

Highway Impacts

The proposed reduction shown on the finance committee FY10 recommendation will total \$127,201 less than currently allocated to the Highway Department this will result in the loss of three full time employees and only \$1,000.00 will be left available in part time help.

Keeping in mind that last year we already reduced our top end by eliminating the Foreman position we are now faced with a very serious issue in that the third position lost in this current proposal is one of our two mechanics which are tasked with servicing all town departments.

In winter months if this proposal is adopted I fear for the loss of possibly 4 sanding routes (drivers) (three Hwy and one Park employees) as all of our departments are already working together during times of emergency- this impact will be a dangerous result of this budget. We do not sub-contract material spreading and we will also need to increase our hired plowing contractor list in order to continue our snow removal at a level service.

The expense lines are proposed with a reduction of \$34,001.00 from level funding of more than 11 years in my experience, this will be a direct loss of service spread out over the many functions of the department...I am deeply concerned for our ability to provide safety on the roads in Abington I am certain that street line painting including crosswalks and stop lines will be effected. Vehicle maintenance will also be challenged greatly as we proceed into the next fiscal year and I fear that some vehicles may be parked indefinitely. As the custodian to the Towns largest and most expensive infrastructure, this department will surely be on a reaction based status and regular maintenance will be quite limited.