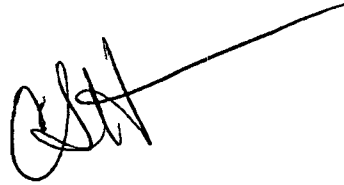


**TOWN OF OCEAN VIEW
DELAWARE**

July 8, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council

FROM: Carol S. Houck, Town Manager



SUBJECT: Town Manager Report for the Council Meeting of July 14, 2026

Borrowing Ordinance Introduction –2nd Readings and Public Hearing

The ordinance related to the issuance of General Obligation Bonds was introduced in May. This effort is being undertaken to facilitate the completion of long life infrastructure projects. First reading and public hearing took place at the Council Meeting of June 9th with 2nd reading, public hearing and vote at this meeting in July. We made a full presentation on the topic at the June 9th meeting. A copy of the presentation is available on the Town website in the scroll under *What's Happening in Ocean View* and can always be viewed on our YouTube channel (just search the date). If Council supports the ordinance, we will begin efforts to facilitate the borrowing in accordance with my recommendation and the timeline presented.

Charter Change Update

Our request for a Charter Change to the State Legislature was approved. As you know, this Charter Change submission aligns the timing of council member candidates filing for office with that of Mayoral filing to avoid unnecessary delays in postings of candidates during a Mayoral election year and preparations for public forum candidate nights.

DEMA/FEMA Storm Reimbursement

We participated in a meeting with DEMA representatives related to the Towns submission for reimbursement for the State of Emergency Blizzard event this past winter. We expect to be approved for some level of reimbursement and will report the outcome once determinations are made. The process is cumbersome but thankfully our crews and outsourced vendors kept great records and took photos that may assist in success.

IQ Fiber

We continue to communicate with IQ Fiber regarding its interest in coming into Town to provide internet services. This effort has stalled in relationship to getting information related to exactly what their buildout will entail.

Legislative Session

The legislative session has come to an end, and several bills that were of concern to Ocean View and many other towns and cities in the state were passed. Of note is the affordable housing bill which I went to Leg Hall to testify in opposition to – based on its lack of clarity and our inability

to accomplish its 20% affordable housing goals being nearly built out. It will not impact Ocean View – as best we can tell until its 2023 Comp Plan update, but I have made sure our correspondence to and answers given at the hearing are saved for future use by the Town.

Bond Bill – I am happy to share that we were awarded our Bond Bill (Community Reinvestment Funds) request for increased construction match funding for the Berzins Nature Park totaling \$74,881. This is in addition to the \$113,113 previously awarded towards our 20% construction match required by the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grants received.

Grant in Aid – Unfortunately, our request for Grant in Aid funding to support our annual Cops and Goblins program was not awarded. Our representatives aides have cited lack of funding for the reason, but I'm awaiting additional feedback regarding the discussion of our application for future awareness. Efforts are underway to begin a fundraising effort to close the budget gap of \$15,000 for the 2026 event.

Concerts in the Park

The first two Summer Concerts were well attended, and our community expressed much appreciation for the bands, and the lovely atmosphere offered at John West Park. At time of writing, and weather permitting we will welcome Pistol Whipped on July 9th. Thank you to the Cert Team, OVPD, Scout Troop 281, Bonkey's Ice-cream, and Taco Reho food truck for their partnership!



Love Seed Mama Jump – June 19th



The Castaway Band – June 25th

SRO Funding

Chief McLaughlin and I attended the June 22nd IRSD board meeting to be on hand for discussions regarding their funding of SRO's by the district. No final decision was made but we're hopeful to be funded at the same \$80,000 level as last year. It is however very frustrating to feel that we have to continue to justify and share information about the program we're offering at Lord Baltimore. Efforts may however be underway to provide consistent funding to all SRO and require improved reporting of programs and activities, so the IRSD Board is better prepared to make decisions.

Katherine Evans

We were gearing up and working with Mrs. Evans family to hold a 105th Birthday celebration on July 16th for this much beloved long time resident of Town. Unfortunately, Katherine passed away on Sunday, July 5th – 11 days shy of her 105th birthday, and the planned event. Her grandson expressed appreciation to the Town for its interest in helping them celebrate. She will be missed!

Outreach and Engagement:

I participated in various meetings/engagements/events including those with the Historic Village in Ocean View as Board member, DVHT – Health plan – regarding transition, DFIT – Workers Comp Trustee meeting/renewals, Delaware League – attended monthly meeting and Legislative Advocacy Committee participation, House Committee Hearing:, Local legislators – bond bill and grant in aide and post office, Interviews for part time accountant, DEMA – Storm reimbursement-Wallace Montgomery – engineers Berzins project, Indian River School District – SRO, Hiring of interpreters for Planning meeting, PFM and Bond Council – Borrowing ordinance, the Town Solicitor, various residents, and organizations.