



TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM

Board of Commissioners

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT – JANUARY 2016

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January started off mild and allowed our crews to trim street trees along some of our roads where they have grown out over the roadway and had branches hitting our trucks. Along with this work we also had time to patch some potholes and perform some crack sealing. There was a minor snow event on January 12 that allowed us to use our new brine system to pretreat some of our major roads prior to the precipitation moving in. While brine is not a magic solution that will work in all storms, it is another tool in the bag to try to combat slick roads.

The end of the month was the opposite, as the forecast from almost a week ahead was calling for a major storm for the weekend of January 23-24. The storm resulted in being the single largest recorded snowfall in the Lehigh Valley history of almost 32 inches. The snow was so deep that in some areas our trucks could not push it back. Small trucks that we typically use in cul-de-sacs were getting stuck in the deep snow and had to be pulled out of the drifts. Our plows and trucks took quite a beating trying to push this record amount of snow. Many plows needed welding as the weight of the snow cracked frames and broke several blades. After the storm our crews tried to get around to all of the Bethlehem Area School District bus stops to try to move the mountains of snow at these locations so that children had a place to wait for busses. We also started to clean snow off of storm drains to allow melt water a place to go.

The Yard Waste Recycle Center had a total of 620 visits for the month. Most of these visits were Christmas tree drop offs.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Grube

Chief of Public Works