

**TOWN OF OCEAN VIEW
DELAWARE**

June 3, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council

FROM: Carol S. Houck, Town Manager



SUBJECT: Town Manager Report for the Council Meeting of June 9, 2026

Borrowing Ordinance Introduction – 1st and 2nd Readings and Public Hearings

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 will take place at the Council Meeting of June 9th with 2nd reading, public hearing and vote on July 14th. There will be a presentation on the topic delivered at the June 9th meeting with opportunity for questions. A copy of the presentation is available on the Town website under Council Material or on the scroll under *What's Happening in Ocean View*, in our offices at 201 Central, and can be viewed on OVTV and our YouTube channel.

Charter Change Update

Our request for a Charter Change to the State Legislature was supported with a vote of 39 Yeas with 2 Absent for a total of 41 votes in the House. It was assigned to the Elections and Government Affairs Committee in the Senate for consideration. 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.

Church Road Update

The Title Search regarding ownership of Church Road confirmed our previous understanding that the Town did not have ownership of the Road. This detail has been shared with our local representatives in relationship with complaints received regarding the installation of speed bumps by the property owners. In addition, DelDOT has been made aware and corrections to their data of Town roadways will be made.

Grant Submission for Final Phase of Card Access – Maintenance Facility

I was advised last week that funding for DEMA/FEMA grants will be released soon calling for me to update and submit documentation for our final facility to be added to our existing system for card vs key access. If awarded, the Town will have obtained over \$150,000 to implement Card access protections for our facilities. Note – the OVPD section of our facility at 201 Central has been on the system since construction of the building, and all other areas have been integrated into the same operational system with Advantech.

Part-Time Position Recruitments

We're currently advertising for three (3) part-time positions including a accountant (long term employee Carol Lebetz will be retiring), and two of our part-time facility maintenance positions were recently vacated (2nd job timing conflicts and personal reasons). We're very sorry to lose all three employees and wish them all the best.

Local Government Day at Legislative Hall – League of Local Governments

I participated in the Local Government Day at Legislative Hall on May 14th with a good number of Town and City representatives from the State. We had the opportunity to talk to the LT. Governor and meet with members of the Senate. The legislative session has been a busy one and many of the Bills that I shared information on last month remain a concern in regard to diminished local control, unclear motive and/or implementation details. We have several funding items pending in bond bill and grant in aid and I'm hopeful to share good news in the month ahead.



IQ Fiber – Fiber Optic Broadband Network:

Over the past year I and other members of our staff have met with representatives from IQ Fiber to discuss its interest to enter Ocean View's right of ways to install fiber to facilitate their offering fiber internet plans to properties in Town. I expect to have the agreement and my recommendation to enter it with IQ Fiber on your July 14th meeting agenda. The agreement has already been reviewed and redlined by the Town Solicitor. Not providing cable TV programming the agreement does not require a franchise agreement, nor does it allow for franchise fees to be paid to the Town, in association with the Federal Telecommunications Act. This is not unexpected and aligns with our forecasting that franchise fees will likely decline in the years ahead, in exchange for more streaming. We have seen some decline already.

The IQ Fiber build out will commit to include the full Town of Ocean View and provide from 250 MBPS to 5 GIG speeds under a subscription service without a contract. Costs currently range from \$65 a month (250 MBPS) to \$125 (5 GIG). It appears the offering may well meet the interests expressed to us by members of our community for having more than one option, albeit only in regard to internet. More next month...

Outreach and Engagement:

I participated in various meetings/engagements/events including those with the Historic Village in Ocean View as Board member, Lord Baltimore Elementary – Attended Flag Recognition event with the Lions Club, VFW – Attended the Memorial Day Weekend Program, DVHT – Health plan – regarding transition and paperwork, etc. , SCAT – monthly meeting, DFIT – Workers Comp Trustee meeting/renewals, Insurance reps – claim discussions/documentation, Delaware League – attended monthly meeting and Legislative Advocacy Committee participation, South Coastal Library – House Tour host volunteer commitment, PFM and Bond Council – Borrowing ordinance, the Town Solicitor, various residents, and organizations.