



# Village of Downs

## Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks Committee

211 S. Seminary PO Box 18  
Downs, IL 61736-0018  
309-378-3221

Mike James

Chairperson / Indian  
Hills

Lori Aldridge

Clerk

Paul Myszka

South Mallard Point

Mike Freimann

North Mallard Point

Randall Stine

Village Eastside

Lori Aldridge

Village Westside

---

### *Report For January 2010*

The monthly committee meeting was held on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Monthly meetings are open to the public and are held at the Village Hall on the last Thursday of the month at 7 pm.

#### **Chairman's Message:**

Our snow removal expense continues to be a focus. However, quality of work is not. Joe Eades continues to exceed expectations and his crew is doing a fantastic job. Any issues are handled as received. Mr Eades and I have met to discuss the costs and to try and come up with ways in which we can save money on snow plowing.

One option, which I am highly against, is a roadside parking ban during large snow fall. I would hope it will not come to this, so again this month I ask for your help and cooperation. When we are to get snow/ice storms, please move your vehicles (including boats and trailers) as far off the road as possible. The snow blades are 8'6" long and coming down narrow streets like Water, Price, East, West, Oak, Grove, Garfield and alleys with 4-6" of snow is not fun, nor is it safe, for the drivers when they have to dodge things.

As I stated last month, we pay them by the hour to plow our streets and alleys. Mr Eades often does not charge us for return cleanup work that he and his crew perform. He truly cares about the village and prides himself in the work that he does. Creative ideas are sometimes a result of great discussion and often open debate. Mr Eades and I have come up with a great alternative and solution to saving the village money in addition to moving vehicles.

Mr Eades came to the board meeting to discuss concerns and this idea. The idea is basically to utilize our employee to keep the streets open during a storm by the donated use of one of Mr Eades' trucks. We couldn't have asked for a better partner and this is the kind of generosity that we need during tough times.

Finally, the sign upgrade program funding is still up in the air as I wait for the McLean County Regional Planning Commission to hear back from IDOT. Without this funding, we will be hard pressed to find funding to replace ~150 signs and posts by 2012 to the required retroreflectivity requirement.

In your Service,

Mike James - Village of Downs Trustee and Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks Committee Chair

#### **Committee purpose:**

To establish planning and funding for all projects pertaining to streets, alleys and sidewalks within the Village of Downs.

#### **Committee Recommendation(s):**

- 1) Use Les Fitzwater to learn from Mr Eades on how to plow and salt our streets. He then will use Mr Eades truck first response plowing of the streets. Mr. Eades' crew will then come in and clear the streets once snow has stopped. The use of the truck will be a donation by Mr Eades. We will pay Les \$15/hr to do this work instead of his normal hourly rate.

#### **The following summarizes the activity completed since the last Village Board Meeting.**

- 1) Met with Mr. Eades to discuss his and citizens concerns with snow removal.
- 2) Continue to meet with school to build an Illinois Safe Routes Plan for 2010.
- 3) Started clearing/cleanup of Huff Road, south of Main St, of overgrowth.

#### **Planned work for next month:**

- 1) Fill holes with cold patch and rock as weather allows.
- 2) Start work on culverts and ditches on Kickapoo Dr, Main St, and Gadwall when/if weather allows.
- 3) Complete ditch and culvert work on east side of S. Price St when/if weather allows.

### **Ordinance of the Month**

Chapter 4, Article III, Section 2: Any stagnant pool of water in the Village is hereby declared to be a nuisance. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to permit any such nuisance to remain or exist on any property under their control.