

TOWN OF OCEAN VIEW
DELAWARE

October 6, 2025

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Carol S. Houck, Town Manager 

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Appoint Connolly Gallagher to Fill Solicitor Roll

Background

As a result of the resignation of Town Solicitor Veronica Faust on September 9th, it became necessary to consider options for filling the role. Ms. Faust will end her three-year term as Solicitor October 31st, with the October 14th Council meeting being her last attended on behalf of the law firm of Morris James LLP.

As you are aware, we recently hired the law firm of Connolly Gallagher LLP to serve as special legal counsel for the review of our ordinance regulating assemblies held on Town property. Max Walton was apprised of the new opportunity which led to him making me aware that Connolly Gallagher LLP had recently established a more formal Counseling arm of its Government practice that could likely and quickly fill our needs while also providing additional benefits.

Connolly Gallagher Town Solicitor Engagement/Counseling Services

Our engagement with the Connolly Gallagher team affords Ocean View the benefit of a highly skilled team of 13 that focuses solely on government, to address the multitude of needs that may arise. We will also have a dedicated Solicitor/gatekeeper if you will, at our Council, Planning and Zoning and Board of Adjustment meetings.

Tanner Jameson was hired by Connolly Gallagher specifically for this solicitor role and will benefit from the direct orientation and training of Mr. Walton, who has extensive experience representing local, county and the state government as solicitor and special counsel. Likewise, Mr. Jameson will continue, on our behalf, to have the benefit of quickly engaging with or seeking the specialized services of the other members of the Connolly Gallagher team.

Ocean View team members were afforded the opportunity to meet with Mr. Walton to discuss the opportunity and ask questions. As a result, I and our department directors feel confident that the plan outlined by Mr. Walton will be a great fit for our organization's needs going forward.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Mayor and Council appoint Connolly Gallagher LLP to serve as Town Solicitor effective November 1, 2025.