

A
RESOLUTION
of the
SELECT BOARD
Town of Hartland, Maine

WHEREAS, The Town of Hartland in the County of Somerset in the State of Maine has been recognized by representatives of the Somerset Emergency Management Agency and Maine Emergency Management Agency MEMA as having experienced extraordinary costly ice storm impacts to its road infrastructure as the result of the unabated winter storms that occurred during the period of December 21st, 2013 thru January 1st 2014 And,

WHEREAS Governor LePage of the State of Maine submitted a request for disaster assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency FEMA that would serve to support municipal and state depleted winter maintenance funding for emergency winter road maintenance and repair And,

WHEREAS The Federal Emergency Management Agency FEMA denied said 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 is to be effective for the requested dates December 21, 2103 thru January 1, 2014 And,.

WHEREAS the original, understandable intent of FEMA Policy 9523.1 is that northern States such as Maine which are equipped for and budget for winter snowstorms should have to meet a very high standard to have a snowstorm qualify as a disaster. However, 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. Therefore the application of Policy 9523.1 to ice storms has unintended negative consequences for northern states And,

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

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Hartland's Select Board expresses its great support for the Maine Emergency Management Agency, MEMA in its advocacy for an amendment to the FEMA storm policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Hartland Select Board will exercise its appointed authority to engage other Maine municipalities in a united effort to bring national attention to the extent necessary and put on notice, our Congressional representatives that the ice storm damage experienced in these communities are very real and are worthy of their support and attention.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of the Town of Hartland, Maine to be affixed at Hartland, Maine this 21st day of April, 2014.

Hartland Maine Select Board:



Judith E. Alton, Selectperson

Harold E. Buker, Selectperson



Adam W. Littlefield, Selectperson
