

The Town of Ledyard sold its 2-year-old sweeper in 2022 with the thought that the Department could better and more economically cover the Town's annual sweeping needs through a rental. The Town rented a sweeper to this end in 2023 and 2024, using Beverage ("Nip") Container Surcharges revenue. The results substantially failed to meet our expectations for a number of reasons. We also learned that availability of rental units of a nature needed to sweep roads has declined significantly, with no prospects of increasing.

In light of this predicament, we now feel owning a sweeper will be the best (and most economical) way to meet our needs. Additionally, the Town of Preston is coincidentally in need of replacing its sweeper, which has reached the end of its service life. This has offered the opportunity to purchase a shared unit that will easily cover the annual scope of work for each town and also be available for spot needs throughout the year. The cost share would be allocated proportionally on the basis of paved road mileage.

Though both towns have shifted to treated salt for winter operations, eliminating the accumulation of sand that used to accompany road treatment, there remains a considerable amount of debris that collects along the road edges from other sources. For the 2024 sweeping season, thirty-two (32) large dump truck loads (about 100 tons) of debris were collected off our roads. Also, annual sweeping is a requirement of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program.

I have provided cost information for a new sweeper, including for a 5-year lease-purchase financing arrangement. The purchase of a new sweeper would explicitly meet the terms of the authorizing legislation for the funding derived "Nip" revenues. Based on the historical income derived from these revenues to date, they would cover an appreciable portion of the purchase for both towns, if they were devoted to this purpose.