

RESOLUTION NO 2019- 4__

**EMPIRE TOWNSHIP
DAKOTA COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL POLICY

Whereas, the Board of Supervisors of Empire Township adopted a Snow and Ice Control Policy in 2011; and

Whereas, the policy was further amended in 2016; and

Whereas, the Township staff have recommended changes to clarify the policy provisions for snow and ice removal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors adopts the following policy for snow and ice removal, replacing the 2016 Snow and Ice Removal Policy:

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL POLICY

When Snow and Ice Removal Begin

The Township Road Supervisor or designee shall determine when to begin snow and ice control operations. The criteria for that decision include, but are not limited to:

- An evaluation of the immediate and anticipated weather conditions.
- The likely effectiveness of operations.
- Safety of employees.
- If an unreasonable risk of damaging equipment exists.
- Snow accumulation of three inches or more.
- Severe icy conditions that seriously affect travel.
- Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of the roads.

Snow and ice control operations are expensive and involve the use of limited personnel and equipment. Consequently, operations will normally not begin until the snow has stopped falling or until at least three (3") inches of snow has accumulated.

Depending on conditions, Township crews typically start plowing by 2 a.m. Occasionally, primary roads will require sanding or plowing that is not needed on residential streets. This occurs primarily during a light snowfall with less than a 2-inch accumulation. In these instances, local traffic can maneuver safely on streets with low volumes of traffic, but roads with higher volumes of traffic require extra attention.

When Snow and Ice Removal Will Be Delayed or Suspended

Snow and ice control operations will be delayed or suspended if the Township Road Supervisor determines the safety of employees is at risk, conditions pose an unreasonable risk

of damaging equipment, or if operations will not be effective because of existing or anticipated conditions.

Snow and Ice Removal on Cul-De-Sacs

The snow plow drivers are to clear the center of cul-de-sacs and deposit snow in the rights-of-way in order to ensure proper turning radius for any emergency vehicles. Large mounds of snow in the center of cul-de-sacs are hazardous because they can create blind spots for drivers. Children often congregate at these snow piles to play and build snow forts, creating additional hazards. Mounds of snow in the center of the cul-de-sac also cause drainage problems during freeze/thaw storm events. The Township has the right to deposit snow in right of ways.

Winter Parking Regulations

To facilitate snow removal operations, parking on Township streets is banned between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. from November 1 through April 15 (Ordinance No. 240-B).

Parking and Snow Removal Violations

Pushing, blowing, shoveling or storing snow onto or across public roadways is a violation of Minnesota State Statutes Section 169.42, subd.1. and Section 412.221, Subd. 6. Residents are encouraged to contact the Township if this type of activity is occurring and to remind any private contractors of the snow obstruction restrictions. Residents who violate the Winter Parking restrictions (Ordinance No. 240B) or push snow onto public streets will be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and fined according to the maximum allowed by Minnesota State Statutes.

Mailbox Damage & Issues

Mailboxes should be installed and maintained to withstand snow coming off the end of the plow. If damage occurs due to snow discharge or snow storage, the Township will not be responsible for repairs. If your mailbox is actually struck by a Township snow plow, the Township will repair or replace the mailbox, providing it is a standard design that conforms to U.S. postal specifications for minimum height and setback (see <https://www.usps.com/manage/mailboxes.htm>).

In addition to the U.S. Postal Service specifications, mailboxes must have a 10-inch clear-zone below the physical box. Any newspaper boxes or ornaments must be at least 10 inches back from the front of the mailbox. Damage to non-standard mailbox assemblies will be reimbursed on a sliding scale, based on the mailbox value. Some examples of non-standard boxes are: brick planters, mailboxes with custom lettering, custom designing or larger than standard installations. Under no circumstances will the Township pay more than \$40 to correct damage to a mailbox.

Township staff investigates each complaint. If an inspection shows the mailbox was hit by a Township plow or other piece of equipment, a temporary mailbox will be installed. Then in the spring, repairs are made to conforming installation. If no signs of impact are evident, the owner will be provided information about possible reasons for the problem. These may include inadequate construction or materials, needed maintenance or other sources of damage.

Sod and sprinkler systems

Driveway markers can help protect sod from damage. To protect your yard from possible damage from snow plowing, the Township suggests you stake out your yard along the curb line with **flexible** driveway markers. These stakes can be purchased at any local hardware or

home improvement store. By doing this, you will help the plow operators locate the curb line. The Township recommends markers with reflectors so they can be seen in the dark. The Township also recommends inexpensive markers. If snow banks need to be pushed back, the markers may be damaged.

Despite the plow operators' best efforts, sod along the edge of the road may occasionally be damaged during snow removal activities. In general, the Township will not repair boulevards damaged by a snow plow or truck. The Township will not be responsible for damage to underground irrigation systems. Residents are responsible for cleaning any sand build-up from the boulevard and for repairing damaged vegetation due to salt originating from snow plowing and sanding activities.

Adopted this 12th day of February, 2019.

Terry L. Holmes, Chair

ATTEST:

Kathleen B. Krippner, Clerk-Treasurer