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Bethany Beach

January 2009



TOWN OF BETHANY BEACH

BETHANY BEACH NEWS - JANUARY 2009



**Bethany Beach
Town Council**

Front Row -

*Tony McClenny (Mayor);
Carol Olmstead (Vice-Mayor);
Margaret Young.*

Second Row -

*Bob Parsons, John (Jack)
Gordon (Secretary/Treasurer);
Joe Healy ; and Lew Killmer.*

From the Mayor's Office

Happy New Year! It is my pleasure to submit my first article for our newsletter since my reelection to the Town Council this past September and my subsequent election to the role of Mayor by my fellow Council Members. As a citizen who has been active in Town affairs for most of the past decade I can tell you I'm proud of our community and will bring my full time and attention to working with my fellow Town Council to ensure that Bethany Beach continues to be the jewel in the crown of Delmarva's beach communities.

As we enter this New Year, I know the state of the economy is giving many of us cause for concern and I feel compelled to share with you the state of our Town's economic affairs as we enter uncertain fiscal times.

As I'm sure you remember, the Town raised property taxes in fiscal year 2008 so we would be less dependent on transfer tax revenue. Transfer tax revenues, which

result from real estate sales, dropped from \$1,555,000 in fiscal year 2006 to \$709,000 in fiscal year 2008 while the property tax rate had not been increased for 17 years. In other words, the town had been able to delay raising property taxes until the decline in the housing market cut transfer tax revenue by more than half.

The Town has taken further steps to move cautiously and frugally into the future. As a result of economic concerns Town staff was directed to limit spending and so ended the 2008 budget year spending 7% less than had been allocated in the budget. Hiring was frozen and only emergency service personnel have been replaced resulting in a 15% decrease in fulltime staffing. Subsequently the 2009 budget saw only a 1% increase and I know with talking to Budget Committee Chairman, Councilman Jack Gordon, that Town staff is working hard in budget preparations for 2010 to

develop a budget with little to no growth.

The response to the first signs of the real estate downturn in fiscal 2007 has continued in subsequent years leaving the Town well prepared to deal with this current downturn in the economy. In addition, a portion of Transfer Tax Revenues has been committed to a Capital Reserve Replacement Fund leaving the future maintenance and replacement of infrastructure needs on sound fiscal ground.

I believe your Town Government has had its eye on the ball for some time now and although we realize that a significant downturn in the economy will have some impact on our Town in the future, we believe the budget and management philosophy the Town has followed in the last few years leaves us better prepared than most municipalities to deal with those problems.

Sincerely,

Mayor, Tony McClenny

Boardwalk Widening Project

In the November 2007 Council meeting the Town manager asked the Town Council for permission to discuss the possibilities of widening the Town's 12 foot boardwalk to 20 feet. The Council was asked to approve sending the Delaware Department of Natural Resources (DNREC) a letter asking their advice on the best way to proceed with permitting for a project of this nature. Subsequently DNREC advised the Town to submit a permit application and the Town Council voted unanimously at its February 2008 Town Council meeting to submit an application. That application was submitted and advertised by DNREC as State Statute requires asking for any and all public comment. Hearing no public comment DNREC issued the permit for construction in July of 2008. The Town Manager asked permission of the Town Council at the July Council meeting to move ahead with the development and the release of a bid package as soon as possible so the Council would know what the actual costs would be before approving the project and to take advantage of the possibilities of savings that might be realized as many companies were also in the process of bidding on a similar project in Rehoboth Beach slated for construction in late 2008 early 2009. In addition a survey of existing decking on the Town's boardwalk indicated that decking board replacement was imminent and the costs for that replacement was added to the bid package, but listed as a separate expense.

At an October 2008 Town Council Meeting there was discussion regarding any widening of the Boardwalk. The Town Manager who had previously advocated for the project noted the concerns that many had over the possible widening of the boardwalk and a number of misconceptions that had developed regarding the project. He further noted the possibility of an unplanned beach replenishment project that the Town has recently been noticed of and a potential conflict with construction if both projects were done simultaneously.

At the November 2008 Town Council meeting the Town Manager advised that the bids for the widening of the boardwalk had been received and were substantially under the original engineering estimates (low bid was \$466,000) but recommended the Council revisit the widening during the summer of 2009 devoting a public hearing to the project and its funding and placing discussion regarding the project on at least one summer Town Council Meeting Agenda. It was noted the Town's permit with DNREC would expire at the end of the summer but the Town would apply for an extension with no guarantee of approval.

