

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
BI-ANNUAL UPDATE  
MAY 2024**



**Administration**

2024 winter maintenance has come to an end and construction season is underway. DPW looks forward to working with Busby Construction, Wolcott, Allstate Asphalt and HW Dow on this year's road improvements. A total of 29 roads are scheduled for reclamation, shim & overlays, topcoats, maintenance shims, crack seal / SAM seal preservation, and drainage improvements. Several drainage projects and base coats of asphalt have already been completed.

DPW started out this year's community events with participation in the National Library Week touch-a-truck events including fun construction stories and songs. Continued positive progress with the Building Needs Committee includes selection of a final building location, and the start of conceptual interior layouts and exterior views of the proposed facility with the intent of working toward 50% design this year by fall.

Public Works is happy to report that it has completed the FEMA reimbursement process for the December 2022 storm and received over \$150,000 toward damages and force account labor to repair all areas impacted. The department will soon be taking delivery of a new command vehicle replacing the 2011 vehicle currently in service approved at Town meeting.

Three employees have completed their probationary period, bringing DPW to 100% full-time staffing. We are actively seeking part-time employees to fill the seasonal positions. Lastly, it was an honor to be a part of the funeral truck procession in February for a former Laconia Public Works employee, Kenneth Marel, by paying tribute to his 47-year career as a mechanic.



**Solid Waste Center**

Several site improvements were completed over the last 6 months at the Gilford Solid Waste Center including completion of the scalehouse addition with the help of the NH Department of Corrections work release program, installation of security cameras around the buildings and rear yard and improvements to the PD shooting range.

The NBRC Grant funds were used to formally purchase the piloted Foam Cycle System that has been on site since July 2022, two used storage containers for both loose and densified foam and a pallet of reusable bulk bags for use in the regional program. The second load of densified foam weighing over 12,000 lbs was recently sold for \$3,700.

Solid Waste Ordinance rules and fee schedule were updated to control commercial use of the facility and reflect actual expenses. These changes have been effective since April 1. Last month a new program was also launched to assist the local Shriners with their aluminum tab collection program to help families with Shiner hospital travel expenses.





## Highway Crew

This winter brought 40 snow and ice events for the Highway Division that required the crew to come in and plow or treat roads. The last winter event caused significant tree and brush cleanup for close to three (3) weeks as crews made their way around all town roads and cemeteries.

Some of the spring maintenance work that is either completed or underway includes, sweeping, catch basin cleaning, pothole filling, sign replacement and repairs, cleanup of cemeteries, filling low shoulders and fixing plow damage. The crew has been working hard on a drainage project on Woodland Ave where DPW is replacing over 380 feet of drainage pipe, and installing several new catch basins to properly collect water and create a maintainable system.

In addition to normal winter and spring maintenance activities, highway staff closed out 80 resident work orders, issued 14 permits and marked out over 150 dig safes in the last 6 months. The highway staff assists with the processing of foam once a week as needed at the Gilford Solid Waste Center and also spent time lifting the grade of the PD shooting range to improve the drainage issues that were occurring in the low lying area.





## Building and Grounds

The Building and Grounds Division has had a busy and productive last six (6) months. A small but hard-working team tackle every aspect of the town's custodial, maintenance, and emergency responsibilities. Staff did a great job decorating town buildings for the holidays and hanging lights on trees in front of town hall, keeping walkways clear during numerous snowstorms, setting up and breaking down town voting booths, repairing winter plow damage, and spring cleanup of town properties in preparation for upcoming flower planting. The Glendale Dock area and bathrooms had their spring cleaning prior to opening them up to the public this month.

Some of the other B&G projects include:

- Town Hall/PD painting with bathroom upgrades.
- New handicap signs and initial inspection over structural concerns at the Glendale Comfort Station.
- HVAC repairs and upgrades.
- Library ceiling repairs.
- TH/PD/DPW Tile strip and wax with carpet cleaning.
- Repair gaps in widow at DPLU.
- New P/D door kicks and thresholds.
- Potter Hill Memorial removal of grass from curbed island to prep for landscape area.



## **Fleet**

Throughout the winter months the Fleet Maintenance Division worked diligently to stay on top of the fleet's preventative maintenance needs and the day-to-day repairs. Fleet maintenance staff also assisted the Highway Division as needed during emergency storm events with plowing roads, sidewalks and tree cleanup, in addition to emergency vehicle and equipment repairs.

Early this spring the fleet staff was able to prepare necessary equipment for summer service and prepare one of the Macks for paving by installing extra scuttle doors on the tailgate. This not only adds to efficiency but also to personnel safety.

During this time DPW took delivery of a used JCB excavator to replace our aging Volvo. A new International CV medium duty plow truck was ordered to replace our eldest Ford F550, but it is not expected for delivery until early 2025. Additional diagnostic software was purchased for the Mack trucks and our Cummins powered trucks to ensure more in-house repairs can be completed. This software has already aided in allowing staff to diagnosis and repair multiple issues that otherwise would have been sent out to vendors to be completed.

The Fleet Division enters the summer months in a great position to spend some time diligently preparing the snow removal equipment ahead of this coming winter and continue to stay caught up with the fleets maintenance needs.



## **Sewer**

As the Board is aware, on the morning of 4-19-2024 a serious SSO (sewer system overflow) was discovered at 155 Weirs Road along the lakefront. It was found to be a State owned 24-inch force main that required excavation and a temporary repair by Busby Construction, the State's emergency contractor. A camera was sent into the force main during bypass pumping and after a hole was cut into the pipe for the repair to review the condition of the line. Unfortunately, additional areas were found where the cement lining was compromised. DPW, NHDES and Busby Construction are in the process of researching options, feasibility and costs with relining the force main up to 1,300 feet from the original SSO to avoid another one from occurring. While this is a state owned and operated force main, the Town of Gilford is part of the State's Winnepesaukee River Basin Program (WRBP) of which this line is a part of and therefore the costs associated with this entire project will be issued per the approved allocation formula between all members.

The Varney Left Pump Station pumps were rebuilt in March (impeller, wear plates) after finding the original parts to be worn with 2049 hrs. on pumps. Annual pump and generator fluid changes were completed in March. The DPW sewer pumps suffered a power surge during the April snowstorm and needed new wiring and connections from the access cover above ground to the submersible pumps. During that same snowstorm, the power was out at Gilford's three Town sewer pump stations for a couple days due to downed trees taking out power lines requiring constant use of the generators until they were back up and running.



So far this season the Sewer Division has replaced 39 meters and readers, issued 17 town or state permits, processed 9 final reads and marked out 100 Digsafe requests. Thompson Pipeline Services will be doing our CCTV work this season (starting June-July) and Martinez Construction will be rebuilding or replacing manhole covers. The Annual NHDES-EPA Summary report of the sewer system was completed in April. The Town's supplier of water meters and accessories (EJP) has informed staff they will no longer be carrying Sensus water meters. Core & Main out of Loudon NH, picked up the Sensus line of meters and will be the Town's new supplier.



The Department of Public Works is grateful to be heading into the construction and summer season fully staffed, short of the seasonal positions. We are hopeful that we will be able to fill those positions, but if not, we will do our best to keep up with the increased workload over the coming months. Our DPW staff not only put in a great days work each day, but they all contribute to our positive work environment by helping each other out, being respectful and coming to work with a smile. We appreciate the Board's continued support of our department and wish all public works departments across the country a very safe and happy **NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK!**

Sincerely,

Meghan Theriault, P.E.  
Director of Public Works