



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOARD'S BUDGET INCREASE FOR SALT WORTH ITS WEIGHT, LITERALLY

Interim Administrator Healy credits Board and Public Works Department for 'weathering storm'

Richfield, WI...In a statement released by the Village of Richfield, Interim Administrator Healy said, "[I]n the face of one of Wisconsin's worst winters on record (12th worst), the Village has been working diligently to keep its roads clear and safe for both residents and travelers throughout our community's 36-square miles and 150 miles of roads. But in the news recently it's likely our residents have heard about the salt shortage in Wisconsin, or even worse, about area municipalities that have completely run out of salt for their roads". He went on to say, "[W]hile a growing number of municipalities are reaching the end of their purchased winter salt supply, the Village has approximately 1,100 tons left on their contract in salt reserves due to a combination of sound financial planning, resource management, and a little luck".

In October of 2013, the Board made a conscious decision to increase the amount of money allocated for the purchase of salt by 8% to \$155,000. As it turns out, that additional \$12,000 has helped the Public Works Department immensely by giving Public Works Supervisor Mike Gauthier more latitude and discretion to spread additional salt and/or sand on the Village's 150 miles of road. Municipalities not as fortunate as the Village are paying rising costs on the open market around ~\$178.00 per ton (or higher) versus the State-negotiated price of \$58.00 per ton; thereby allowing the Village to stretch its dollar three (3) times as much. To further convey that point, Public Works Supervisor Gauthier remarked that "each time the Village has a snow event we typically use anywhere from 100-200 tons (or more) of salt depending on storm duration and weather conditions. What that equates to on the open market is at least \$17,800-\$35,600 per storm in expenses we would have not otherwise budgeted for".

However, even though the Village does have a contractual amount of salt left for 2014, the Village was recently notified that the Wisconsin DOT's contracted supplier of salt no longer has the product to fill Richfield's requests or anyone else's for that matter. The Village's Public Works Department was notified that our next shipment, approximately 250 tons, will be trucked from Iowa at no additional expense to the Village in order to supplement the few hundred tons currently in our storage facility.

The Village is currently working with North American Salt to determine its anticipated date of delivery and ultimately, what this will mean for the rest of the month of March. "Rest assured that Village Staff is doing everything in its power to ensure the safety of those who travel our roads in accordance with the best practices in our industry and in a fiscally responsible and prudent manner" said Interim Administrator Jim Healy.

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