As a side note some have suggested that the Boardwalk expansion was being offered as a salve for the loss of view from the Boardwalk because of beach replenishment, that is not the case. The expansion was suggested and brought forward by the Town Manager as a relief to congestion on the boardwalk during our busy summer season. In addition many have offered the idea of elevating any expansion in an effort to recapture a view from the boardwalk but our engineers have thoroughly examined that idea and tell us that is not practical because of handicap accessibility issues along with the fact that any elevated portion would have to be between 5 and 6 feet tall to restore the view of the ocean breaking on the beachfront.

Free Electricity? Almost!

The concept is simple enough: an unoccupied house uses a minimal amount of electricity. But alternate energy systems make electricity all the time, and at a fairly constant rate over a year's time. So if your house is completely shut down from November through April, that is half a year that you can make electricity with no usage; in Delaware, your meter turns backward when that happens. Depending on the size of the system you install, you can take a big bite out of your annual bill - maybe eliminate it. Solar panels, solar hot water systems and vertical axis wind turbines are all exciting technologies with the potential to have huge impact on electric use and costs.

For more information on subsidies for alternate energy systems, go to <http://www.delaware-energy.com/green-energy-program-home.htm> and http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits#s4

Respectfully submitted by:

J. Robert Parsons, Councilman

Bethany Receives Surprise Beach Replenishment

The Town of Bethany Beach was recently advised by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources that the Army Corp of engineers was revising their planned supplemental replenishment along the Delaware Coast to include the Town of Bethany Beach. Originally Rehoboth and Dewey Beach had been slated for a supplemental replenishment but after an Army Corp evaluation it was decided that Bethany Beach would receive a replenishment of between 200,000 and 300,000 cubic yards of sand. This replenishment is scheduled (weather permitting) to begin sometime this coming February. This will be a beach only replenishment constructed by Weeks Marine in conjunction with the Army Corp of Engineers. The replenishment will be completed within 4 to 6 weeks. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources will then reconstruct the dune and dune crossovers in the spring after the Corps replenishment. This "surprise" replenishment is one of the benefits of having received the initial major beach reconstruction and indicates the Army Corp's commitment to maintain these projects.



This is one of the many new photos on the town's website. A special thank you is extended to Rosemary Hardiman, Pat Neary, Tom O'Connor and John (Jack) Walsh for their assistance in updating the picture content of the website.

Take a look and tell us what you think!

www.townofbethanybeach.com

Self-Certification Safety Checklist Requirement For Obtaining A Rental License

The Town Council is considering for a rental license to be issued or renewed by the Town of Bethany Beach, compliance to the following minimal safety related items must be certified and notarized by the property owner or rental agent to be in place and be in good working order in each rental property/unit. The Town of Bethany Beach will notarize this certificate free of charge.

Why Is This Necessary?

The purpose of this new ordinance is to mandate minimal safety standards for those property owners that rent their homes to individuals and families on a year-round basis as well as those who rent vacation properties in Bethany Beach. The Town only issues Certificate of Occupancies for new construction. A Certificate of Occupancy insures that a property meets or exceeds the Town’s building code requirements. Significant upgrades to the Town’s building codes have been made over the years and many older properties while “grandfathered” may not meet current safety related building code requirements. This ordinance attempts to better insure that rental properties have minimal safety related items in place before the Town issues a rental license.

What Items Are Included In the Self-Certification Process?

• Battery Operated Smoke Detectors

A minimum of one battery operated smoke detector shall be placed on each level of the structure and one smoke detector shall be placed in each bedroom/sleeping quarters. The owner of the property or the property rental agent shall install fresh alkaline energy batteries in each smoke detector at the time of the application for the issuance or the renewal of a rental license.

• Exterior Doors

All exterior doors equipped with a deadbolt lockset must easily be opened from the inside without the use of a key.

• Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)

GFCI protection is required for all outdoor receptacles, bathroom receptacles, garage wall outlets, kitchen receptacles and all receptacles in crawl spaces.

• House Address Numbers

Address numbers must be a minimum of four (4) inches high and be clearly visible from the street.

