



**Town of Kent Highway Department**  
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**Richard T. Othmer, Jr. - Highway Superintendent**

# Kent Highway Department 2022 Year End Report

Submitted by: Richard T. Othmer Jr.



***Town of Kent Highway Department***  
*Richard T. Othmer, Jr., Highway Superintendent*  
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## **Town of Kent Highway Department Active Roster December 1, 2022**

**Highway Superintendent –**  
**Payroll Clerk / Confidential Secretary –**

**Richard T Othmer Jr.**  
**Angela Verity**

### **Teamster Workforce Listed by Seniority in Paygrade**

1) Crew Chief II / General Foreman		Robert Schaniel Jr.
2) Crew Chief I / Foreman		Sean Daly
3) Crew Chief I / Foreman		Robert Herde Jr.
4) Construction Equipment Operator		Pat Esposito
5) Construction Equipment Operator		Robert Ulmer
6) Construction Equipment Operator		David Churchill
7) Construction Equipment Operator		Stanley Robinson
8) Construction Equipment Operator		Troy Chadwick
9) Welder / Motor Equipment Operator		Stephen Schonfeld
10) Motor Equipment Operator		Timothy Tharas
11) Motor Equipment Operator		John Kohnken
12) Motor Equipment Operator		Peter Erickson
13) Motor Equipment Operator		Ryan Brunelle
14) Motor Equipment Operator		Robert Donahue
15) Motor Equipment Operator		Timothy Kilker
16) Motor Equipment Operator	Tie	Carl Snow
17) Motor Equipment Operator	Tie	Thomas Casey
18) Motor Equipment Operator		Tyler McMath
19) Motor equipment Operator		Robert Erickson
20) Laborer		Lawrence Borg

# Miscellaneous Duties

## Trees, Potholes, Clogged Culverts, Drainage, Town Right of Way Disputes Assisting LCPD & Kent Recreation Vehicle Accidents Etc...

### **Kent Police Department Emergency Call Out Responses –**

Clogged basins & pipes	2
Downed trees	10
Car accidents	2
Snow	9
Freezing rain & ice	10
Total	<u>33</u>

### **Work Order / Resident Complaint Responses as of 12/1/22 –**

Road repairs	137
Potholes	94
Downed & dangerous trees	51
Rotted culvert / pipe replacement	46
MS4 catch basin maintenance	27
Ditch cleaning	18
Road signs down	27
Brush cutting	40
Vacuum Truck	1
Sweeping	11
Misc. / deer, dumping, assist resident	56
Total	<u>508</u>

These complaints are in addition to our regularly scheduled maintenance, plowing & paving assignments. We have also replaced 11 of our 14 bridge / culverts in-house the last nine years.

## **Lake Carmel Park District / Other than Road Duties –**

The Highway Superintendent wrote a competitive essay to receive awarding of the University Of Buffalo Bridge, 40' x 12' x 16 tons, to replace the yet again, dual washed out 6' diameter culverts at the Terry Hill Road walking bridge. Value of pre-cast concrete & steel bridge & engineering fees award is \$125,000.00 +. The Highway Department arranged for the transportation of the bridge through a private contractor to be trucked to Kent & is now temporarily stored in the NYS DOT yard on Ludingtonville Road until ready for installation. Additionally, the Superintendent is working with a structural engineer designing the bridge abutments, which the highway department will install in-house once FEMA funding is received. This department also assists the LCPD with its tree bucket truck, chipper & crew to remove dead & dangerous trees on park district land, not on the public roadway as mandated by NYS Highway Law. This saves the LCPD thousands of dollars every year from going out to bid for private venders.

During the summer of 2020 from June 15th – June 23<sup>rd</sup> the Kent Highway Department demolished the old, & then prepped & paved a new basketball court for the Lake Carmel Park District. This took a total of 384 highway man-hours plus machinery & fuel. Basically, Kent Highway donated 48 free person workdays to the LCPD without any reimbursement. I tried to address this with an in-house shared service policy suggestion with the Board, but the meetings turned into a circus due to an uninformed resident, ignorant of the facts. Perhaps we can address this imbalance another way in future discussions.

