

## MEMO

**Date:** January 8, 2010

**To:** Mayor Andrew MacLean and Gardiner City Councilors

**From:** Anne Davis, Interim City Manager

**Re.:** New Years weekend snowstorm

Councilor Trask asked our Finance Department for a summary of overtime costs during our last snowstorm. Our Public Works Department's total hours of overtime for 12/28/09 through 1/5/10 are 529 hours. As you can see, this averages 66.13 hours for each of our 8 employees. However, those paychecks included two extra days of OT for Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> because we did a Monday payroll that week due to the holiday. Please remember that this is an average and that staff with greater seniority may have received the most overtime.

This storm lasted from New Year's Eve through the following Sunday. We received a few complaints that some of our secondary roads such as the Capen Road, Libby Hill Road and others had accumulated up to 4 inches of snow during the height of the storm during the early morning hours. Though this is not an ideal condition for our roads, we took into consideration that it was a holiday weekend and many of our residents would probably be staying home. We concentrated on getting our hills and main thoroughfares cleared and considered the need to keep our crew safe. By early Sunday morning, Gardiner roads were scraped and our PW crew was on their way home by 2:30PM. All Public Works employees reported back to work for downtown cleanup at 11PM on Sunday, 1/3 and worked through the night.

Most of this past week the crew has been very busy clearing sidewalks, clearing out storm drains and removing snow drifts from intersections so there are no obstructions for drivers and pedestrians.

I met with Police Chief Toman and PW/WWTP Director Applebee on Monday to discuss how the storm was managed. Our police department did an excellent job communicating road conditions to our PW staff so that we were able to keep a portion of the crew on the roads while another portion went home to catch up on some sleep. This was approximately a 72 hour storm. I feel our best management practice is to divide the crew so that we have 24 hour road coverage during the height of the storm without exhausting the crew and having tired drivers behind the wheel of our city plows. This is only the beginning of our winter season and these best practices may change as we get further into the season.