• Window Locks

Secure locks are required for all windows within twelve (12) feet of grade and for second story windows accessible by fire escapes or stairs.

Each one of these items is not a new requirement but is a current requirement in the Town’s Zoning Code. Older rental properties built before many of these safety requirements were made into law were “grandfathered” and therefore may not comply with one or more of the safety standards.

Almost all of the rental and property management companies in Bethany Beach have been given an opportunity to review the proposal. All agreed that the proposal was a good idea and noted that a great majority of their rental properties currently fully comply with the listed safety requirements. The Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company also supports the proposal.



The impetus for this proposal is to provide safer rental properties for those who live and vacation in our wonderful beach community. In attempting to heighten safety standards, the Town wanted to minimize as much as possible any negative financial impact on the owners of rental properties. It has been determined that in the “worst case scenario” in which a rental property needs to have every one of the safety related items to be installed to be in full compliance with this proposed ordinance, the cost including installation would be less than \$1000.00. The Town did not wish to follow the process used by other communities by charging rental property owners an annual fee for the Town to conduct an annual inspection of all rental properties.

Respectively Submitted: Lew Killmer (Town Councilman and Chair of the Planning Commission)

Report from Non-Residential Design Review Committee

The committee formerly known as the Commercial Design Review Committee is now named the Non-Residential Design Review Committee. The reason for the name change is because the scope of responsibility of the committee has been expanded to include the review/approval of design plans for all non-residential structures in all zoning districts, not just the C-1 and C-2 commercial districts.

The Design Review Committee has just completed its second year of operation. Recently a number of changes/upgrades were made to the Design Guidelines and approved by the Town Council that were based on observations made by the Design Committee members after using the guidelines for the last two years. Some of the changes dealt with establishing procedures to replace a member who resigns prior to the end of their term, allowing signage on awnings, reducing the maximum intensity of outdoor lighting.

Respectively Submitted: Lew Killmer (Town Councilman and Committee Chairman)

Communications

Committee Report

The Committee has 10 members and has met about 6 times per year to offer input to Council and the Manager on providing information, obtaining input and the town website.

To assist the Manager and Staff in maintaining an up to date and easily accessible town website the committee discusses the website site at each meeting, makes written recommendations to the Manager, and receives a status on implementation. Most but not all, are implemented. Citizens also provide feedback and suggestions directly to the town staff.

In August the Committee established an ad hoc committee to review the pictures on the town website. The Ad hoc committee included local photographers and others not on the Communications Committee. This group met three times in August and September, completed their work and provided recommendations (all with associated pictures) to the Town Manager, which are now available for viewing on the Town's website.

Town staff uses a list of frequently asked questions to train seasonal staff in answering questions from the public. Before the summer season the Communications Committee reviewed the list and provided input. During the summer season they gathered additional questions for consideration for next summer.

At their Sept meeting the Committee discussed a citizen's letter to the newspaper about the topic of obtaining citizen input. The letter stated "The lesson is: the voting constituencies have an obligation to make their opinions known to the council members, and the council members need to establish a "user-friendly" process to obtain those opinions. Then, the councilmen's agenda may be more in line with those of the constituents. Rather than go far along into the process, then be surprised by an unexpected reaction, and then have to back pedal — it seems that it would be better to obtain, first, the sense of the community."

The committee discussed this topic, in May and again in September and listed about 15 methods, many in current use. In May the Committee did not have additional recommendations. Some current methods use the website including: Report a Concern or Compliment option, the police survey, and the feedback form. Other input and feedback methods included postal mail, e-mail availability, phone calls; and open public council and committee meetings.

The Committees discussion is in the draft minutes posted on the town website at <http://www.townofbethanybeach.com/Archive.asp?ADID=288>

For Council consideration, the committee will endeavor to describe possible additional ways to obtain "the sense of the community". The committee would welcome citizen expertise or experience on "user friendly processes" for a community that has the mix of people that live in many states and share a love for Bethany Beach.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracy Mulligan, Chairman

Cultural and Historic

Affairs Committee Update



The Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee (CHAC) resumed their monthly meetings in September, and once again have some new projects on the horizon.

In addition to historical markers for 3 additional homes in Bethany Beach, markers identifying the past location of four boardwalk places of historical interest are also planned. The Seaside Inn and the Wilgus Bowling Alley were both destroyed during the storm of '62, Ringler's Theatre was destroyed during the '44 storm, and the site of Warren's Restaurant and later Holiday House Restaurant is now Mango's.

