

THE POLICY AND LEVEL OF SERVICE IN RESPECT TO CLEARANCE OF SNOW OR ICE AND THE MAINTENANCE OF JASPER COUNTY'S SECONDARY ROADS DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.

BE IT ORDAINED ON THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_ BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF JASPER COUNTY, IOWA:

**SECTION 1 – PURPOSE**

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish Jasper County's policy and level of service in respect to clearance of snow or ice and the maintenance of its secondary road system during the winter months, pursuant to the provisions of Section 668.10 and 309.67, Code of Iowa. This policy and level of service are to be implemented within the amount of money budgeted for this service, and as contained in Jasper County's secondary road budget, as adopted by the Jasper County Board of Supervisors, and as submitted to and approved by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

**SECTION 2 – LEVEL OF SERVICE**

Clearance of snow or ice and the maintenance of the secondary road system during the winter months is primarily for the benefit of the local residents of Jasper County. Each storm has individual characteristics and must be dealt with accordingly. The portion of the road surface improved for travel may have upon it snow or ice in a compacted condition. These conditions may be continuous, or they may be more concentrated on hills or curves, in valleys, and/or at intersections. Jasper County's existing snow removal equipment will be utilized for the correction of these problems. All clearance of snow or ice, sanding, salting, and other maintenance, in respect to winter conditions, shall be accomplished within the amount of money budgeted for this service. The entire surfaced width of that portion of road improved for travel may not be cleared of snow, ice, compacted snow and ice, or frost. Snow cleared from that part of the roadway surface improved for travel shall be placed on the adjacent shoulders, or in the adjacent ditches or right of way. Snow can be expected to accumulate adjacent to this travelled portion to the extent that a motorist's sight distance to both the left and right may be greatly reduced or impaired. The snow removed from intersections will be piled in the intersection corners in piles of unequal heights. The line of sight, sight distance, or visibility of motorists approaching these intersections may be greatly reduced or impaired. Jasper County shall not be responsible for snow pushed or otherwise placed on the roadway or shoulders by others. Motorists shall drive their vehicles, during these conditions, with additional caution and watchfulness, especially in respect to the surface of the roadway, and the reduced or impaired visibility. In respect to roadways that have only one lane open, further extreme watchfulness and caution must be exercised by the motorists. During these conditions, no additional warning or regulatory signs will be placed to warn of impaired sight distances, reduced visibility at intersections, road blockages, one lane conditions, or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be.

### **SECTION 3 – SEQUENCE OF SERVICE**

In the implantation of snow and ice removal and other maintenance of Jasper County's secondary road system during the winter months, the County Engineer shall select the actual sequence of roads to be cleared, as provided for in this Section of this Policy, and shall determine when drifting snow, wind velocity, and additional snow or snowstorms require that the snow removal equipment be removed from the roadway, or that additional clearance of paved routes be accomplished prior to the clearance of granular surfaced roads. The County Engineer's or their designee's professional judgment shall prevail unless it is clearly erroneous.

#### **PAVED ROUTES:**

1. Truck-mounted snowplows and spreaders operation is between the hours of 4:30 A.M. and 5:30 P.M. Operations may be suspended if snow and blowing reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgment of the County Engineer or his delegated representative.
2. Initial effort will be to open routes to one lane traffic in accordance with Item 1 above.
3. Subsequent snow removal will resume during normal working hours.
4. Motor graders may be used in conjunction with the truck-mounted snowplows to open, or keep open, the paved routes, delaying the opening of granular surfaced roads.
5. County may place salt, sand, or other abrasives (treatment) on intersections, hills, and curves once they are plowed. Retreatment may not occur between snowstorms. Treatment operations shall be limited to the hours set forth in Item 1 above.
6. Jasper County is not obligated to provide a "dry" pavement condition.

#### **UNPAVED ROADS:**

1. Motor grader snow removal operation is between the hours of 4:30 A.M. and 5:30 P.M.
2. Operations may be suspended if snow and blowing reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgment of the County Engineer or his delegated representative.
3. Motor grader snow removal operations will **NOT** be undertaken on holidays, Saturdays, or Sundays, when the expected snowfall total is 3 inches or less, unless drifting snow and blockages of roads occurs.
4. Initial effort will be to provide at least one path of ingress and egress for each inhabited residence. The roads or portions or roads involved may vary for each event.
5. After providing inhabited residences with at least one ingress and egress pathway, these same routes will be widened to two lane travel in preparation for the next event.
6. Upon completion of Items 3 and 4 above, the remaining unopened routes (those without occupied residences) will be opened to one lane travel, then, as time and resources allow, to two lane travel.
7. Snow will not be removed from roads designated as Level "B" roads.

**PRIVATE DRIVES:**

Jasper County will not clear snow from private drives, except for emergencies as defined in Section 5. Normal snow removal operations will result in snow being deposited in private driveways. This deposited snow shall be the responsibility of the resident to remove from the driveway. Snow from private drives shall not be placed on the roadway or shoulders. The resident shall be responsible for the removal of any snow left on the roadway surface or road shoulders due to the clearing of his driveway.

**MAILBOXES AND MAILBOX PULLOUTS:**

The County shall not replace, or repair mailboxes destroyed or damaged during snow removal operations unless it can be shown that the plow blade actually struck the mailbox. The County will not replace mailboxes damaged or knocked down from the force of snow thrown from the plow.

**TIME LIMIT:**

There is no time limit after a snowstorm in which any of the above sequence of clearance, on paved or unpaved roads, shall take place.

**SECTION 4 – LIMITATION OF SERVICE**

The policy and level of service provided for in this policy shall not include, and the following services shall not be performed:

1. Sanding, salting, or placing of other abrasives upon the roadways or bridges that are slick, slippery, and dangerous due to the formation of frost.
2. Sanding, salting, or placing other abrasives upon paved roadways due to freezing rain that occurs between 5:30 P.M. and 4:30 A.M.
3. Placing of additional warning or regulatory signs warning of impaired sight distances, visibility at intersections, road blockages, one lane conditions, or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be.

**SECTION 5-EMERGENCY**

This sequence of service may be suspended during "Emergency" conditions. An "Emergency" condition shall be considered as one where a loss of life is probable, where a serious injury has occurred, or where extensive loss of property is imminent. These conditions should be verified through a physician's or sheriff's office. Jasper County will respond to all "Emergency" conditions, either during or after a snowstorm.

The provisions of this policy shall be further suspended in the event the Governor, by proclamation, implements the State disaster plan, or the Chairman of the Jasper County Board of Supervisors, by proclamation, implements the Jasper County disaster plan. If such occurs, Jasper County personnel and equipment shall be immediately subject to the direction of the Governor or the Chairman of the Jasper County Board of Supervisors.

**SECTION 6-SEVERABILITY CLAUSE**

Should any section, clause, sentence, or provision of this policy be declared, by the courts, invalid for any reason, such declaration shall not affect the validity of this policy as a whole or any part thereof, other than the section, clause, sentence, or provision so declared to be invalid.