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## 1.0 Purpose

To outline the Town of Oulu policy on plowing residential driveways.

## 2.0 Policy Details

All private driveway snowplowing will be done **AFTER** all public roadways are plowed or at the discretion of the Town Board.

The Town of Oulu has approximately 58 miles of town roads to maintain in safe driving conditions. Snowplowing of all public roads, school bus routes and mail routes is the first priority for town employees.

Snowplowing schedules will be adjusted to handle weather conditions while also ensuring our residents and employees' safety.

Trucks will not be on the road 24 hours a day. Driveway plowing will be limited during early fall and late spring due to the lack of frost to support the snowplows.

## 3.0 Policy Scope

The Driveway snowplow policy is limited to those residents who sign the "Residential Snowplow Agreement" and who meet *all* of the requirements outlined in this agreement and policy, and who have paid the agreement price in full.

Wisconsin Statutes allow municipalities to enter into contracts to plow private roads and driveways. See s. 86.105, Wis. Stat. This means that the town or village *may* plow private roads or driveways for a fee but should not do so for free. This statute does not allow municipalities to plow private parking lots, for organizations or businesses

## 4.0 Related Policies

Snow Removal - Roads Policy 25-06-07

## 5.0 Policy Owner

The policy is approved and implemented by the Oulu Town Board of Supervisors, and Town employees. All Policies are reviewed every odd year to maintain relevance and to make changes, if needed.

## 6.0 Definitions

Driveway – a Town of Oulu residential driveway for property access

Agreement – The “Residential Snowplow Agreement” which outlines the snowplow policy requirements, and cost.

## 7.0 Procedures

### Snowplowing Requirements

- The township is **NOT** responsible for any damage done to any property.
- Driveways **MUST** have a minimum clearance of 20 feet wide.
- Driveways **MUST** have a minimum overhead clearance height of 14 feet.
- Adequate turn-around room for snowplowing equipment **MUST** be provided at the end of each driveway.
- Residents who have signed the agreement and paid the fee should place a **red flag** by the mailbox.
- **Driveways with gates must be accessible at all times.** If gates are closed snowplowing driveways will be done with the next regular driveway snowplowing. **No special trips will be made.**
- A town employee or town board member will inspect all driveways for the above requirements prior to snowplowing. If the above requirements are **NOT** met, the Town Board has instructed the town employees **NOT** to plow snow on these driveways until these conditions are met.
- The Town will not respond to unverified emergency requests called in from the public. The request must come from the appropriate emergency response agency (i.e., fire, law enforcement, ambulance). The town employees will not plow on private property without authorization from the Town Chair.
- The Town will not engage in custom snow removal. The Town will only plow the main driveways. Access to out-buildings is not the towns responsibility

## 8.0 Exhibits / Appendices / Forms

<b>Basic Snow Plowing Procedures</b> <b>This is a general guide</b>		
Type of Precipitation	Amount / Accumulation	Procedure
Ice Storm; Freezing Rain	-	Salt all roads before ice can adhere to roadway. <b>No driveways plowed.</b>
Snow Flurries	Trace to 1"	Will not plow. May salt/sand intersections, hills, and curves. <b>No driveways plowed.</b>
Snow	1-2"	May start plowing roads. Continue to salt/sand intersections, hills, and curves. <b>No driveways plowed.</b>
Snow	2-5"	Will plow to maintain all streets on normal plow route. Continue to salt/sand intersections, hills, and curves. <b>Driveways plowed only after roads are completed, and crew has had adequate rest time to comply with safety and legal requirements, after 4 inches of snow accumulation for each snow event.</b>
Snow	6" Plus	Will continue to plow to maintain all mains for emergency vehicle travel. (Plow operators may be directed to clear paths for emergency vehicles.) Additional part-time operators are called in to assist. <b>Driveways plowed only after roads are completed, and crew has had adequate rest time to comply with safety and legal requirements.</b>

**Note:** Every effort will be made to monitor wind conditions and minor snow accumulations to clear driveways as snow builds.

## 9.0 Supporting Information

- Residents should contact the 911 emergency dispatch for plowing in an emergency demanding a 911 response. Plows will not be dispatched from regular routes or called for extra duty unless it is an actual emergency coordinated through the 911 dispatch office.
- It is unlawful to plow, shovel, snow blow or throw snow by any means (including snowmobiles and ATV's) onto any State, County or Town road. Violators will receive a "friendly" reminder letter of the law, with future infractions referred to the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department
- Driveways are only plowed after a 4-inch snowfall event, not after 4 inches of snow accumulation in a driveway.
- Driveways are plowed *once*, after roads are cleared. If a resident has need of further snow removal it will need to be done by a private contractor. The town will not clear driveways on demand.
- Driveways are not the town's priority for plowing. It may be several days, especially after an intense snowfall, for all driveways to be plowed. If your driveway has not been plowed after 3 days of a 4" snow event, please call the town garage and leave a message. It takes several days to get to all the driveways. Because your driveway has not been plowed the day after a snow event does not mean you have been missed. Be patient, there are only so many hours in a day for the crew to work, it takes time to get through all the driveways on the list.
- Residents requiring immediate driveway clearing for any reason, other than a bona fide emergency, should hire a private service for snow removal. This includes family gatherings, ABNB rentals, in-home business, appointments, work, etc. Please do not rely on the Town snowplow as it may be several days before all the roads are clear and all the driveways can be done.
- The Town of Oulu is not responsible for any damage caused to mailboxes. To minimize the possibility of damage, make sure your mailbox is in compliance with the accepted US Postal Services street setback and height requirements. A copy of the USPS street setback is available online [here](#).
- All fences or gates where the plow needs to pass should have a minimum of 3 feet of clearance on each side from the obstacle to the plow line to minimize the chance for damage to occur

## 10.0 Document History

This document follows and expands on the "*Residential Snowplow Agreement*" which has been in existence for many years

The Snowplow Policy – Driveways was previously numbered 202302-02.