These places are considered to be a part of the History of Bethany Beach, and the marker's will signify their "gone but not forgotten" status.

A video on the history of Bethany Beach is in the early planning stages. Our vision is to include photos and film footage as well as interviews with some of the town's long time citizen's. The story of our town will in this way be available for viewing on the Museum kiosk, as well as for purchase for those who may wish to do so.

As in the past 3 years, we again have arranged "Cultural Evenings" for the last Tuesday of the month as follows:

* January 27th - A talk on the "Kalmar Nyckel" often referred to as Delaware's tall ship.

* February 24th - A film and discussion on "The Heart and Soul of Sussex County" —yesterday and today.

* March 31st - Don Sharp and friends presents "If Music Be the Food of Love" —love songs of the 1900's.

* April 28th - Michael Morgan "Are We There Yet" —When getting to Bethany was only half the fun.

All of these events are free and take place in the Town Hall meeting room at 7PM.

Refreshments are served. Please come and join us !!

Plans are already in the making for the 4th Annual Seaside Craft Show to be held on June 6, 2009 on the Bethany Beach Boardwalk. This event provides funds for CHAC

Projects. Some of these funds will go towards the "Commemorative Wall" that is planned for the entrance to the Town Hall Lobby depicting the names of citizens who have served on Bethany Beach Town Councils since 1923. The committee views this as a welcome addition to the Town Hall Lobby Museum.

Many thanks to the docents who made it possible for the Lobby Museum to be open and available to the public on Sundays in July and August.!!

Respectfully submitted by:

*Carol A. Olmstead, Vice-Mayor and
Chairperson of Committee*

The Town of Bethany Beach submitted the following memorandum to Sussex County Administrator (David Baker) in response to a request sent to all municipalities asking for a list of needed infrastructure enhancements.

The TOWN OF BETHANY BEACH appreciates the opportunity to submit a list of needed infrastructure enhancements for our community to your office for review by our State and Federal Officials.

1. Bethany Beach Water Tower - \$2,000,000

The Town of Bethany Beach's water system is based on a single stand pipe storage and delivery system. There is no redundancy built into the system should there be any type of maintenance or infrastructure problem with the single stand pipe. In addition these systems are dependent on a continual supply of electricity to function. Maximum summer water flows tax this system to the maximum at this time. The Town seeks funding to erect a $\frac{3}{4}$ million gallon water tower to build a fail safe redundancy into our water system. The system provides water not only to the residents of Bethany Beach but also the developments of the Salt Pond and Savannah's Landing. Preliminary site work and engineering have been done on this project.

2. Garfield Parkway Streetscape Project - \$4,760,000

This is a project that will allow the major street in this summer resort to be reconstructed. Engineering studies have indicated that this street is one of, if not the busiest street for pedestrian traffic in the entire state of Delaware, busier than any corresponding street in Rehoboth during the summer or in Newark during the University's school year. This project will reconstruct sidewalks and approaches, relocate utilities thus making our sidewalks wider and ADA compliant and will repave the roadway from the ocean to Delaware Route 1. Survey and preliminary engineering work complete on this project.

3. Bethany Beach Sidewalk Reconstruction - \$965,000

A Pedestrian Safety Study underwritten by the Delaware Department of Transportation identified the need to reconstruct a significant portion of the Town's sidewalks to facilitate the safe passage of pedestrians in the community. This project constructs or reconstructs sidewalks on Atlantic Avenue, Central Boulevard and Ocean View Parkway.

4. Bethany Beach Stormwater Project - \$4,175,000

This project helps resolve longstanding and sometime severe stormwater problems throughout an area that encompasses almost all of Bethany Beach west of Delaware Route 1. Survey and preliminary engineering work is complete on this project.

5. North Pennsylvania Stormwater Project - \$2,000,000

This project will help to mitigate a severe flooding problem that was created with the construction of Delaware Route 1. This flooding impacts the entire northwest quadrant of Bethany Beach. Severe flooding is present on North Pennsylvania Avenue and adjoining roadways making access to this area by residents and or emergency equipment impossible in certain conditions. Construction documents ready for bid are complete on this project.

