



Public Works

By Kenneth Reed, Director

It's that time of the year again, winter. The weather gurus are saying it will be a mild winter and we certainly deserve it after the last few years so let's keep our fingers crossed that we get it.

Summer Projects. This summer, just like every summer, was another busy one for the Public Works Department. Along with keeping all the Township vehicles and equipment running, including state inspections, services and routine maintenance, and small items like brakes and rotors, we also keep the road ways safe for travel. The road banks were mowed twice this year to keep sightline at intersections and along the roadway clear. We also performed over 300 inlet inspections as part of the Township's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System requirements, or MS4 for short. While conducting the inspections inlets were cleaned and marked for repair if needed. While conducting the inspections several sinkholes were found and then repaired. Repairs ranged from the repair of a joint in an inlet box to a complete pipe replacement and everything in between.

With the previous winter being another bad one on the roads, the department identified numerous spots where the blacktop had failed. These areas would have to be dug up and repaired. This year the department set a new record for the amount of blacktop that was used for base repair using over 400 tons of hot mix asphalt. All areas that received attention this year were cut out and then the failed blacktop was removed and hauled to a local contractor to be recycled. From there, depending on the existing conditions, the stone base is either removed or stone is brought in to get 4" of blacktop to repair the restore the road surface. The blacktop is picked up 10 tons at a time from a plant in Downingtown then hauled to the site as needed. The material is applied around 300 degrees and once spread and raked out the area is rolled, allowed to cool, then rolled and vibrated. More time is spent allowing the patch to cool to around 100 degrees before the road can be opened to traffic.

One of the more noticeable improvements this year is the paving program. This year we paved a little over 2 miles of road. The most improved section that was paved was Sharp Road from Route 41 towards the back entrance of Brittany Hills. This section of road was neglected for several years due to a number of construction projects in the area. Those have not come to fruition and the road wasn't going to last another winter in the condition it was in. While the road surface was improved, it did nothing to increase the safety of the intersection with the wide area that allows multiple lanes of uncontrolled traffic. We are working with PennDOT to make several temporary improvements to the intersection that will help control traffic until the long term improvements are made.



Left: New 2015 F-550 truck

Out with the old and in with the new. Back in the summer the department replaced a 2000 Ford F-450 with over 100,000 miles with a 2015 F-550. The new truck is equipped with a 9' electric over hydraulic plow, a low mounted stainless steel

dump bed and spreader along with a LED lights and reflective chevrons for increased visibility.

Throughout the course of the spring and summer, as time allowed, we designed and built a platform that attaches to the departments loader for use at heights. In the past while working at a height the workers would simply stand in the bucket of the loader and wear a full body fall protection harness attached to the bucket. This still left the possibility of falling due to the small area at which to place your feet. We looked into purchasing something like this and got quotes for several thousand dollars but we built ours for \$467 excluding labor. The platform isn't 100% complete yet but it only needs to be sandblasted and painted. I am pleased to report we have used it several times and it is a huge improvement in the safety department and it has worked better than expected.



In-house secure work platform for heights.