



## June 2022 Town Manager's Report

### Economic Outlook

In June, the Town issued eleven (11) building permits totaling \$6,507.67. There was one (1) building permit issued for new construction.

The Town received a check from the Recorder of Deeds in the amount of \$80,341.27 for realty transfer taxes (RTT) collected on our behalf during May 2022.

We have a balance of \$1,874,255.98 that may be earmarked for future debt payments or capital projects.

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

### Land Use and Development

Pending Applications include:

- B2B (Old Jimmy's Grille Site) – Conditional Use Application, Mini Storage – **Conditional Use Ordinance ONLY will be at July P&Z**
- Bridgeville Town Center – Between 13 and 404, Behind Food Lion – Next stage is Plan (Preliminary) submission – **UPDATE – Should be received in time for the August P&Z meeting**
- Ghulam Dastagir– New Minor Development Plan – Preliminary Approved in May
- Heritage Shores Landscaping Site – **Withdrawn**
- Heritage Shores Phase 3B Revisions – **Final Approval at tonight's meeting**
- Heritage Shores Phase 4F – **Final Approval at tonight's meeting**
- Heritage Shores Phase 5 – Preliminary approved by P&Z in August –Next stage is Final Plan submission, expected in Summer 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 approved at June P&Z**
- Rt 13 Self Storage of Bridgeville (13.41 Acre Parcel) – Dove Estates, LLC – No update
- 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.



## Grant Updates

I am thrilled (and still a little shocked) to give the newest update on the grants that we have applied for this year:

- **AWARDED** – Sussex County Realty Transfer Tax Grant – \$406,282 Total (\$253,141 with \$153,141 match from ARPA funds)
- **AWARDED** – DNREC Surface Water Planning Grant – Stormwater Master Plan – \$100,000 (\$50,000 with \$50,000 match from ARPA funds)
- **AWARDED** – Drinking–Water State Revolving Fund – Water Facilities Plan Update– \$30,000
- **AWARDED** – USDA Match to State Revolving Fund – Water Facilities Plan Update – \$30,000
- **AWARDED** – \$35,000 – Healthy Communities Grant – Through Delaware Community Foundation – Community Outreach for Comp Plan update
- **AWARDED** – \$1,175,000 (Asked for \$2,730,000 – FY23 Bond Bill/Community Redevelopment Funds – Ask for Street Repairs, Sidewalk near the library, Municipal Park/Town Hall parking lot
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund – 4” Water Line Upgrades – \$2,033,000 – **Not yet announced**
- \$500,000 – DNREC Office of Recreation, Parks and Trails Grant – for the new Park (Ask for Equipment) – **Late Summer/Fall announcement**

We can't thank those who have helped us obtain these grants enough. Starting with our local legislators – **Sen. Brian Pettyjohn** and **Rep. Jesse Vanderwende** for advocacy for our projects with the Bond Bill –this year and last. And to **Sen. Dave Wilson** – for continuing to offer support and guidance outside his district. And to Jason Loar and those at David, Bowen & Friedel – for all the work put into many of these applications – and assistance to me in the past few months.

Between this new batch, ARPA funds (\$1.2 Million), the FY22 Bond Bill (\$575,000), and several other smaller grants we had on hold during COVID – it's time to get to work. And personally, I'm so excited about the positive impact and improvements these projects will have on our community!

## 2022 Property Taxes

Property Tax bills will be mailed out to all property owners around the middle of July. Please remember that property tax statements are for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/2022 through 6/30/2023, which will be the date shown on your statement – and payment is due NO LATER than September 30, 2022. Interest will automatically accrue on October 1, 2022, and every month after that. We are in year 4 of the approved five–year tax increase. The FY23 tax rate is \$2.88 per hundred dollars of the county assessment.

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No, the re-assessment process has not yet been completed and is projected to be finalized in 2024. Details on that project can be found at <https://empower.tylertech.com/Sussex-County-Delaware.html>.

If you live in Heritage Shores and have not prepaid your Special Tax District taxes, your property tax bill will have a separate line item for those taxes. The Town will process the payment and pass it on to the bond management agency, Municap. If you have questions regarding your Special Tax District assessment, you may contact Municap directly at (443) 539-4104 or [www.municap.com](http://www.municap.com).

For all taxes, you can view or pay your tax bill through our iGovServices tax payment portal – by going to our website, under the “Pay Online” tab, and clicking “Tax Payments.” The direct link is <https://bridgevillede.igovservices.com/User/Login>

You can choose to create an account or simply use the search tab, which brings you to our public record portal and view or pay directly there.

### **Hometown Heroes Banners – Expansion**

Bridgeville's Hometown Heroes Banner Program began in 2017 and recognizes nearly 50 service members – dating back to the Civil War. The banners were installed just before Memorial Day and will stay in place until the Fall.

The program has received a boost in interest, and the Commissioners recently approved an additional 20 banners!

Please contact Karen Johnson at the Bridgeville Public Library if you or a family member are interested. The dedicated webpage with more information can be found on the Town website, under the "Info" tab. The direct link is –<https://bridgeville.delaware.gov/hometown-heroes/>

### **Water Rates**

During June’s Commission Workshop, we spent well over two hours going through the numbers and data, leading to a recommendation for a water rate increase. Since January 2022, the Town has been working with Delaware Rural Water to gather and analyze both Bridgeville’s water production and billing data and comparable information for surrounding communities.

An increase in water rates will allow for growth, expansion, upgrades, and improvements to our water system – which is vital to the health and safety of our residents.

An Ordinance regarding water rates will be introduced into record at the July 11, 2022 meeting – but the public hearing where we invite the public to ask questions and submit comments regarding rate increase will be at the August 8, 2022 Meeting. All of the data related to the water rate research and information will be available on our website on the August 8 event page at least one week prior to the meeting.



### **Workiversaries**

Bethany DeBussy, Town Manager – June 9 marked the end of my second year with the Town of Bridgeville! After that grant award announcement, I’m heading into year three with very big plans!

Brandon Dodd, Police – Brandon joined our Police Department on July 6, 2020. Brandon is a valuable asset to our department, as he also works with Chief Parker handling Code Enforcement.

### **Economic Development Committee**

Our Economic Development Committee welcomes volunteers willing to assist in aiding, guiding, and growing our community. The EDC meets once per month. With a few recent resignations, they do not have enough members to hold formal meetings – their bylaws require a minimum of five members. If you are interested in joining – please contact Town Hall for more information.

### **Wastewater Plant Demolition**

The skyline behind Town Hall looks very different these days. In June, the last of the buildings from the wastewater plant was demolished. There is still some work to be done in the contract, including site work and underground work. We expect contractors to be in and out of the area through the Fall.

Sussex County is also still working throughout the Town, jetting and running cameras in sewer lines and manholes to assess conditions and perform any repairs needed.

### **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.

While they are slowing, we are still seeing 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,

Bethany DeBussy  
Town Manager