

TOWN OF RUSSELL WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICIES

THE TOWN OF RUSSELL roads are subject to freezing rain, ice, snow and drifting at any time from October through April. The Town Board endeavors to maintain adequate traction for vehicles properly equipped for winter driving conditions. This does not mean bare, dry pavement should be expected after each snowfall or ice storm. Furthermore, this does not mean the roads will be free from ice and snow.

SNOW AND ICE CONTROL: THE TOWN OF RUSSELL is responsible for 44 miles of roads. By State Statute s 893.83 the Township has three weeks to remove natural snow and ice accumulations. The Town goal is to maintain the roads in as good conditions as weather, equipment and budget allows. Planning and preparing for snow and ice operations is difficult as no two storms are ever identical. Factors such as the rate of snowfall, moisture content, accumulation, temperature, time of day, and wind velocity determines the uniqueness of each storm. During snow and ice storms, Town road crews will respond to an emergency to the extent practical. The Town will not respond to unverified emergency requests direct from the public. Requests must come from sheriff, police, fire department, etc. The Town of Russell will not take any responsibility for the removal of snow that is plowed into driveways during clearing operations.

PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS/PRIVATE ROADS: Driveway maintenance is the property owner's responsibility. The Town of Russell, the Town Board, and equipment operators ARE NOT responsible for snow removal from private driveways.

ICE REMOVAL: Due to the cost and lack of approved storage buildings the Town of Russell does not apply salt to their roads. The Town, except in extreme cases, will use sand treated with salt. The salt is necessary to keep the sand from freezing. The sand will be applied on curves, intersections, hills, steep grades, and straight-aways as conditions warrant. There is no State or Federal law that requires the Town to use salt or sand-salt. Sand-salt will only be applied as much as the budget and/or availability allow.

SNOW REMOVAL: The Town Chair will decide when the snow removal operations will begin and the Town equipment to be sent out. The Town Chairperson and Road Employees have the authority to suspend snow and ice control operations in severe storm conditions when there is a danger to the operator or it is not practical or cost effective to continue. No guarantee is made or implied on the length of snow and ice removal operations.

MAILBOX AND STRUCTURES: In most cases a properly installed mailbox will permit a snowplow to clear the snow underneath it. Most cases of damaged boxes are caused by heavy snow hitting the box. It is the Town's policy we will only reimburse for damage done to mailboxes from direct contact with the snow removal equipment. The town will reimburse the property owner if: 1. A Town Representative confirms the damage and that the mailbox was installed to the correct specifications. 2. The mailbox and post were in good condition before the damage occurred. 3. The Town will only reimburse the property owner for the cost of a USPS approved mailbox and post. The property owner must provide a copy of their sales receipts. Maximum reimbursement for a damaged mailbox is \$50.

EQUIPMENT: At the present time the Town of Russell has the following snow removal equipment:

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| 1. 1990 Caterpillar Grader | 2. 2015 Western Star Plow Truck |
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PRIORITY:

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| 1. Main Arterial Routes | 2. Secondary, local town roads | 3. Alleys, dead-ends, parking lots |
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DISABLED VEHICLES: The Town of Russell road crew has been advised that under NO circumstances may they pull any disabled vehicles out of the ditch due to liability reasons.

SERVICES MAY BE REDUCED ON WEEKENDS DEPENDENT ON CONDITIONS.

THE ROADS WILL BE PLOWED FIRST, THEN SANDING WILL FOLLOW AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

THE TOWN IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE DONE TO VEHICLES PARKED OR PERSONAL PROPERTY ON THE RIGHT-OF-WAY.

DO NOT PLOW OR BLOW SNOW FROM DRIVEWAYS ONTO OR ACROSS TOWN ROADS. IT IS AGAINST THE LAW.

This Winter Road Maintenance Policy shall be deemed to be in force after its passage and approval by the Town of Russell Board.

Chairperson: Robert Kressel 873-4669,
Supervisor Lori Studinski 218-7252
Supervisor Marty Sosnovske 490-1203

Dated this 12th day of September 2023

Amy Brown, Clerk