

JACKSON COUNTY SNOW ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO.127

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF JACKSON COUNTY IOWA:

(SECTION --1 PURPOSE)

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish this County's policy and level of service in respect to clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of its secondary road system during the winter months, specifically defined as November through April, as provided in section 668.10(2) (1995), Code of Iowa, and pursuant to the provisions of section 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 this County's secondary road budget as submitted to and approved by the Iowa Department of Transportation and adopted by the Board of Supervisors. The clearance of roads at any cost, under any circumstances, day or night, is not the County's policy.

(SECTION 2 -- LEVEL OF SERVICE)

Clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of the secondary road system during the winter months is primarily for the benefit of the local residents of the county. Each storm has individual characteristics and must be dealt with accordingly. The portion of the roadway improved for travel will have upon it snow and or ice in compacted condition. These conditions may be continuous, or they may be more concentrated on hills, in valleys, curves, and/or intersections. The County's existing snow removal equipment will be utilized for this purpose. On occasion County personnel may be rendered unavailable due to the requirements of the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991. Except for " emergencies " as determined by the County Engineer's professional judgment, or his/her designee acting in his/her absence, on a case by case *basis*, all clearance of snow or ice, sanding, salting, and other maintenance respecting winter conditions shall be accomplished within the amount of money budgeted for this service *and as practicable*. The entire 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 improved for travel shall be placed on or in the adjacent shoulder, ditch, or right of way. Snow can be expected to accumulate adjacent to the traveled 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 its corners in piles of unequal height. The lines of sight, sight distance, or visibility of motorists approaching these intersections may be greatly reduced or impaired. The 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, at reduced or impaired visibility, and are advised to reduce their speed at least 25 miles per hour below the legally permitted or advised under normal conditions. In respect to roadways that have only one lane open, further extreme watchfulness and caution should be exercised by the motorists, and their speed should not exceed 10 miles per hour. During these conditions, no additional warning or regulatory signs will be placed warning of impaired sight distance, visibility at intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions, or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what the advised speed should be.

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(SECTION 3 -- SEQUENCE OF SERVICE)

In the implementation of snow and ice removal and other maintenance of the County's secondary road system during winter months, the County Engineer shall select the actual sequence of roads to be cleared as provided for in this section of the ordinance, and shall determine when drifting, wind velocity, and additional snow or snowstorms require that the snow removal equipment be removed from the roadway, or that additional clearance of paved roads be accomplished prior to the clearance of gravel and dirt roads. The County Engineer's professional judgment, *or his/her designee*, shall prevail, unless it is clearly erroneous.

(PAVED ROUTES)

1. The initial effort will be to get all routes open to one-lane traffic as soon as possible or practicable.
2. After one-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hours.
3. The truck mounted snow plows and spreaders will not normally be in operation between the hours of 6:00 P. M. to 5:00 A. M. The trucks may be called off the road if snow and blowing reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgment of the Engineer or *his/her* delegated representative.
4. When required, due to drifting snow, motorgraders may be used to keep the paved roads open and the opening of gravel roads may be delayed.
5. It is not the policy of the County to provide a "dry" pavement condition.
6. After roads have been plowed, as provided in the section, intersections, hills, and curves may, but not necessarily have placed on them, salt, sand, or other abrasives. 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.

(UNPAVED ROADS)

1. The initial effort will be to get all routes open to one-lane traffic as soon as possible and/or practicable after a storm has passed.
2. After one-lane travel is possible, subsequent snow removal will be carried on during normal working hours.
3. The motorgraders and truck mounted snow plows and spreaders will not normally be in operation between the hours of 6:00 P. M. to 5:00 A. M. The motorgraders and trucks may be called off the road if snow and blowing reduces visibility to hazardous working conditions, in the professional judgment of the Engineer or his/her delegated representative.
4. Snow will not be removed from roads designated at Level B or Level C.

PRIVATE DRIVES

The County will not clear snow from private drives. Normal snow removal operations may result in snow being deposited in private drives. Snow from private drives shall not be placed on the roadway or shoulders.

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 -- LIMITATIONS OF SERVICE

Notwithstanding anything else stated in this ordinance, the policy and level of service provided for in this ordinance shall not include the following, and the following services shall not be performed:

- A. Sanding, salting, or placing other abrasives upon paved roadways that are slick, slippery, and dangerous due to the formation of frost.
- B.. Sanding, salting, or the placing of other abrasives upon paved roadways due to freezing rain /precipitation that occurs outside the County's usual working hours.
- C. Placing additional warning signs or regulatory signs warning of impaired sight distance, visibility, at intersections, road blockages, one-lane conditions, or that the road surface is slick or slippery, or what advised speed should be.
- D. Removing of sand, salt, or other abrasives.

#### (SECTION 5 -- EMERGENCY CONDITIONS)

Service or the level or sequence of service may be suspended during " Emergency " conditions. An " Emergency " condition shall be considered as one where 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 the E911 dispatcher, sheriff's office, Iowa State Patrol Office or Officer. The County may respond to all " Emergency " conditions either during or after a snow storm or during or after normal working hours. Any person who makes a false report of an " Emergency " to an officer, official, or employee of Jackson County or who causes a false report to be made shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not more than \$100.00.

Service or the level or sequence of service shall be further suspended in the event the Governor, by proclamation, implements the State Disaster Plan, or the Chairperson of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors , by proclamation, implements the County Disaster Plan. If such occurs, the County personnel and equipment shall be immediately subject to the direction of the Governor, or the Chairperson of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors.

#### SECTION 6 -- REPEALER

All ordinances and resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

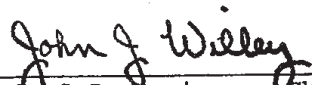
#### SECTION 7 -- SEVERABILITY CLAUSE


If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

#### SECTION 8 -- WHEN EFFECTIVE

This ordinance shall be in effect immediately after its final passage and publication as provided by law.

Passed and approved this 25th day of November, 1997.

  
Board of Supervisors, Chair

Attest:  
  
Auditor, Jackson County