

A

**RESOLUTION**

of the

**TOWN COUNCIL**



Town of Windham, Maine

WHEREAS many communities in Maine experienced extraordinary costly ice storm impacts to their road infrastructure as the result of the unabated winter storms that occurred from December 21, 2013 through January 1, 2014, and

WHEREAS Maine Governor Paul LePage submitted a request for disaster assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that would serve to support municipal and state depleted winter maintenance budgets for emergency winter road maintenance and repair, and

WHEREAS FEMA denied Maine's request after designating road treatment costs as ineligible based on FEMA Snow Assistance and Severe Winter Storm Policy 9523.1 that excludes sand, salt and snow and ice road treatment expenditures, unless there is record or near-record snowfall, and

WHEREAS the FEMA definition of a severe winter storm means an event that occurs during the winter season and includes one or more of the following conditions: snow, ice, high winds, blizzard conditions and other wintry conditions and that causes substantial physical damages or loss to property where Municipal and State governments demonstrate that the capabilities to effectively respond to the event are or will be exceeded, and

WHEREAS the Town disagrees with FEMA's interpretation of this policy application of Policy 9523.1 to ice storms and advocates for an "ice storm" policy addendum, and that this policy be made effective including the period from December 21, 2013 thru January 1, 2014, and

WHEREAS the original intent of FEMA Policy 9523.1 is that northern states such as Maine that are equipped for and budget for winter snowstorms should have to meet a very high standard to have a snowstorm qualify as a disaster, an ice storm with prolonged power outages in freezing conditions poses a more extreme threat to public safety in a northern than in a southern state where temperatures are likely to quickly moderate, resulting in the application of Policy 9523.1 to ice storms having unintended negative consequences for northern states, and

WHEREAS FEMA policy in other types of disasters, such as floods or hurricanes, is that maintaining all roads during and after the event for the purpose of emergency vehicle access is eligible for disaster assistance, and in freezing temperatures, roads must be treated with sand and salt in order to carry out the emergency function of power restoration, FEMA’s interpretation and application of Policy 9523.1 is in conflict with other FEMA policies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Windham Town Council expresses its support for the Maine Emergency Management Agency, MEMA in its advocacy for an amendment to the FEMA storm policy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Windham Town Council will exercise its authority to engage other Maine municipalities in a united effort to bring national attention to the extent necessary and notify its Congressional representatives that ice storm damage experienced in Maine communities creates real hardship and is worthy of their support and attention.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of the Town of Windham, Maine to be affixed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.

Town Council of the Town of Windham, Maine:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas Gleason, Chairman

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Dennis Welch, Vice Chairman

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Robert Muir, Parliamentarian

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Donna Chapman

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Roy Moore

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David Nadeau

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Matthew Noël

SEAL

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Attest: Linda Morrell, CMC  
Town Clerk