit for public works and an asset to the town.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Elwell - Public Works Director



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Chris Robinson and Corey Witham working on the backhoe