These projects consume multiple highway department man-hours, which have not or will ever be repaid by the LCPD maintenance crew. The board should note these additional non-compensated duties. I have no problem doing them when asked, but please take into account the missed road work hours, it is not fair to the residents who do not live in the LCPD. If I can use the LCPD crew through an in-house agreement during my large paving jobs for a day here & there it would work out fine. I am at times, put on the spot & questioned about this by residents. I need to give them a legal & valid answer. I think a behind the scenes agreement between us would suffice. Please help me here.

The Teamster Bargaining Unit was originally & erroneously designed for a Department of Public Works (DPW). It does not work well with a separate highway department mixed in with five different departments with completely different duties. This will have to be honestly addressed someday in the future as the town grows.

## **Kent Recreation**

The Kent Highway Department assists the Kent Recreation Department as needed when requested by the Kent Town Board. The recreation department is a town-wide service shared equally by all taxpayers so it does not create the legal questions that assisting the LCPD does, being that the LCPD is a private lake community within the town. The highway department assists mostly with tree work & in 2023 we performed some site work at the Huestis Park Ballfields.

## **Kent Recycling Center**

We provide continuous plowing, sanding & sweeping of the Recycling center parking lot. This is not a mandated service for the Highway Department as it is not on the NYS DOT CHIPS inventory. The Highway Superintendent requested that this lot / road be designated as a second means of emergency egress for the Town Hall Campus so that it can be placed on the NYS Highway Inventory list, which would then satisfy any legal challenge. Sybil's Crossing, is already on the CHIPS inventory, so we would be doing the same thing & would also receive CHIPS funding which would pay for the materials used. The Highway Department also assists the Recycling center with dead trees & small site work projects when requested. They perform a great service to the town, staffed by an all-volunteer work force.

## **Military / Government Surplus**

We have been very successful with our government surplus purchasing program. We have acquired some major capital vehicles the last several years from the military, which saved the town upwards of \$500,000.00 if purchased new. Our two U.S. Army heavy hauling Freight Liner Tractors & U. S. Navy All - Terrain Forklift cost less than \$20,000.00 combined. Additionally, we have also secured office equipment, shelving & storage units either free or at a minimal cost. I will be actively pursuing a Con Ed welding truck & two U.S. Army Stewart & Stevenson cargo trucks to then be converted into plow trucks this year. There is a healthy & affordable surplus available.

## **Roads Paved 2022**

Samuels Court - .10 miles.  
Whangtown Court - .18 miles.  
Townners Court LC - .14 miles.  
Pudding Street – 3.5 miles.  
Pudding Street Loop - .14 miles.  
Tibet Drive – 2.36 miles.  
Lhasa Court - .22 miles.  
Gordon Road – 2 miles.  
Tiger Trail East - .52 miles.  
Tiger Trail West - .22 miles.  
Marshall Court - .56 miles.  
Fireside Court - .30 miles.  
Waccabuc Road LC - .24 miles.  
Tilly Foster Court LC - .08 miles  
Worthington Court LC - .66 miles.  
Laurie Court LC - .36 miles.  
East Road LC - .04 miles.

**2022 Yearly Total – 11.62 miles paved.**

## **New Capital Equipment**

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| 1- Cat 926M Loader / Smokey Hollow Garage -<br>Expected lifespan of 20 - 25 years. New assigned # 71.  | \$177,950.00 |
| 2- Cat 304-07A Mini Excavator / Town Wide Duty -<br>Expected Lifespan of 15 years. New assigned # 79   | \$67,725.00  |
| 3- Dodge Ram 3500 Heavy Duty Plow Pickup -<br>Insurance funded / replacement for old truck #3<br>Destroyed by fire. New assigned # 2   | \$58,244.00  |
| 4- Replacement stainless steel dump body Truck #58<br>Dodge Ram 5500. It is futile to buy steel dump bodies on<br>our plow trucks. After 3-4 years, the salt damage is a cancer<br>& we have to sand & paint them. It is better in the end<br>to purchase Stainless Steel from the start / more expensive but it will<br>last the full life span of the truck. | \$15,881.00  |

