

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Pitkin Snow Removal Policy Committee

TO: Pitkin Town Council

DATE: February 8, 2019

SUBJ: Final Report and Recommendations

Following your review of the first draft of the Town of Pitkin Snow Removal Policy Statement copies were provided to all Pitkin property owners who were encouraged to submit comments and concerns about the draft policy. Written comments were received from eight property owners and the comments received raised the following general concerns:

1. Pitkin should continue to provide snow removal services to garages/drives as has been done historically. The proposed policy to only provide a plowed route adjacent to each property is considered by some to be subjective and discriminatory. There appears to be a belief that service to garages/drives is a right and that past precedent of full service plowing obligates the town to continue the same service level. Some also believe the Town may have a liability problem if plowing limits emergency service access.
2. How will Pitkin administer the policy as it relates to the requirement that winter residents notify the Street Commissioner in September? How will Pitkin manage policy requirements for winter residency, changes to the Active Plow Route Map after September 15, and service suspension if property is vacant for three weeks or longer?
3. The “no parking on plow routes” policy should be reconsidered as many properties on Main and State Streets have no other parking available and on-street parking has been allowed historically.
4. Snow removal is considered to be the primary service obligation of the Town Council and town finances should be managed to assure that full service plowing continues to be provided. If necessary, the town needs to again seek a property tax increase to support snow removal services. Reduction in service levels shifts the cost burden to property owners and may impact property values.
5. Several comments about existing and proposed plow routes indicated the perception that the proposed policy advocates preferential treatment to some properties while others are excluded from service.
6. The proposal for review of building permit applications to minimize snow removal costs should be clarified.

In a perfect world, the Town of Pitkin would be able to respond favorably to the above comments and continue to provide full service snow removal. Rather than responding specifically to all of the above

comments and concerns the Snow Removal Policy Committee would like to remind the Town Council that in the Committee Terms of Reference creating the Committee in October, the Committee was charged to accomplish the following:

“The intended result is an affordable and sustainable snow and ice removal policy for the Town of Pitkin to be used in the years to come.”

Clearly, the proposed policy focus is on equitably managing service levels so that the Town can realistically afford future budget consequences of the shift of snow plowing responsibilities from Gunnison County Public Works to the Town of Pitkin. Therefore, it is not unexpected that many of the above comments were submitted as the policy does propose a drastic change in service level.

The Committee would like to submit the following in response to the comments received from property owners. Under the proposed policy each winter resident property will be provided the same level of service – a plowed route adjacent to their property. Administration of the policy will be the responsibility of the Street Commissioner who may consult with a Town Trustee concerning winter residency and the Inactive Plow Route decisions. Further, the Street Commissioner will be responsible through the bidding process to assure that additions or deletions from the Active Plow Route Map can be made during the winter as needed. The section of the policy dealing with no parking on plow routes is included to comply with the requirement of Gunnison County Public Works that there be no impediments to efficient operation of snow removal equipment. Finally, the policy has been modified to clarify the intent of building permit application review to minimize snow removal costs.

Efforts were made to analyze current snow plowing expenses and define a model that could be used as a tool to predict future snow plowing costs. The model accounts for the portion of Pitkin plowed by Gunnison County and the portion which is the Town's responsibility. It is based upon distances plowed and a cost per foot estimate to remove the snow.

The attached Tables "Summary of Snow Plowing Costs Analysis" and the "Possible Future Snow Plowing Situations" are estimates, from the snow plowing model, using actual cost data from this year's snow plowing expenses. The Town Council has previously discussed that snow plowing is a \$15,000 per year average cost to the Town and that is true for the current scope being plowed by the County. However, if the County reduces their scope to their original proposal in 2017, then the cost to the Town increases to **\$22,000** per year average.

In conclusion, the Snow Removal Policy Committee believes the Town Council must maintain the relationship with Gunnison County and take all possible actions to minimize their snow plowing costs. Their continued participation in snow plowing is essential to any affordable condition for the Town.

The Town Council has two options for a snow removal policy.

The first is the adoption of the Committee proposal which does reduce service levels in the interests of promoting fiscal responsibility in the future and preserving financial reserves. It is important to remember that Gunnison County is currently obligated to plow Main, State, and River Streets for only

two more winter seasons and a reduction in their scope of snow plowing is expected, possibly to their original proposal.

The Town must face the reality that snow plowing is going to require a much larger portion of the financial capacity of the Town than originally expected. Decisions and actions must be immediately taken to assure funding for snow plowing services in the future. Using the Town's limited financial reserves for current and future snow plowing is not a very good plan, for eventually all the reserves will be exhausted.

Without snow plowing services, Pitkin will not exist as a year round town.

Summary of Snow Plowing Cost Analysis

Season	County			Town			Cost	
	Mileage	Cost		Mileage	Cost		Total	per ft
		Amount	per ft		Amount	per ft		
2017 - 2018 (Actuals)	2.432	\$ 3,297	\$ 0.26	0.92	\$ 1,519	\$ 0.32	\$ 4,816	\$ 0.27
2018 - 2019 (To Date Actuals for Town)	2.432	\$ 3,400	\$ 0.27	0.851	\$ 4,200	\$ 0.95	\$ 7,600	\$ 0.44
2018 -2019 (Estimate at End of Season)	2.432	\$ 3,400	\$ 0.27	0.851	\$ 8,500	\$ 1.92	\$ 11,900	\$ 0.69

