

## ***February Thoughts – Box Butte Co. Road Dept.***

What a difference a few days (hours in some cases) make. When the weather was nice and the temperatures moderate we started blading and reshaping roads now we are back to moving snow. Most of us don't like to be stuck in the shop but those days have been productive, cleaning up a number of tasks that had been put off specifically for a bad weather day. Only the backhoe is left to go through and service so in another day the fleet will be ready for construction and maintenance. Since the snow hasn't been uniform across the county we have been cutting trees that have grown up in the right-of-way. As a gentle reminder Nebraska State Statutes 39-1812 and 39-1813 make reference to trees and bushes: bushes need to be trimmed no less than once a year and cut back to within four feet of the ground and trees shall be trimmed from the ground up eight feet. Any debris trimmed shall be burned or removed from the right-of-way within ten days after each cutting. The statutes go on to say that if the property owner neglects to trim the trees or undergrowth or doesn't remove the trimmings, the county attorney may take action. In 2017 we received several calls related to trees and shrubs, most of them

centered around oversized equipment not being able to be transported/moved without impacting cabs, windows, mirrors, wings, booms... There were no calls regarding signs that were obstructed but that is always a concern. If you are able to remove the trees and bushes from the right-of-way please do so, if we are in the area removing trees we may ask you if you have a pit or a burn pile that we can haul the debris to – we appreciate it all. Every little bit helps and provides drivers a clearer view of what they may encounter, it also helps reduce snow accumulations. It is not the Road Department's intent to create a hardship for anyone but your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

On another note, the 1 and 6-year hearing will be held February 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. Much time has been spent on the proposed plan. Keep in mind it is **proposed** which means it is subject to change at the hearing. Comments will be considered; if you are unable to attend the hearing you may still contact our office or any of the Commissioners to express your concerns, your opinion is valued.

As always; if you have any questions or concerns, please call the office at 762-6797.