

Update on Town of Union – 12/21/2020

As of Saturday night, I am told, all roads in the Town were open. More street cleaning and snow removal continued on Sunday and will continue into this week.

Just for some clarification/information, the Town of Union is the 18th largest township in NYS, and has a total area of approximately 36 square miles, containing 248 road miles needing to be maintained. Snowfall of epic and unprecedented proportions had to be removed and cleared from every one of them.

On the first morning of the storm, some of our crew were unable to get into work as they were stranded. Those that did get in worked hard and struggled to accomplish this task. The amount of snow was so great that at times even our plows and trucks would get stuck and need to be freed, other equipment was just too small to work. We had no way of telling how long it would take to get to anybody's street. Using the Broome County Emergency Operations Center, we requested and received reinforcements from NYS DOT to help us manage the endeavor and they continue to be with us. The DOT provided us with equipment as well as personnel. We have hired dump trucks to haul snow out that are working with our loaders in some sections of the Town.

Roads have to be prioritized and are attacked in a premeditated manner. While everyone feels that their own road or need should receive high priority, the reality is everybody can't be first. Our crews did the best they could under extreme conditions to slay this beast. Please consider our workers and NYS DOT as rising up to the challenge and thank them. As the Rolling Stones once put it "You can't always get what you want but if you try sometime you find you get what you need."

Best wishes that you all find peace and comfort in the days ahead.

Update for Town of Union – 12/24/2020

Most of our reinforcements for snow clearing and removal have left. We will be continuing our own cleanup activities as best we can. However, we are now expecting to face another weather challenge starting on Christmas Eve, getting worse through the evening and night and continuing into Christmas Day. **THIS IS EXPECTED TO BE A MAJOR RAIN EVENT WITH FLASH FLOODING, THE RIVER RISING AND FLOODING IN MANY AREAS. Three inches of rain may fall.** The melting snow also will contribute to the flooding possibilities. Please prepare yourselves for this event. If at all possible please try to make sure that storm sewer drains are open for drainage. Check your own gutters and downspouts to try to keep water from running into your own homes.

Let us pray that the expectations are overblown, but let us be ready just in case the worst happens. We are still in this together. Stay alert.

May the Good Lord protect you and keep you safe. Help each other when possible. Stay safe.