

Town of Milton

115 Federal St
Milton, DE 19968



www.milton.delaware.gov

Phone: 302-684-4110

Fax: 302-684-8999

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TOWN MANAGER REPORT AUGUST 2013

The Value of Human Resources

The top priority of business for the month of August has been the budget. After a thorough review of town revenue and expenditures by staff and the Finance Committee in June and July, the Council met to discuss the budget on several occasions in August.

Salaries and benefits account for 63% of FY 2013 General Fund budgeted expenditures (\$997,664/1,592,066) and 36% of the Proprietary Fund budgeted expenditures (excluding trash service). These figures represent a reduction in staff in the Administrative and Public Works Departments – relative to 2009 levels, too.

Human Resources are the “heart” of the service business known as local government, though. Phone calls are answered by people in Milton, not computers. Maintaining the water system, parks and many other services that are important, but may go unnoticed, requires people, as well. Most importantly, public safety and timely response to emergencies requires officers on patrol.

This year, there has been turnover in all departments. The loss of trained staff and gaps between periods of full staff levels diminishes the ability of your town to deliver all of the services that you expect in the time that you would like to these services to occur.

As required by Charter, the Town Manager’s draft budget includes a salary survey of government and private employers with similar job classification in the local market. The purpose of the survey is to provide Council with information that may be helpful in their consideration of the budget.

A survey by the independent consulting firm of Hendricks and Associates of Washington, DC was conducted for the Town of Ocean View in 2012. This information was used in a comparison of current Town of Milton wage rates. The outcome may be found on the town website, by way of the “Departments” tab, under “Finance Department” and “Financial Documents”. It is the document called “TM 2014 Draft Budget App C”.

Your Town Council is working very hard to provide you with the best possible service at the lowest practical cost – in all areas of the budget. An adjustment to wage rates in the coming fiscal year is being considered as a way to attract and retain police officers, in particular. Your thoughtful consideration of the work of the Council and Finance Committee, over nearly three months, is truly appreciated.

Public Safety Starts at Home

Poor weather during the day of the National Night Out in August forced the cancellation of the event. It is hoped that you may have taken the time to get to know your neighbors, though.

An important consideration is the safety of our children. Please be mindful of children that walk or bicycle along our streets. And, if you have children, please keep them safe by discouraging play in the street.

Appearances Matter

Through both outreach and Code Enforcement, the appearance of the Town of Milton in general has improved this year. There are times homeowners may be facing difficult circumstances – so each issue is treated in a thoughtful manner. In many cases, the homeowner may not know that there is a local regulation that should direct their routine. A good example is trash collection.

Chapter 179 of the Town of Milton Municipal Code details regulations about solid waste. Within this, you will find:

Where solid waste is collected from the front or side street, containers shall be placed there no earlier than sunset of the day preceding the day of collection and not later than 7:00 a.m. on the scheduled day of collection and shall be removed to a point at the side or rear of the structure not later than 6:00 p.m. of the day of collection.

Returning your trash can to the side or rear of your home on the day of collection will improve the appearance of both your home and your neighborhood. It is also the law in the Town of Milton.

Big Events Coming this Fall!

September 11th – 9/11 Memorial Service at 7pm by the Milton Fire Department in Memorial Park

September 13th – Farmers Market from 3-6 pm on the corner of Magnolia and Union Street

September 14th – Town Wide Yard Sale, 9am – 2pm

September 20th - Farmers Market on the corner of Magnolia and Union Street, 3 – 6pm

September 21st – Annual “Bike to the Bay” tour to benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Society passes through Milton from 11am until 2pm

September 21st – Milton Historical Society “Best of Milton” Gala and Auction at Milton Fire Dept. from 4 until 7:30 pm

September 27th - Farmers Market on the corner of Magnolia and Union Street, 3 – 6 pm

September 28th – 6th Annual Milton Antiques Show on the grounds of the Lydia Cannon Museum at Union & Magnolia Streets, from 9am until 3pm

September 29th – Dogfish Dash to benefit the Delaware chapter of the Nature Conservancy

October 4th – Farmers Market “Oktoberfest” at Dogfish Head Brewery – featuring the 2nd Annual Great Pumpkin Carve hosted by the Cannery Village Civic Association, 3 – 6 pm