



Public Works Department

George O. Watson - Director

It is with great pleasure that I submit this annual report to the Town Manager, Town Council and to the Citizens of Fort Fairfield for the period of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. I am also pleased to inform you the citizens of Fort Fairfield that our Department was able to complete our fiscal year under budget.

Past history for weather in June and July has been significant thunderstorms resulting in wash outs to our rural roadways. With very little damage this season this allowed our crews to complete several miles of needed roadway ditching. Our department did not have any major construction projects, allowing us to complete several repairs to existing roadway culverts within our double township.

As our Winter Snow Removal program started, we found that with mild temperatures and less than normal snow fall, we experienced less man-hours plowing at the start of our winter program. However; January was very cold with an average temperature of 8.5 degrees and then February into March we did not have temperatures above 2.8 degrees. During that same time frame we received over 42" of snow with high winds. A couple times we found that our crews needed to work over thirty-two hours just to try and keep our rural roads and streets plowed. Twice we found it necessary to close the Center Limestone Road as we could not keep up with the high winds and blowing snow. This past winter was about as cold and windy that we have had in several years, with obtaining a total of 142 inches of snow and cold weather, winter just did not want to let go and we ended up with a late spring.

Last season plowing was very hard on our aging equipment. We started the season with a spare plow truck, but due to breakdowns in other trucks, this unit was in service most of the winter, while repairs were being completed to other trucks. Last September we were able to purchase a 2000 Sterling truck from the State of Maine Surplus, and with Council approval this spring we were able to obtain a 2005 International Plow Truck. Both of these units will provide the Town of Fort Fairfield with many years of service.

This concludes the annual report for the 2014/2015 year; please feel free to contact any Town Councilor, the Town Manager, or myself if you have any questions or concerns regarding the operation of your Public Works Department. On behalf of the crew and me we look forward to serving the citizens of Fort Fairfield in the upcoming years.

Respectfully Submitted: George O. Watson, Public Works Director