Proposed Snow Plowing Policy would reduce plowing by 1062 feet = \$2,018

Possible Future Snow Plowing Situations

Season	County			Town			Cost	
	Mileage	Cost		Mileage	Cost		Total	per ft
		Amount	per ft		Amount	per ft		
County No Longer Plows River & 6th Streets Aspen Lane is not Suspended	2.163	\$ 3,400	\$ 0.30	1.387	\$ 16,112	\$ 2.20	\$ 19,512	\$ 1.04
County Only Plows Main, State, 3rd and 9th Streets Aspen Lane is not Suspended	1.961	\$ 3,400	\$ 0.33	1.589	\$ 18,458	\$ 2.20	\$ 21,858	\$ 1.17
County Only Plows Main, State, 3rd and 9th Streets Town Rents & Operates Snow Plow	1.961	\$ 3,400	\$ 0.33	2.000	\$ 29,320	\$ 2.78	\$ 32,720	\$ 1.56

Gunnison County's Original Snow Plowing Proposal
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Additional Snow Plowing Cost Information

Analysis of Snow Plowing Costs for 2018/2019 Season

County Plowing:

Location	Distance (miles)
Main Street	0.797
State Street	0.975
1st Street	0.065
2nd Street #1	0.069
3rd Street	0.127
5th Street #1	0.068
6th & River Street	0.269
9th Street	0.062
Total Distance:	2.432 miles 12,841 feet
Cost (Fixed Amount):	\$ 3,400 \$ 0.26 per foot

Town Plowing:

Location	Distance (miles)
State Street	0.026
2nd Street #2	0.041
2nd Street #3	0.031
4th Street #1	0.037
4th Street #2	0.026
5th Street #2	0.059
Sage Lane	0.039
Alley #1	0.038
Alley #2	0.064
7th Street & Alley #3	0.047
Quartz Lane #1	0.082
Quartz Lane #2	0.029
Quartz Lane #3	0.046
Quartz Lane #4	0.101
7th Street	0.032
8th Street	0.029
10th Street	0.068
11th Street	0.056
Aspen Lane (0.267 mi)	0.000
Alley #4 (0.048 mi)	0.000
Total Distance:	0.851 miles 4,494 feet
Cost (Billing thru 2018)	\$4,200 \$0.93 per foot
Cost (Estimate Total 2019)	\$8,500 \$1.90 per foot

Analysis of Snow Plowing Costs for Future County Reduction

County Plowing:

Location	Distance (miles)
Main Street	0.797
State Street	0.975
1st Street	0.065
2nd Street #1	0.069
3rd Street	0.127
5th Street #1	0.068
9th Street	0.062
Total Distance:	2.163 miles 11,421 feet
Cost (Fixed Amount):	\$ 3,400 \$ 0.30 per foot

Town Plowing:

Location	Distance (miles)
State Street	0.026
2nd Street #2	0.041
2nd Street #3	0.031
4th Street #1	0.037
4th Street #2	0.026
5th Street #2	0.059
6th & River Street	0.269
Sage Lane	0.039
Alley #1	0.038
Alley #2	0.064
7th Street & Alley #3	0.047
Quartz Lane #1	0.082
Quartz Lane #2	0.029
Quartz Lane #3	0.046
Quartz Lane #4	0.101
7th Street	0.032
8th Street	0.029
10th Street	0.068
11th Street	0.056
Aspen Lane (0.267 mi)	0.267
Alley #4 (0.048 mi)	0.000
	Suspended
Total Distance:	1.387 miles 7,324 feet

Cost at \$2.20/ft. \$16,113

Snow Plowing Total Cost per Year (County and Town): \$ 19,513

Analysis of Snow Plowing Costs for Future County Reduction

County Plowing:

Location	Distance (miles)
Main Street	0.797
State Street	0.975
3rd Street	0.127
9th Street	0.062
Total Distance:	1.961 miles 10,355 feet
Cost (Fixed Amount):	\$ 3,400
	\$ 0.33 per foot

Town Plowing:

Location	Distance (miles)
State Street	0.026
1st Street	0.065
2nd Street #1	0.069
5th Street #1	0.068
2nd Street #2	0.041
2nd Street #3	0.031
4th Street #1	0.037
4th Street #2	0.026
5th Street #2	0.059
6th & River Street	0.269
Sage Lane	0.039
Alley #1	0.038
Alley #2	0.064
7th Street & Alley #3	0.047
Quartz Lane #1	0.082
Quartz Lane #2	0.029
Quartz Lane #3	0.046
Quartz Lane #4	0.101
7th Street	0.032
8th Street	0.029
10th Street	0.068
11th Street	0.056
Aspen Lane (0.267 mi)	0.267
Alley #4 (0.048 mi)	0.000

Suspended

Total Distance: 1.589 miles
8,390 feet

Cost at \$2.20/ft. \$18,458

Snow Plowing Total Cost per Year (County and Town): \$ 21,858

Town of Pitkin - Snow Plowing

Rental of Snow Plowing Equipment and Operator

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Case 521E 2 1/4 Yard Loader	\$ 3,200 Monthly	6	\$ 19,200
Snow Plow Blade	\$ 200 Monthly	6	\$ 1,200
Transportation / Delivery	\$ 1,800 per Trip	2	\$ 3,600
Preheating Costs (Electricity)	\$ 100 Monthly	6	\$ 600
Fuel	\$ 70 Monthly	6	\$ 420
Chains	\$ 1,000 Each	1	\$ 1,000
Operator:			
Trained Operator	\$ 50 Hourly	40	\$ 2,000
Training	\$ 300 School	1	\$ 300
Insurance	\$ 1,000 yearly	1	\$ 1,000
Total Cost per Year:			\$ 29,320