



April 2022 Town Manager's Report

Economic Outlook

In April, the Town issued thirty-one (31) building permits totaling \$84,472.10. There were twenty-three (23) building permits issued for new construction.

The Town received a check from the Recorder of Deeds in the amount of \$86,546.69 for realty transfer taxes (RTT) collected on our behalf during March 2022.

We have a balance of \$1,685,053.95 that may be earmarked for future debt payments or capital projects.

There are no Sheriff's sales to report for April, and there are none currently scheduled for the month of May.

Land Use and Development

Pending Applications include:

- Bridgeville Town Center – Between 13 and 404, Behind Food Lion – Next stage is Plan (Preliminary) submission – now expected back to P&Z Spring 2022
- Heritage Shores Phase 4F – Expected to P&Z Spring 2022
- Heritage Shores Phase 5 - Preliminary approved by P&Z in August –Next stage is Final Plan submission, expected in Spring 2022
- Heritage Shores Phase 6 – Concept Plan reviewed by P&Z in December 2021.
- PODS – GED S Main Dist, LLC- New Major Development Plan – Concept/Sketch approved by P&Z in September – **Preliminary submitted for May P&Z**
- Ghulam Dastagir- New Minor Development Plan – **Preliminary submitted for May P&Z**
- Rt 13 Self Storage of Bridgeville (13.41 Acre Parcel) – Dove Estates, LLC – Expected June
- 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. – On hold per owner's request.

We have seen an exciting and steady increase in calls and meeting requests regarding potential applications on commercial properties throughout the Town. They will not appear in the report until either concept or preliminary applications are received.

Work-iversaries

There are no work-iversaries to report for April or May – but I will reach the completion of my second year with the Town on June 9, before the next meeting. I’m looking forward to diving into all of the projects ahead in year three!

Hydrant Flushing and Flow Testing

With the help of the Delaware Rural Water Associaton (DRWA), our public works team completed a town-wide hydrant inspection, flushing, and flow testing process during the last week of April. We gathered important information – including the quality of function, paint quality, age, GPS location, and flow rate of each hydrant. This process had not been completed since around 2005 – and since then, the system has increased by approximately 50 additional hydrants. We can now use this information to put together a capital improvement plan to replace or repair aging hydrants and share essential information with the Fire Department that can significantly assist in emergencies.



Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Department Appreciation Night

We thank the Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Department for inviting us to their annual Appreciation night. This is the first event we have been able to attend since before the pandemic. Town Commissioners and I attended a night of awards, food, and fun on Saturday, April 23. Traditionally, this is the evening where the Town can present the annual check from the Emergency Services Fund – which for 2021 was the largest amount since the program's inception in 2003. Not knowing the status of the Appreciation Night this year, we presented the check for \$77,962.69 earlier in the calendar year during a regular meeting.

Grant and Budget Season

We are in the midst of grant and budget season – and there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes to organize and plan the best options for the Towns’ funds and seek out supplemental funds to assist in achieving our goals.

Budget workshops this year are currently scheduled for May 16, May 18, and June 1.

Below is a listing of the grant requests that have either already been submitted or are in progress for submission this month:

- Sussex County Realty Transfer Tax Grant - \$406,282
- DNREC Surface Water Planning Grant – Stormwater Master Plan - \$50,000 (with 1 to 1 match for a total of \$100,000)

101 North Main Street, Bridgeville, Delaware 19933

Phone: (302) 337-7135 Fax (302) 337-7817

www.bridgeville.delaware.gov

- Drinking-Water State Revolving Fund – Water Facilities Plan Update- \$30,000
- USDA Match to State Revolving Fund - Water Facilities Plan Update - \$30,000
- Drinking-Water State Revolving Fund – Notice of Intent – Water Line Upgrades - \$2,033,000
- DNREC Office of Recreation, Parks and Trails Grant – for the new Park
- Healthy Communities Grant – Through Delaware Community Foundation – Community Outreach for Comp Plan update
- FY23 Bond Bill/Community Redevelopment Funds

Wastewater Plant Demolition

The long-awaited demolition process from the wastewater treatment plant has officially started. Sussex County released their notice to proceed and held pre-construction meetings, and work began during the first week of May. This is a 270-day contract, so while we are excited and eager to see progress, some portions of the contract may take a little longer than others to complete as they get into the larger concrete buildings with underground structures. Standard work hours will be from 7 AM to 5 PM – and there will be increased heavy equipment traffic in and out of Public Works Way for the foreseeable future. We do expect some noise and dust out of the process, but nothing beyond acceptable limits at this point. Warning notices will be posted and distributed prior to any increased noise activity throughout the contract.



Code Enforcement Update

In March, we began a town-wide sweep of Code Enforcement and continue to try to catch up through the coming months. While it is not an all-inclusive list, many items include tall grass and overgrowth, sidewalk repairs, house repairs, fence repairs, visibility of addresses on the property, vehicles, driveways, and trash and debris on properties. Code enforcement officers will attempt to contact residents in person and by door hangers initially to resolve the problems and will then follow up with certified letters and fines if necessary. For any questions or concerns regarding a code-related complaint or violation received – please contact the Police Department at (302) 337-8302.



Redistricting Committee Update

The Redistricting Committee held its second meeting on Thursday, April 28. At this meeting, the Committee worked through various scenarios with draft maps, trying to divide the census blocks to create five restructured districts following redistricting guidelines. The next meeting is tomorrow, May 10, where those draft map options will continue to be refined for future presentation to the Commission.

Upcoming Important Dates

- Woodbridge School Board Member Election – Tuesday, May 10 - 7 AM to 8 PM
- Saturday, May 14 – Spring Yard Sale (Town-wide) Begins at 7 AM - This has been RESCHEDULED from the original date of May 7
- DSWA Shred Event at Woodbridge Middle School for Household Hazardous Waste, Electronic Goods, and Shredding (8:00 AM to 2:00 PM)
- Monday, May 30 – Memorial Day. Town Hall will be CLOSED

Town Hall Operations

As of March 14, 2022, Town Hall has returned to full operations. Town Hall hours are from **9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**. As a courtesy, we continue to ask you to consider wearing a mask or continue using the dropbox and online payment options if you have cold or flu symptoms, including COVID-19.

Over the last two months, we have had several reintroductions of COVID and the flu to our staff. Minimizing the risk of illness to our small staff enables us to keep Town Hall and the services we are here to provide available to all – we thank you for your consideration!

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Bethany DeBussy".

Bethany DeBussy
Town Manager