



Town of Lincoln Snow Control Plan

Purpose and Goal:

The purpose of this policy is to define the procedures and level of expectations for snow plowing and ice control on maintained roads, in the Town of Lincoln, Bayfield County, Wisconsin. The Town is responsible for maintaining 42.5 miles of roads, all gravel, and will go all-out to provide a roadway that is passable and reasonably safe as much of the time as possible within the limitations imposed by the natural environment and cost effectiveness; and the availability of equipment, material and personnel resources. This goal fulfills Wisconsin law (Sec. 82.03, Wis. Stat.) that requires that local governments maintain their public roads to provide unimpeded and safe travel for all road users.

The Lincoln Town Board has discontinued the practice of plowing snow from private driveways effective June 2025.

Normal Snow Plowing Procedures:

The Town Board has the authority to delegate supervision of town employees to any town official under Sec. 60.37(1). Wis., Stat. The Lincoln Town Board by motion on April 2, 2019 delegated employee supervision to the Town Chairman.

The Road Foreman in consultation with the Town Chairman or designated supervisor, shall be responsible for monitoring road and weather conditions and decide when to begin snow plowing/ice control operations based on the following.

- Snow accumulation that impedes travel (3-6 inches);
- Drifting of snow that impedes travel;
- Icy conditions which affect travel;
- Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of roadways;
- For snow accumulations of less than 3-6 inches, and during thawing, roadways may be sanded or plowed as needed.

Snow and ice accumulations can vary across Town. Generally, snow plowing and ice control operations begin at 7:00 a.m. and shall continue until all roads are safely passable.

Operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of employees and equipment, and when operations are effective. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include: severe cold, significant winds, limited visibility and rapid accumulation of snow and/or ice. In times of extreme snowfall, (greater than 1 inch per hour or blowing or drifting snow), roadways will not immediately be able to be completely or continuously cleared of snow.

When significant snow accumulation begins after 4:00 p.m. snowplowing operations will start at 4:00 a.m. the next day. If it snows on a weekend or a holiday and the accumulation is not considered a threat to public safety, roads will be plowed and sanded the next normal work day, at which time the normal plowing procedure will take place.

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Snow plowing operations may temporarily be suspended to allow plow operators an adequate time for rest, or if for any reason conditions are dangerous for the operator. Any decision to suspend operations shall be made by the Road Foreman in consultation with the Town Chairman or designated supervisor.

The Town of Lincoln will follow the Bayfield County policy on employee work-hours. Employees will not be asked to work between 10 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. This does not apply if an operator is working a split shift, but at no time shall an employee work more than 14 hours straight. Employees must take a break of 2-3 hours, and go home to rest before returning to work. During emergencies, or anticipation of the need, the Town Board will convene to determine if additional plow operators are needed.

Snow Plowing Priorities:

1. First priority is plowing Town roads. Efficient plow routes give first attention to main arteries (Four Corners Store Road, Marengo Lake Road, East and North Altamont roads, Dybedal Road, Ashland/Bayfield Road) and connecting roads that provide access to, from and across Town for work, school busses and emergency services.
2. Second priority is plowing dead-end roads where no one resides.
3. Third priority is widening and clean-up operations on roads and intersections and if/when needed.
4. Fourth priority is clearing snow from around mail boxes.

The amount of snow, weather conditions, efficiency, and equipment limitations may dictate the need for some modification of the plowing priorities in actual practice. The Road Foreman shall keep the Chairman or designated supervisor informed and updated regarding snow and ice removal operations. Also, equipment operators may suddenly leave an area at any time to respond to an emergency situation, or to refuel.

The town roads are plowed in the order and direction that is most efficient given the location of the town garage, work schedules, and fuel limitations of the equipment. Plowing typically begins with two plow operators departing the town garage in different directions; therefore, some roads will almost always be plowed before others. It is inefficient to drive the snowplowing equipment from the garage to the other side of town and plow back to the garage.

Plow drivers try to minimize the amount of snow deposited at driveway entrances and around mailboxes, but the amounts can still be significant and unavoidable.

Use of sand, salt, and other chemicals:

The Town will use sand and salt when there are accumulations or coatings of hazardous ice or slippery driving conditions. The Town is aware of concerns about salt on the environment and will endeavor to limit its use.

Blanket sanding and salting of general snow pack on roads will not be done. Roads shall instead be spot sanded to provide skid resistance and traction consistent on hills, controlled intersections, bridges and

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curves. When practical, sanding will be accomplished concurrent with plowing operations. However, in those cases or when conditions warrant, the first priority shall be snow removal, with sanding occurring as appropriate equipment becomes available

Mailboxes:

Mailboxes are the only structure that private owners are permitted to install within the public right-of-way. All mailboxes placed within the public right-of-way are owned by the property owner and are placed there at the owner's risk. The mailbox installation and support, along with the on-going maintenance and conformity with current U.S. Postal Service standards, are the responsibility of the property owner.

Although it is the responsibility of the property owner to keep access to the mailbox open for mail delivery, when time allows and all other snow removal responsibilities have been met, the Town will clear snow from around all mailboxes.

Snow Emergency Snow Plowing Procedures:

The Town Chairman or designated Supervisor, in consultation with the Road Foreman, shall be responsible for declaring a snow emergency and implementing alternative snow plowing procedures. This could be before or during a winter storm. Snow Emergencies will be announced via the Town's email list service. When declaring a snow emergency we will follow the lead of the Drummond School District and/or Bayfield County Emergency Management office. Under these dangerous conditions, the level of service, snow removal hours, and/or work hours may be adjusted as needed to ensure safety of our employees and access for emergency services (ambulance, fire, police and medical).

One or more departures from Normal Operation Procedures may occur depending on the nature and extent of the snow accumulation, personnel, equipment limitations, or unanticipated events.

In anticipation of a Snow Emergency, or when anticipated snow accumulations will restrict the ability of a plow operator to reach plow equipment, in consultation with the Town Chairman or designated supervisor, at least one plow operator will park equipment at their home. We certainly don't want our plow operators to be snowbound.

How Can You Help?

Following is a list of things you can do to assist us in performing snow/ice removal procedures in a safe and efficient manner:

1. Do not abandon or park any motor vehicles in any public right of way during a Snow Emergency.
2. Do not plow, throw, stack or in any other manner move snow from your property onto public roads. You may plow snow across a road but you must not leave any residue.
3. Install mailboxes on strong posts, and preferably on a swinging arm. Check them annually for deterioration, to reduce the possibility that the weight of the plowed snow may break or push the post over.

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4. The US Postal Service recommends the box opening be placed 46-48 inches above the ground, and 6-8 inches from the edge of the road.
5. Clear trees and brush from around the mailbox to facilitate plowing.

(end)

Adopted 11/11/2025



Dan Vaillancourt – Chairmain

11/11/2025

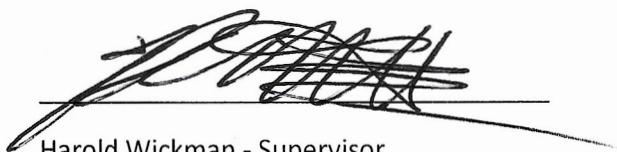
Date



Brian Seago – Supervisor

11/11/2025

Date



Harold Wickman - Supervisor

11/11/2025

Date