

**Private Snow Plowing  
Report re February 10, 2017 Meeting with Castle Rock Public Works Department  
Director Hampton**

1. Met yesterday afternoon with Will Mast, Street Operations Superintendent, and his boss, Eric Lee, Street Operations and Maintenance Manager, to discuss CR's snow removal policy. Attached is a copy of the city's "Snowplowing and Ice Control Policy," as approved by the CR City Council. This policy is the standard for the entire town of Castle Rock.
2. Both Will and Eric were forthcoming, professional and interested in our concerns. They will be available at any time we experience snow removal problems in the future and they welcome feedback from our community so they can feed that back into their training program.
3. Here is what I learned:
  - a. Snowplowing policy goal: keep streets passable for emergency vehicles access. We are located in the "South of Town" snowplowing zone, which contains 137.2 miles of plowable roadways.
  - b. City generally plows Priority 1 and 2 streets after any snow of significance. Lions Paw Street (south of Desert Rose) is a residential street (Priority 3, with our cul-de-sacs as Priority 4) and thus does NOT get plowed until accumulated snowfall is 4" or above AND the Priority 1 and 2 streets have been plowed. Lions Paw south to Desert Rose is a school bus route and is thus a Priority 2 street, along with Evensong, Eaglestone, and Half Moon Drive, and is thus plowed every time.
  - c. The 4" standard is determined generally on a city-wide average basis as measured on roadways by the Public Works Department, with a few adjustments made for locations with known records of snow drifting.
  - d. City standard is to plow a single lane in the center of each road plowed. I suggested the single plowed lane could be along the west side of Lions Paw to include the curb (with cutouts for driveways) which would also take care of mail box access. Due to liability risk and equipment risk, city does not plow to any curbs.
  - e. When a "snow event" is 4" or above, Public Works issues an "all hands" call to send office personnel to man 4 x 4 trucks w/snow plows as the only way (under current funding restrictions) to attempt to clear Priority 3 & 4 roadways. City budget for snowplowing is presently at the same level as in 2009 but city has added over 200 miles of plowable roadways since then. While these selected office personnel are trained as 'ad hoc' snow plowers, they are not often used, so their snow removal skills are not the same as the regular snow plowers.
  - f. Lions Paw (and all of our so-called cul-de-sacs) were NOT built to City standards because Painters Ridge was apparently originally planned to be a closed community, and thus received waivers from City road standards and thereby reduced construction costs.

We did own our road/cul-de-sacs until they were ceded back to the City by the HOA. Lions Paw is narrower than a standard City street, as are our cul-de-sacs, and in fact, we really only have a single true cul-de-sac (Ash Hollow) that has a ‘bulb-shaped’ end. All the rest of our cul-de-sacs are considered ‘stubs’ by the City because they have no bulb-shaped end. We seem to be the only community in CR with such narrow streets/stubs, both of which negatively impact the City’s abilities to plow snow effectively. Since our ‘stubs’ have no turnaround room at the end, the snow plows cannot turn around and thus have to back down to Lions Paw. Also, without the “bulb” area, and a City restriction not to plow snow onto private property, these ‘ad hoc’ plowers don’t have a consistent place to which to plow the snow.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

Based on my meeting with Will and Eric, and a review of the City’s Snowplowing and Ice Removal Policy, my conclusions are as follows:

- a. City of CR is attempting to execute a City Council-approved Snowplowing and Ice Control Policy to the best of their ability at Painters Ridge.
- b. Lions Paw south of Ash Hollow is a Priority 3 snow removal zone and all our cul-de-sacs are Priority 4.
- c. Budget restrictions cause the City to use “ad hoc” snow plow drivers (who are not as competent as the regular snow plow drivers) to remove snow from our stub-like cul-de-sacs with oftentimes inconsistent results.
- d. Painters Ridge’s streets were not built to city standards for street widths and cul-de-sac design. This impacts snow removal results.
- e. CR City Council sets the snow removal budget annually but has not increased funding for many years. We, as a community, can petition City Council to approve more funds.
- f. If we desire, we can also petition City Council for changes to their approved Snowplowing and Ice Removal Policy to better accommodate the somewhat unique
- g. Requirements our community has as a result of our non-standard streets. I can’t see that we could present a successful case for the City to approve, but perhaps we could.
- h. We need to monitor the City’s snow removal actions, relative to their policy, and when-ever any of us encounter non-policy snow removal performance, we need to document such performance with photos and narrative and provide such to Will Mast for action.

I’m happy to answer any questions or to entertain any actions that I may have missed. R/Dan