

Hunterdon DPW Budget Ready For Winter Weather Despite Storms Earlier This Year

Solid planning and careful monitoring of the Hunterdon County Public Works 2019 budget reveals it is 'right on the money' despite winter weather challenges that hit the County in the beginning of the year, and will be able to cover any additional weather costs through the end of the year, Freeholder Shaun Van Doren reported at the September 17th Freeholder meeting.

Van Doren, the Freeholder Board's liaison for the Engineering and Public Works Department, reported in March that in the first 60 days of 2019 the County's DPW crews had responded to fourteen major storm events, including the major wind storm on February 24th and 25th. "Despite the costs associated with those storms, the Department's budget is prepared to respond to any costs related to storms that come our way later this year," the Freeholder said.

Van Doren stated, "I periodically hold finance review meetings with the staff to do a status check and update on the current budget for the Department. The reports I have seen at our recent meeting show that despite the heavy dose of winter weather at the beginning of 2019, the Department's budget is expected to be right on the money."

The Hunterdon County Department of Public Works and Engineering is responsible for 246 miles of roadway, 246 bridges and over 1500 culverts.

A longtime member of the Tewksbury Township Committee before being elected Freeholder, Van Doren said, "DPW has the significant and important job of ensuring the safety of those using our roadways, the maintenance and repair of County roads, bridges, culverts, storm sewers, right of ways, and overseeing infrastructure projects.

I believe careful budget monitoring by the Freeholder Board to ensure DPW stays within its budget is essential, because the Department comprises the largest number of personnel in the County workforce. The Divisions of Roads, Bridges and Engineering have the greatest concentration of budget dollars, totaling over \$8.5 million annually."

Van Doren concluded, "All involved with the Department budget are commended for their attentive stewardship that ensures the effectiveness and efficiency of the Department's service to the public."