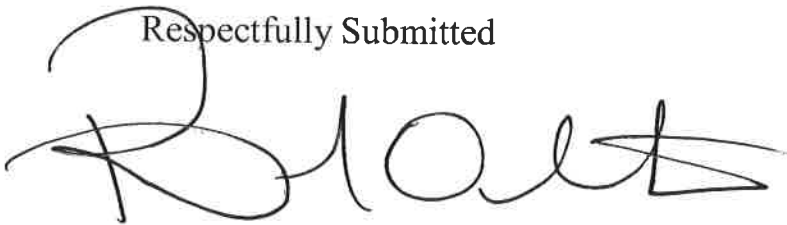
## **Bridge Report / Status**

- **Lake Louise Bridge / Culvert** -The Kent Highway Department was awarded a \$999,340.00 Bridge New York Grant in December 2021 for the complete reconstruction of the Lake Louise Bridge / Culvert located in the South Lake section of town. I selected the civil engineering firm of Barton & Loguidice off a list of pre-qualified design & construction management teams submitted to me by the NYS DOT. Barton & Loguidice has local offices in Somers, New Paltz & is head-quartered in Albany. Additionally, they have offices throughout New York State & are very experienced in bridge / culvert replacement projects similar to our Lake Louise job. I was able to personally inspect some of their completed projects & was very happy with the finished product. Presently, the project is in the design stage & we are shooting to start construction sometime in the summer of 2023. This project will be a competitive bid & awarded to a sub-contractor, it is too large of a project for Kent Highway to do in-house.
- **Mooney Hill Road Bridge / Culvert** – In August of 2022, the Kent Highway Department workforce, replaced the old Mooney Hill Bridge which was originally constructed in the 1930's / pre –WWII. The old bridge was 15' wide, a one-lane bridge that was not constructed for 21<sup>st</sup> century traffic. The old concrete bridge & abutments were ripped out & replaced by two steel reinforced 15,000 lb. concrete headwalls / with a 4' diameter plastic ADS pipe between, maintaining the existing hydraulic water flow. The bridge is now 24' wide, the same as the roadway & will be good for the next 100 years. Bridge New York estimates for a subcontractor to do this job was \$229,000.00. The Kent Highway Department completed this project under a total cost of \$20,000.00.
- **Bridge New York Grant Applications** – Presently, I am working with the Insite Engineering Team conducting updated assessments & evaluations of the East Boyds Road, Nimham Road & Sagamore Lake Road Bridge / Culverts. Once completed, I am scheduled to meet with both the Insite Engineers & our Grant Writing Team of David Jenkins & Scott Tompetrini the second week of December to combine our structural reports with some creative writing resulting in successful applications for the above named proposed bridge replacement projects which are due January 13, 2023. This is the same team that successfully wrote the Lake Louise grant award.

## Summary / Forward to 2023

Targeted roads to pave in 2023 include Gipsy Trail, sections of Seven Hills Lake & the various Lake Shore Roads of Lake Carmel. Additionally, we intend to pave in the smaller housing developments, individual roads as needed. We do not have the funds to do them all but we are on a good course. Our new building construction & old building renovations are almost completed & we are on our bonding budget target. We have a modern fleet of good equipment allowing us to be very productive & proactive. I cannot stress enough that we need to consistently replace & invest in new equipment every year, selling off our older vehicles every year while they still have value. It is a known fact that a solid fleet replacement program helps to stabilize a municipal budget. Previously, nine years ago, the town had a junk fleet. It was an unproductive embarrassment & a irresponsible & stupid expenditure of taxpayer money. I have to thank all of the boards that I have worked with the last nine years in understanding the inherit problems down here & helping me bringing this place into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We worked as a bi-partisan team & did well together.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Othmer Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

Richard T Othmer Jr.  
Kent Highway Superintendent



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