

## FREDERICK COUNTY SANITARY DISTRICT OF SHAWNEELAND MANAGER'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2022

### **Snow Removal:**

The staff has been busy over the last month with snow and ice events on 1/7/2022, 1/9/2022, 1/16/2022-1/17/2022, 1/20/2022, and 1/28/2022-1/29/2022. The staff prepares for winter weather events a couple of days in advance depending on the forecast. Smaller events only take a day of preparation. The preparations include checking over the snow equipment that will be needed for the event at hand. We make sure our generators are in good working order in case of a power outage. We make sure we have plenty of snow melting materials ready for the incoming storm as well as having an adequate amount of fuel to keep the equipment running.

A few hours before a winter weather event begins to fall, we pretreat the roads with a mixture of chemicals. This includes salt, calcium flakes, and #9 Stone. We also use sand mixed with salt and calcium. Although we use these materials, when the temperature drops below approximately 20 degrees, they will not melt the snow and ice. This is the problem we had with the snow on the 17<sup>th</sup> into the 18<sup>th</sup>. The wind also created a challenge as well.

The staff and contract drivers use our trucks to push snow on approximately 90 lane miles of roads. We also remove snow on 6 parking lots, 3 bus stop walkways, and 2 mailhouse sidewalks. We also help North Mountain Fire and Rescue by pushing snow from in front of the truck bays.

Snow removal is a very difficult task in Shawneeland with the challenges of the terrain even with the most experienced plow drivers. At times it is difficult for our plow trucks to gain traction even with chains on the equipment to help us do our job.

We would greatly appreciate if vehicles were not parked on the roadway's during snow removal operations. It would also be appreciated if the snow from driveway's did not end up in the road. I know that we have been accused of purposely blocking driveways, but this is not the case. We are simply doing our job in a safe, effective manner.

### **Aging Equipment:**

Over the past couple of years, I have casually mentioned my concerns over aging equipment. We are now at the point where I am going to address some of those needs by purchasing some used equipment over the next couple years. I can save a considerable amount of money by purchasing good, used equipment and trucks.

We have 2 plow trucks that are 25 plus years old. One of those is a 1995 F-350 1 ton truck that needs a new dump bed and hoist. The bed is rusted very badly, and the hoist structure broke in half from the rust. It would cost approximately \$10,000.00 to repair. We have a 1997 F-350 plow truck that is also badly rusted. I will not be replacing this truck; I will however upgrade with a 1-ton truck with a dump bed.

We have a Case tractor that is 31 years old. This tractor is used to mow along all the trails in Shawneeland. It is equipped with a side sickle bar mower and bush hog. This tractor gets used 8 months out of the year. I will be replacing this tractor next year.

The bobcat is 26 years old and has 3,200 hours. The bucket for the bobcat needs replaced. This piece of equipment is a vital part of our snow removal operations. We cannot afford to be without this equipment.

The backhoe is 16 years old and has 6,300 hours. Although at this point it is working fine. It does have some leaks and things that need to be addressed. The average life span of a backhoe is 7-10 years and 5-7 thousand hours. This will need to be replaced within the next 3 years.

During the month of January, we were without 2 of our regular snow removal trucks. The 2007 F-350 pick-up truck has some major engine problems and some electrical issues. Repairs will cost approximately \$9,000.00. The 2009 D2500 pick-up truck had a transmission failure during the first snow event. This repair will cost \$6,800.00. It is not cheap to maintain a fleet of trucks and equipment. We do all we can do in-house to keep the trucks and equipment moving. We keep very accurate records of all the in-house servicing that we do on the trucks and equipment. Please keep in mind the terrain in Shawneeland is very taxing on all the equipment we use to maintain the roads.

So, in short, we need to be prepared to purchase some newer equipment so we can continue to be effective and efficient in our daily tasks.

### **Cherokee Lake Beach:**

There is a plan to expand the sandy area under the water in the beach area. We are going to drop the bottom of this area down about 18"-24" during the expansion. By doing this work, we will be able to extend the buoy's further out from the beach. This will give beach goer's a larger, deeper swimming area. The width of the buoy area will not change. As we do every year, the beach area itself will receive several tons of fresh sand.

### **Fishing Derby:**

Not sure if the fishing derby is going to take place this spring but I am going to stock trout in the ponds, the lake on Bowman Lane, and Cherokee Lake if it is repaired by then. I will be ordering the usual amount of 406 trout. Last year the total for the fish was \$1,286.00.

### **Shop Furnace:**

The furnace in the maintenance shop has not been working properly for a couple of months. Upon having it checked by a HVAC Technician he discovered that some parts needed replaced. While trying to order the parts for the 25+ year old furnace, the technician found the parts to be obsolete. So, at this point we are in the process of replacing the unit. We are waiting to receive 3 quotes from different companies and will move forward with the lowest bid.