

## Mild winter good for city budget

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Monday, February 18, 2013 9:13 AM -

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DELPHOS — The winter weather has been quite mild this year and in comparison to the past two years, this season has cost the city less to treat and maintain the streets.

Delphos Safety Service Director Greg Berquist presented figures from the past two years.

In 2011, the street crews hit the ground running and were much busier applying brine and plowing the white heavy stuff. The amount of salt and brine used throughout the season, 225 tons and 95,000 gallons, respectively, indicates a very active winter.

In 2012, the amount of each application decreased. Salt usage declined by a third, down to 150 tons, and the total brine sprayed plummeted by close to one-half at 48,000 gallons.

So far, this year's figures are close to what the city experienced last year. In total, there have been 160 tons of salt used and 39,000 gallons of brine applied.

"We have purchased 80 percent of our budgeted salt," Berquist explained the stats. "It costs \$47 per ton."

In addition to general street maintenance, the city will be assessing and planning upcoming road repairs. Pothole repairs have begun and later in the spring, Allen County Engineers will evaluate and schedule resurfacing projects, like tar and chipping, and street sign replacement, which will be paid by utilizing the \$75,000 in budgeted funds.