

## **Q & A November 26, 2014**

### **Q. What preparations has the county made for winter weather?**

A. The Road Department has every storage bin full and about 250 tons of salt on hand right now. We will have two additional 3/4 ton trucks for use this winter on the narrower roads, for a total of 9 spreader trucks, 2 are the large truck, five one ton trucks and 2- 3/4 ton trucks. All nine are ready to go. In case of emergency and the "big one" we also are set up with several local private contractors with motor graders to assist us.

### **Q. Have you run into any problems getting salt since so much of the country is already having bad weather?**

A. Our main problem is restocking salt. Because of the harsh winter last year and the start of a difficult winter this year, we cannot get a commitment for additional salt until after December. Typically, we have enough salt on hand to cover about three average snow events. The cost has already gone up from last year of \$66/ton to \$104 a ton this year and if the demand stays high, the prices could continue up. Based on current prices we have about \$26,000 in inventory.

### **Q. What options does the county have if no salt is available?**

A. We will really not let that be an option for us. We CAN NOT run out of salt, and whatever is necessary to maintain a safe supply will be done. We may have to send trucks to South Florida or to the Midwest, or who knows where else, but we will not run out of salt because we can't.

### **Q. Is there a difference in the types of salt available?**

A. We have found that Florida salt is usually more available as a last resort. However, it does not melt ice quite as well as the Midwest salt. When going out on the road, our trucks are usually loaded with 2/3 gravel and 1/3 salt. Without sunlight and a minimum temperature in the high 20's salt will not work and the gravel is added to help with traction. As usual, the best remedy during a snow storm is to stay home and off the roads as much as possible.

### **Q. Do you know how well you did with the Electronics Recycling?**

A. Leslie George, Executive Director of the North Georgia Resource Management Authority, reported that the turnout was amazing. The total donations collected for the Humane Society was \$1,000 which will be used to support a new education program they are starting to teach young people how to handle and care for pets. The program is called the Jewell Education Program and should help both children and parents learn to properly care for pets.

**Q. Do you know how many electronics were received for recycling?**

A. We received a certificate of Destruction and Recycling from Atlanta Recycling Solutions that reported 10,618 lbs. of metal, plastic, glass, computer housing and peripheral equipment was received. This material was processed and sent on to an appropriate recycling end-market to be manufactured into recycled content products. Leslie reported that the 10,618 lbs. consisted of 28 TV's, 75 monitors, 25 laptops and 99 PC; s. Also, three tons of paper was received to be shredded. Thanks to all the people who participated in this event.