

WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP SNOW POLICY

February 17, 2010

Whenever there is a storm with heavy snow we receive numerous complaints in the Township office concerning damage to mailboxes, yards, etc. The Board of Supervisors has always had a policy concerning snow removal damage but because of the recent storm they have re-entered it into their meeting minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting.

Snowplowing is a difficult, tedious and sometimes dangerous job. The truck drivers are concentrating on removing snow and spreading salt and cinders without getting stuck in the ditch or damaging the equipment while maneuvering around traffic. There is no deliberate intent to do damage to a residents' property and they apologize if damage does occur.

Township mailbox policy is as follows:

- If a mailbox is damaged by snow hitting the box or post the Township will not make repairs.
- If the truck or plow smashes the mailbox and it shows signs of damage, the road crew will return as their work schedule permits to make repairs. (A driver almost always knows when their truck hits something) They will schedule the repair for a time after the snow emergency has ended. It may not be the same week or even month that the damage occurred.
- If repairs can be made to the existing mailbox and post to make it function, that's what will be done.
- If a new mailbox is warranted, it will be replaced with a plain metal box from the hardware store and a wooden 4x4 pressure treated post. Decorative mailboxes will not be replaced in kind. ***Federal policy of the United States Post Office for posts and supports says, it is up to the property owner to keep them neat and adequate in strength and size. Its assembly should bend or fall away when struck by a vehicle.*** Design standards are available at your post office. Standards include a design for installation for optimum snow removal.
- If the mailbox is constructed closer to the road than federal policy suggests, the Township will not replace the post or box.

Township road right-of-way policy:

- The legal right-of-way along a township road is 33 feet or 16-1/2 feet from the centerline each direction. PennDOT and Warrington Township do not prohibit property owners from placing mailboxes within the limits of the legal right-of-way, and since these mailboxes are not placed under permit regulations, they are deemed to be encroachments that are placed and remain at the risk of the property owner. Therefore PennDOT and Warrington Township are not liable for damages to mailboxes, fencing, shrubbery, trees, etc, caused by snow removal or other maintenance operations within the limits of the legal right-of-way. If dirt from the road shoulder is plowed along with the snow, the Township will not be responsible to remove the dirt.
- The road crew is not obligated to clean or maintain the right-of-way along properties.

Township Ordinance 1993-04 regarding depositing snow in the cartway of any public highway states.

“No owner, occupant, or tenant of property allocated in Warrington Township shall plow, cast, throw, or otherwise deposit snow removed from said property into the cartway of any township or state street, road, or highway in Warrington Township. Any snow removed from such property shall be deposited elsewhere on the property from which it is removed.

Any person, partnership, corporation, or other business entity violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine or penalty of \$600.00 plus the costs of prosecution which fine or penalty and costs may be collected by civil suit or summary criminal proceeding before any District Justice.”