

**Past, Present and Future**  
**Positive Results From Your Councilmembers**  
**Submitted by Council President Dan Depaul**

The list below provides an overview of what has been achieved by the Borough Council within its first 14 months in office. Residents should keep in mind that 14 months ago the Council was seated with no access to computers, no office staff, and no transition assistance provided.

The key message is that we came in **\$175K under budget!**

It also provides an idea of what we (*your* Council) are striving to accomplish in the coming year (and beyond) i.e. financial security, safety for all, and improvements throughout the Borough to ensure quality of life and maintain property values while holding property taxes at the lowest possible rate.

**Accessibility to Borough Hall, Council Members and Important Information**

Borough Hall business hours have been expanded - the public may now walk in between 9am and 4pm

Committed to improved transparency

Provided a working website for the Borough - this constantly updated website, [www.westeastonborough.com](http://www.westeastonborough.com), provides notifications, contact information, many downloadable forms and much more

Public comment at council meetings is no longer officially 'timed' and there are now two public comment sessions during each council meeting.

**New Hires**

Borough Manager

Senior Borough Clerk (saving temp agency payments)

Treasurer (providing official treasurer reports)

New Borough Solicitor

New Engineering firm.

**Financial**

No tax increase for 2017. Mil rate remains at 11.7

Reduction of quarterly sewer/trash bills (2016), which now contain information on Senior Citizen discounts available

Monies owed to the Borough have been collected

Substantial contract amounts now require full council approval

Expenditures need full council approval

Borough employees have been awarded a pay increase.

Borough accounts moved from a bank paying no interest on our monies to a bank that does pay interest.

### **Technology and Equipment**

Computer problems have been solved with backup files maintained offsite  
Cancellation of an unnecessary computer software program (Caselle) together with its annual support cost  
Cameras installed in key areas to deter illegal dumping  
Now utilizing one of two vehicles (Jeeps purchased by the previous Borough Council), which had been standing idle (in storage) for two years. The second vehicle will be on the road shortly.

### **Improvements Around the Borough**

Potholes repaired prior to numerous roads being sealed and resurfaced  
(Part of the three-year project ending 2018 - to resurface *all* roads in the Borough)  
Structural repairs to the Borough Hall completed - having been neglected for many years  
New energy-saving LED lights for all Borough street lighting - awaiting Met-Ed installation schedule  
Adamson Street Rebuild Project finally tackled and completed for \$86K (former engineers Recommended a contract for \$300K).

### **Grants Applied For and Received**

\$125,400 for Storm Water Project now awaiting bids - to be requested in the Spring  
Received grant for bicycle rack and benches, which have been installed at the park on Keystone Avenue.  
Following the 30" snow storm January 2016 we had outside contractor remove mountains of snow for five days. The Borough had half the cost refunded through a federal grant.

### **In the Pipeline**

Police protection in conjunction with the State Police  
(2-3 part-time officers with rotating hours to be employed by the Borough). Based upon the successful footprint of a neighboring borough, scheduled to become operational this year (operating costs of \$150K)  
Repairs to sidewalks and curbs throughout the Borough  
An Emergency Management Coordinator to be hired  
A new Public Works building to break ground on Ridge Street  
(Awaiting a decision on a grant application that would cover a significant portion of the cost)  
A Community Block Watch Program to be restructured in line with the Police Department  
Update several ordinances, relating to 'Quality of Life', into a single ordinance  
(Currently in committee)  
Published codification of all borough ordinances and zoning regulations.

## **Also Of Note**

This council, since 2016 has provided assistance to residents and neighborhoods in need, cleaning up yards of vacant houses (Ridge Street) that neighborhood residents have complained about for years.

We worked with our new trash haulers to expedite the removal of an accumulation of trash for a family with disabilities who were afraid to put too many bags of trash out at one time.

Trash that was illegally dumped in alleyways in another area of the borough was also removed.

A new office policy was approved that allows for a late fee waiver to those residents who previously, had consistently paid their sewer/trash quarterly bills on time.

Plus, in a joint effort with Wilson Borough and the City of Easton. Lehigh Drive was cleaned up and re-surfaced from Glendon Hill Road to 25th St.

**If you would like to comment or offer a suggestion,  
we look forward to your attendance at the next Council Meeting  
to be held the second Monday of each month.**