

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 APPROVED ON THIS 19<sup>th</sup> DAY OF November 2024 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 residents of Jasper County. Services are limited to those roads under County jurisdiction or public secondary roads which are defined as those roads accepted by the County Board of Supervisors by resolution and/or ordinance for maintenance. Private subdivision roads and field entrances and driveways to properties located within the County do not meet this definition and are henceforth excluded from services.

Roads that meet the definition of a County Secondary Road could be covered in compacted snow, ice, or a combination of both during snow and ice events. These roads may also be covered in blowing and drifting snow and/or thin sheets of ice. The actual conditions experienced will vary due to current weather conditions, storm types, roadway condition, roadway shape (cross slope) and grade, surrounding topography, and/or traffic volumes. In addition, these conditions could be experienced both along the travel path and at intersections. It is these conditions that Jasper County will utilize its existing snow and ice removal equipment to mitigate and manage.

Winter operations by Jasper County may include snow and/or ice removal, sanding and salting and will be limited by the funds budgeted and the equipment and staff available. No assurances are made that the full width of the roadway (edge of shoulder to edge of shoulder) will be cleared of snow, ice, compacted snow and ice, or frost. Snow and ice cleared from the roadway may be placed on the adjacent shoulders, in ditches, up or down embankment slopes, or other locations within the road right-of-way. Placement of snow or ice in these locations may reduce a driver's sight distance at intersections and driveway entrances, so caution is advised when approaching these locations.

That said, snow and ice removal from intersections can vary and result in piles of unequal heights at each corner. Again, line of sight, sight distance, or visibility for drivers approaching intersections or drivers turning onto a roadway may be greatly reduced or impaired. In addition, where only one lane of a roadway is available drivers need to be prepared to pull off in driveways or other widen locations to allow oncoming traffic to pass. Situational awareness is critical when these conditions are present. Please note, no additional warning or regulatory signs will be placed to warn of impaired sight distances, reduced visibility at intersections, road blockages, one lane conditions, adverse road conditions, or advised speed during these snow and ice events.

### **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, routes, 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. Routes are set up for to optimize efficiency and will not be altered to give preference to one property over another. The County Engineer's or their designee's professional judgment on routes and operations shall prevail unless it is proven with factual evidence to be erroneous, negligent, or harmful to the public and the department staff themselves.

#### **PAVED ROUTES:**

1. Truck-mounted snowplows and spreaders operation is between the hours of 4:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. Unless the winter event prompting the response starts on or after 12:00 pm, in which case operations will continue until 5:30 pm.
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. Initial effort will be to open routes to one lane traffic in accordance with Item 1 above.
4. Subsequent snow removal will resume during normal working hours, unless forecasted future events warrant continued winter operation hours.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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 4:30 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 during normal working hours, unless forecasted future events warrant continued winter operation hours.
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 during normal working hours.

7. Snow will not be removed from roads designated as Level "B" roads.
8. Excess snow or ice will be placed along the sides of roadways and the determination of the side (east, west, north, or south) will be based upon prevailing winds, forecasted winds, road alignment, and space availability. Objective is to reduce the amount of drifting both during the current event and for future events.

**FIELD ENTRANCES AND DRIVEWAYS:**

Jasper County shall not be responsible for opening or keeping open field entrances and driveways, except for emergencies as defined in Section 5. In addition, property owners can expect normal snow removal operations to result in snow and/or ice being deposited in their field entrances and driveways. This deposited snow shall be the responsibility of the property owner to remove from their driveway and said material shall be placed outside the road right-of-way. Snow from field entrances and driveways shall not be placed on the roadway or shoulders or within the road right-of-way. Property owners shall remove snow or ice pushed or placed onto the road, shoulders, or anywhere inside the road right-of-way from driveway entrances.

**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 directly struck the mailbox. The County will not replace mailboxes damaged or knocked down from the force of snow or ice removed from the road.

**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 4:30 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.

AYES: Nearmyer ; Talsma ; Cupples

NAYS: N/A

Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024

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Brandon Talsma  
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ATTEST: Jenna Jennings Jenna Jennings  
Jasper County Auditor