



TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM

Board of Commissioners

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT – MARCH 2017

Early March followed the same path as February with mild weather that allowed our crews to continue are street tree trimming operation throughout the Township. Along with the street trees we were also able to get an early start on trimming shrubs and bushes around detention ponds and parks. The traffic sign replacement work also continued in the College View section.

Winter made a rude comeback in the middle of March. A quick storm on the 10th dropped about 4 to 5 inches and the big storm on the 14th dropped approximately 14 inches. This storm would have had higher totals but the snow changed to sleet for about 6 hours. This just made the snow heavier and harder to plow. Due to an order from the Governor, PADOT moved most of their equipment to the major arteries to keep them open. This left Easton Avenue and Freemansburg Highway relatively untouched during the storm. The cold temperatures after the storm froze the packed snow to those roads making it very difficult to remove. The Township received many complaints regarding this condition, but that was beyond our responsibility. The storm took a toll on our equipment with several trucks breaking down during the storm and had to come into the garage for repairs. Even with these breakdowns we were able to have the roads plowed by Wednesday afternoon. After the storm we were busy pushing back intersections, clearing bus stops, cleaning township owned sidewalks. After the snow melted, we had crews go around the township cleaning up sod that was ripped up during plowing operations. Since many of the older sections of the township do not have concrete curb there is nothing to define the edge of the road. As our plows push the snow back to clear the full road width, if the property owners do not place markers along the edge, it is difficult for the plow driver to know where the grass is and we end up pushing some back onto lawns. We have always gone back in the spring to repair peoples' lawns. However, many other townships do not.

The Yard Waste Recycle Center had a total of 209 visits for the month.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Grube
Chief of Public Works