

**Monroe County Post – Pittsford edition** – submitted for **February 15, 2018 issue**  
“From the Supervisor” column  
**Submitted by Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith**

### **Keeping Safe as Winter Marches On**

When the snow flies, the Town of Pittsford performs one of its principal responsibilities: keep our roadways and facilities safe for residents and others traveling through our community.

Planning starts with our review each year of our snow routes. Town budgeting and planning ensures that we have the equipment, materials and resources necessary to keep our roads and sidewalks clear. Currently, the Town has 19 street plow routes, 11 salt routes, and two sidewalk plow routes. Our Highway Department crews plow and salt 308 lane miles of roadway in Pittsford. This includes county and state roads for which we provide snow and ice control under contract with the New York and Monroe County departments of transportation.

We plow main roads first, to open them to emergency vehicles. Then each driver clears secondary and neighborhood streets, but returns to main roads as needed, to keep them open. When snow falls rapidly and heavily, plows must divert from neighborhoods to return to the main roads. The sidewalks along our roadways are cleared once any urgent road plowing has been completed.

To ensure we have the plowing equipment we need, our Highway Department staff assess our current equipment inventory annually and update our equipment replacement schedule. The replacement schedule looks at our current needs and projects needs 12-15 years into the future. We set aside funds each year for fleet replacement. Therefore, when we need to purchase a large piece of equipment, such as a snow plow, we can do it with funds on hand. This avoids an undue impact on any particular year's budget.

Our crews salt snow-covered roadways when conditions allow. Salt begins to lose its effectiveness once temperatures drop lower than 15 degrees; this is especially true at night, with no sunshine to warm the pavement. We purchase salt through a state contract, a collaborative effort joined by many other municipalities. This approach allows us to acquire the salt we need, at a lower cost.

Several different Town departments work together to keep Town facilities safe and accessible when heavy snow arrives. Whether snowfall occurs during business hours, affecting ongoing operations, or overnight, affecting our ability to open Town facilities on time, staff from our Parks and Sewer departments plow and clear the parking lots for Town buildings, including Town Hall, the Library, and the Interim Recreation Center. Staff from our Building Maintenance, Parks, and Sewer departments shovel and salt the sidewalks and entryways at Town facilities.

Pittsford residents are fortunate to have skilled and dedicated people keeping roads and sidewalks open. Our Town crews are there for you.

Just as each of us can be there for others. When the temperature dives and snow begins to pile, some of us are more vulnerable to winter's effects than others. If you can, please take a moment to look

in on neighbors who are seniors, or who might be on their own, or those with medical conditions who might need a hand. That's the Pittsford way.

As ever, if you have comments or questions, please stop by my office in Town Hall, call me at 248-6220 or send a message to [bsmith@townofpittsford.org](mailto:bsmith@townofpittsford.org).

*Bill Smith is Pittsford Town Supervisor.*