

Town of Milton

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TOWN MANAGER REPORT AUGUST 2012

Audit Results Reported

The State of Delaware Office of Auditor of Accounts (AOA) is charged with the responsibility to review the financial practices of state departments, divisions and agencies, including public schools. Municipalities like Milton typically contract an independent audit firm for this service. Because of the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the town's finances up to and including the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, the AOA agreed to perform that year's audit for the town of Milton.

At the Council meeting on August 6, 2012, the AOA presented an overview of their findings. The AOA disclaimed an opinion on the financial statements. A "Material Weakness" was found in the practices of the Town of Milton in that there was a "comprehensive lack of controls". A weakness in control does not necessarily mean that there was any misconduct on the part of those involved in the town's finances. It simply means that policies and practices that would prevent fraud and ensure accuracy *should be adopted*.

It was noted that the town has recently adopted some measures that are consistent with the goal of government accounting standards and practices. Continued efforts and addressing specific "exceptions" found in the audit are expected.

The audit for the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2011 is being performed by Pigg, Krahl & Stern. Now that the audited balances for the prior year have been determined, their work may resume. It is expected that the PKS audit will show an improvement over the AOA audit of the prior year. It is also expected that there will be some findings and exceptions, as well.

Water Facilities Master Plan Revisited

At the August 23 Council meeting, Steve McCabe of Pennoni Associates presented the findings of their review of the Town of Milton Water Facilities Master Plan. This plan is the outcome of an assignment given to CUBE Associates, by the Town Council, in 2007. It was presented to the Council in 2008 as a "Preliminary Engineering Report". The Council then adopted the report as its Water Facilities Master Plan. The plan was the basis for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) application made in 2010.

Following the March 2012 referendum, an application to the Office of Drinking Water was made for a Planning Grant. The application was approved and Pennoni Associates was chosen through a Qualifications Based Selection process. The report was presented to the Water Committee in July. After the report was presented at the August 2012 Council meeting, the Council made the decision to make two pre-applications for the FY 2013 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan program.

Workplace Safety

The Town of Milton values both its employees and the prudent use of your tax dollars. We participate in a cooperative effort to improve our working environment and habits so that workplace accidents are prevented. Our safety-conscious practices are validated by an independent audit of our facilities and management. The annual audit was conducted in July and, in August, we were notified that our Workers Compensation insurance rate will be reduced by 16%.

Shipbuilders Opportunity

There are seven lots and a building at the entrance to Shipbuilders Village. The owner/developer recently ceded their interest to the bank and this bank has been in contact with the Town of Milton. The bank would like to sell the property and building to the town. The Council toured the facility in August and is considering the purchase as an opportunity to establish an alternate location for the Police Department – or a community center.

An appraisal has been ordered and an additional study of the condition of the building will be conducted. In the meantime, a process by which the town could assume ownership of the unfinished streets is being pursued. Street paving will soon follow. A Request for Proposal for engineering services that would design and supervise the paving project has been advertised.

Events

Every Wednesday evening in August we were treated to great talent on stage in Milton Memorial Park. The Milton Fire Department hosted Family Fun Day on Saturday, August 11th. The Milton Chamber of Commerce hosted Bargains on the Broadkill on August 25th.

By the time you read this, the Town Wide Yard Sale and the Milton Historical Society's "Best of Milton" gala event (both of September 8th) will have been held. On September 30th, you can expect hundreds of runners and walkers through town as the Dogfish Dash raises funds for the Delaware Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

The Economic Development Committee will soon have an informational kiosk in the parking lot on Magnolia Street. Our new web site will soon be unveiled, too.

If your non-profit organization has an event that could be listed on our Calendar of Events, be sure to contact Town Hall. We'll do our best to promote the many great things that are happening – here in Milton!