

# November 2021 Town Manager's Report

# Economic Outlook

In November, the Town issued twelve (12) building permits totaling \$25,835.13. There were seven (7) building permits issued for new construction.

The Town received a check from the Recorder of Deeds in the amount of \$83,965.55 for realty transfer taxes (RTT) collected on our behalf during November 2021.

We have a current set aside balance of \$1,473,047.02 that may be earmarked for future debt payments or capital projects.

There were no scheduled Sheriff's Sales for November, and there are currently no properties within town limits expected in December.

# Land Use and Development

# Pending Applications include:

- 7-11 Has officially started construction as of the beginning of December.
- Bridgeville Town Center Between 13 and 404, Behind Food Lion Next stage is Plan (Preliminary) submission now expected back to P&Z January 2022
- Heritage Shores Phase 5 Preliminary approved by P&Z in August –Next stage is Final Plan submission, expected Spring 2022
- Heritage Shores Phase 6 Concept Plan to P&Z in December 2021.
- Annexation Request Fioravaniti Approx. 1.62 Acres on the South end of Town at the intersection of 13 and Cannon Road Pending Public Works Agreement
- Annexation Request The Life Center 12.65 Acres located at 8887 and 8889 Redden Road.
- PODS GED S Main Dist, LLC- New Minor Development Plan Concept/Sketch approved by P&Z in September next stage is Preliminary/Final Submission. Currently going through PLUS.

# **Upcoming Events**

If other community events occur throughout the holiday, we encourage residents and businesses to contact Town Hall to help get the word out through our website and social media pages!

- Santa tour on the Bridgeville Fire Department Truck December 18, 2021, Starting at 10 AM.
- Caroling in the Park December 19, 2021, at 6 PM in the Historical Society Park

#### Annual Audit

All documentation has been submitted to the auditors, Lank Johnston and Tull. Once the audit is complete, we will have the regular annual presentation for a future commission meeting.

# **Continuing Education**

Brandon Slater, our Water Department Superintendent, completed the Delaware Municipality Supervisory Leadership Institute in November. This program is through Wilmington University and focuses on management and employee management relationships and practices and procedures.

#### Water System Updates

We encountered an emergency situation during routine water tower maintenance with a major valve associated with the Heritage Shores water tower. The failure of this valve prevented the ability to refill the tank after maintenance. While specialty parts can be challenging to find, and most are on backorder or require a special order, we received aid from Delaware Rural Water Association, who came in and helped locate a valve and get replacement and repairs completed quickly and efficiently. We are extremely thankful for their ongoing assistance.

Just in case you may be thinking a valve is something small and simple – I've provided a picture of it sitting in the back of one of the Town trucks!



The water tower located behind Town Hall also received some maintenance. The discolored squares from a previous paint repair after equipment was removed have been corrected, and the tower now has a uniform appearance. These repairs and maintenance are all part of our ongoing Tower Maintenance contract.

#### Demolition of the O' Leary Building/103 S. Main Street

Thanks to the effort of John Macklin and Son, we completed the asbestos testing, asbestos removal, and then demolition of the structure formerly located at 103 S. Main Street. We are incredibly thankful for the efficiency and organization of work to get this project completed in such a tight timeline. As a reminder, this was one of the projects the Town received funding for in the State Bond Bill (20,000). This funding greatly helps alleviate the financial burden of demolition and site restoration, with the final cost to the Town coning to only \$3,681.00.

This site will also be the future site of a new Town Park, which we can now begin actively working on. A previously established committee started holding meetings but could not make progress without demolition. With assistance from our committee, Wallace Montgomery (Land Use Planners), Davis Bowen, and Friedel (Engineers), we should be able to provide a publicly available concept plan early in 2022.

While it seemed like it would never happen, the pieces finally came together, and we were able to get our new town tree up just in time for the Annual Christmas Parade!

# **Town Hall Operations**

As of May 10, 2021, we had partially reopened Town Hall to the public. Hours of operation until further notice is from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We had planned to try reopening to broader hours soon, but with the current increased spread of the COVID Delta and Omicron variants, we have had to decide to keep traffic limited. Appointments may still be made if necessary between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

We know the world is eager to return to normal, but we are still seeing COVID cases close to home and among staff, so we ask that you remain home and continue using the dropbox and online/phone payment options if you or your immediate family show any signs of illness. Cash payments may be dropped off in the payment tray inside of Town Hall, but we are not handling change at this time. Any excess payments will be applied as a credit to future billings. We thank everyone for helping to keep our staff safe!

Respectfully Submitted,

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Bethany DeBussy Town Manager