

UNION PUBLIC WORKS - MONTHLY REPORT / JANUARY 2021

The month of January for the public works department was a “slow” month, relatively speaking of course. Slow in the aspect that we didn’t have any major winter storms to clean up from, but we still managed to find plenty of things to do to stay busy.

We went out seven times for winter storm related events. Four of the events were sanding only. We lucked out on another sizeable storm mid-month that stayed all rain. However, even rain events can cause road related issues. We spent a morning cleaning up from yet another washout at the Coggins Hill/North Union Rd intersection. This has happened several times already this fall/winter at the same intersection with any kind of moderate to heavy rainfall. The issue is caused by the inability to properly ditch and dispose of the water runoff from the northern side of Coggins Hill where it meets North Union Rd and eventually washes out the adjacent farms driveways and coats North Union Rd with gravel. There is a plan in place to properly fix this issue in the summer if all goes well. Until then it’s an ongoing problem that we will take care of when necessary.

The new Western Star that we put into service last month has worked out nicely and is a huge upgrade from the 19-year-old Volvo that it replaced. Paul Dever is the assigned driver, and he has already washed and waxed (yes waxed) it several times. We should be receiving our other new truck next month which will replace the International Terra Star.

We spent several days working on cutting and chipping roadside brush. It’s not a particularly fun job but it’s important to keep the sides of the roads cut back which helps with visibility at driveways and intersections and can prevent causing damage to passing vehicles. We were also able to completely service our two push mowers and all four riding mowers, so they are ready for use whenever we get some green grass which I hope comes sooner than later! Wishful thinking, I know, as mother nature usually has a way to even things out in the end.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Elwell-Public Works Supervisor