

Friday, January 10, 2025

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to the Mayor and Town council regarding the unsafe conditions of our roads over the past week. Washington Grove still has snow and ice on the road while the rest of the county has had the 4 inches of snow removed. This has led to a kindergarten child slipping and getting hurt going to his bus stop. This also made it difficult for a number of our town residents to safely leave to get to work.

I appreciate the effort made by Peter Nagrod to try and come up with a solution based on the very limited resources provided to him to do so. The effort made by RJ to remove some of the snow is noted, but he didn't have the right equipment given that his business is for landscaping. We appreciate the work his team does during the fall and spring in that regard, but this was not sufficient to maintain safe roadways. Putting down sand isn't enough and there are better solutions available that also don't harm the environment. (example: Calcium Chloride)

Please note that the Washington Grove town website shown below notes that our taxes go towards snow removal. We need to come up with a better solution that honors the safety and needs of our citizens to safely use the roads in town. That is a basic responsibility of the town government that our tax dollars go towards. Thank you for your continued service to the town.

Accessed at: <https://washingtongrovermd.org/government/government-overview/financial-budget/>

The screenshot shows the website for the Town of Washington Grove. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the town's name and logo, and links for 'About the Grove', 'Community', 'Town Government', and 'Site Map'. The main heading is 'Financial And Budget Information'. Below this, there are three main sections: 'Applicable Charter Provisions', 'Budget Documents', and 'Auditor's Report and Financial Statements'. The 'Applicable Charter Provisions' section includes links to the full text of the Budget, Taxation and Indebtedness chapter and the Charter home. The 'Budget Documents' section lists various budget and financial plans from FY 2017 to FY 2024, along with a link to view all documents. The 'Auditor's Report and Financial Statements' section lists reports from FY 2020 to FY 2023. On the right side, there is a 'Contact' section for Jean Moyer, Treasurer, with her phone number and email address. Below that is a 'Taxes' section explaining that town taxes are levied annually and billed and collected by Montgomery County, listing the funds used for various services like trash collection, snow removal, and recreation facilities. A 'Translate' button is visible at the bottom left of the page.

Lisa Bielen

342 Ridge Road
Washington Grove, MD 20880