

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
FOR THE JANUARY 14, 2014 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

➤ **Holiday in the Park**

For those in attendance at the holiday event held on December 14, we hope you had a great time. Once again, the weather was not on our side. The turnout for the event was low and Mariner's Bethel Church cancelled their Live Nativity Program due to the heavy rain. I want to thank our staff members for decorating Town Hall and the park in preparation for the holiday season.

➤ **Homecoming Event**

The committee met on January 8 to continue planning for the event. The next Homecoming Event is scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 10, 2014, rain or shine.

➤ **Public Works Building – Pre-Construction Meeting**

On December 18, a pre-construction meeting was held to discuss relevant issues pertaining to the successful completion of this project. Topics of discussion included the time schedule, schedule of values, and material submittals. The meeting minutes are attached so you can follow the proposed timeline for this project.

➤ **Assawoman Canal Trail Project – Update**

Bob Ehemann plans to hold a public hearing in February for adjacent property owners. A date has not been determined at this time.

➤ **SR 26 Project - Update**

On December 13, I attended an Emergency Services Meeting at the Millville Fire Station. The main purpose for the meeting was to bring together key stakeholders from the Emergency Services Community to exchange contact information and develop an action plan for the movement of emergency service vehicles through the SR 26 construction project.

Ken Cimino opened the meeting by introducing AECOM staff and advising the group that AECOM was the engineering firm that DelDOT selected to manage the SR 26 construction project.

Ken Cimino will be reaching out to representatives from each of the local Police Departments to schedule a meeting to discuss the use of Law Enforcement Officers for traffic details.

Once the construction actually begins, weekly updates will be sent out via email to the key stakeholders on Thursday of each week. An update for January lane closures was released on January 9 and posted to the Town's website.

The group will meet again on January 10 to discuss the work schedule.

➤ **2015 Operating and Capital Budgets**

Preliminary draft budgets by department are in process. Before the February budget workshop, meetings with each Department Head will take place. The financial model will be available for the February workshop scheduled for February 11th at 5:00pm. The

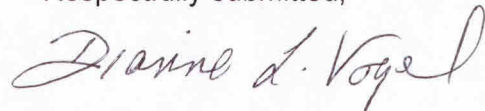
model will reflect the key budget objectives and assumptions previously projected for the FY15 budget.

On January 8, Lee and I participated in a conference call with our new team of representatives from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. We were advised that due to Obama Care and the Affordable Care Act there will be many mandated changes to all group plans. Gone is the traditional four tiered rating system of employee, employee and children, employee and spouse, and employee with family. Each and every person covered within the group plan will be assigned an individual rate. Each rate will take into consideration location, age, use of tobacco products and a factor determined for the group overall. Pre-existing conditions will not be used in determining the new rates. The Town may offer two plans to the employees if this appears to be a good option. The new rates will not be release until mid-March.

Miscellaneous

- On December 11, the Town Clerk and I participating in a webinar on Regulatory Updates to the Affordable Care Act.
- On December 15, I attended the Special Olympics Holiday Party held at the Municipal Building.
- Final letters for delinquent property taxes were mailed on January 2.
- On January 10, I attended the SCAT Breakfast meeting.
- On January 15, at 7:00pm in Town Hall, Dr. Richard Nippes, with the Ocean View Historical Society, will give a presentation about the origins of Ocean View. The presentation will deal with the evolution of Sussex County, Hall's Store and its transition into a cohesive, family oriented community called Ocean View.

Respectfully submitted,



Town Manager