

Sharing the Cost of Snow Plowing on a Private Cottage Road - One Approach

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Have your road association set up two bank accounts: one for road repair (gravel, grading, dust suppressant, signage, guard rails, culvert-bridge repair, emergency repair fund and road liability insurance), and another for snow clearing (snow plowing, sanding and salting, supplemental road repair due to plowing). Bill everyone the same for road repair and insurance even though it is possible that most of the cost of repair is caused by the damage done to the road itself by the plowing (even insurance costs are higher for a plowed road). Charge those who use the plowed road in the winter months according to the number of months (out of 6) that they visit. For example: a cottager could visit (say) 3 times in January for a single month's fee; 1 time in February for a single month's fee and 6 times in March for a one month's fee. If someone was a regular visitor all winter then they really would be like a permanent resident who comes and goes at will, but who shares the cost of the plowing contract with the other permanent residents. At snow-year end, a tally is made of all the months of snow-road use and that total is the basis for the division of the cost of snow plowing for that year. e.g.

For (say) 10 permanent residents: they would use the road for a total of 60 (10 x 6) months.

Part Time resident A: Jan & Mar = 2

Part Time resident B: Dec, Jan, Feb = 3

Part Time resident C: Dec, Feb, Mar, Apr = 4

Part Time resident D: Jan = 1

Total snow-road monthly use = 70

Value of snow plowing contract/total of all plowing bills (example) \$3,500

Shared cost for plowing: $\$3,500/70 = \50 per snow-use month

Now add (say) 10% to each winter user's bill to cover the cost of supplementary road repairs due to plow damage. (e.g. Total cost for winter road use for a permanent resident: $6 \times \$50 = \300 10% = \$330)

Total cost for all permanent residents: $60 \times \$50 = \$3,000$ 10% = \$3,300

Cost for part time resident user A: $2 \times \$50 = \100 10% = \$110

Cost for part time resident user B: $3 \times \$50 = \150 10% = \$165

Cost for part time resident user C: $4 \times \$50 = \200 10% = \$220

Cost for part time resident user D: $1 \times \$50 = \50 10% = \$ 55

Total cost for all residents using the plowed road: $\$3,850$

Supplemental road repair amount to transfer to the road repair account: \$350 (\$3850 - \$3,500).
The budget for the next year's road repairs would start out with the \$350.

Cost of plowing and supplemental road repairs to non-winter users = \$0