6. Bethany Beach Boardwalk Expansion - \$696,660

As previously noted the public sidewalks in and around our boardwalk are among the busiest in all of Delaware. That pedestrian traffic is also found on our boardwalk in ever increasing numbers. The Town's Boardwalk is only 12 feet in width and at over forty location narrows to less than 7'10" when benches are in place during the summer. The congestion makes the boardwalk a less than idyllic place during much of the summer season.

Planning Commission News

The newest member of the Planning Commission is Mr. John Gaughan. Mr. Gaughan, who has a law degree from the University of Maryland, has homes in Bethesda Maryland as well as one in Bethany West. Mr. Lew Killmer replaced Mr. Tony McClenny, the mayor of Bethany Beach, as the Town Council ex-officio member on the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission elected Mr. Lew Killmer to continue to be the Planning Commission's chairperson and Ms. Kathleen Mink was elected to be the vice-chairperson of the Commission.

Since the publication of the last Town newsletter, the Planning Commission has completed the updating of the Town's Zoning Code. The following are just a few examples of the important updates to the Zoning Code that were approved by the Town Council:

- Developed a comprehensive list of requirements for all future planned residential developments (PRD's) and minor and major subdivisions.
- The ordinance that deals with recreation vehicles, construction trailers as well as boat trailers was updated to clarify the use, permitted size, location and storage of those types of vehicles/trailers.
- The section of the Zoning Code that deals with dead-end streets now permits a turn-around in-lieu of a cul-de-sac.
- Chapter V the section of the code that deals with Non-Conforming Uses, Lots and Structures was updated to fine-tune and clarify the various sections of the statute.

The Planning Commission as part of its long range planning efforts has begun to research and evaluate the potential use and possible implementation of Green Energy Technology. Some of the areas to be reviewed are Geothermal Heat Pumps, Roof Mounted Solar Panels and Roof Mounted Wind Turbines. As part of the investigative process the Planning Commission when appropriate, will be inviting various experts in the field to present information to and to answer questions from the members of the Commission.

*Respectively Submitted: Lew Killmer
(Town Councilman and Chair of the Planning*

Public Safety Department

The end of summer brought another busy tourist season to a close. Those Departments falling under the responsibility of the Department of Public Safety again excelled at providing service to the public, while at the same time enforcing our laws and ordinances to ensure that the public remained as safe as possible. This task was at times difficult due to issues resulting from two major coastal storms that heavily damaged our beach, one in May and another in September.

LIFEGUARDS

Our staff of nearly 40 guards again had a busy season. While actual water rescues were down compared to recent years, the crew still handled 192 water rescues, of which 132 were rip current related. Emergencies, thankfully none of which were serious, numbered 59 with 28 of those requiring an ambulance. 82 children were reported lost, all of which were located. 53 people participated in our Junior Lifeguard Program with about half of them participating in the annual Junior Lifeguard competition in Rehoboth during August.

Our full-time guards did very well in the USLA National Championships, which took place in Manhattan Beach, CA in August. Some of our guards placed within the top 15 in the nation in various swimming events.

PARKING

Although the economy created some early season concerns, financially our parking season was successful and in comparison to recent seasons.

Our Parking Department continually reviews new parking technology and may experiment with meters next summer that are capable of receiving credit cards as well as communicating with our "In-House" computer system. This will allow instant reporting of faulty meters as well as current financial transactions at each meter.

The Department recently sent 200 of our older meters to be refurbished for the upcoming season.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Our Police Department continues to be one of the best in Delaware and provides excellent service to our community. The Department was recently accredited by CALEA (Commission On Accreditation For Law Enforcement Agencies) and is the only Class A Department in Delaware to receive this prestigious award, and only one of three in the nation for a Department of our size.

Through the end of October our officers have handled 1,476 calls for service, made 2,494 traffic arrests, 275 criminal arrests, and 58 DWI arrests for the year.

A new officer was also added to our ranks. On August 29th Patrick Jackson graduated from the Delaware State Police Academy and is presently completing his Field Training Program. He should be patrolling our community in the very near future and capable of handling any situation that may confront him.

Other Department of Public Safety issues.....

In order to be disaster prepared this Department has recently renewed our Debris Removal Contract with a local contractor. We are the only municipality in Delaware to have such a contract. Should a disaster occur that would be of such magnitude that it would be beyond the capabilities of our Public Works Department we now have a contract that would insure debris would be removed in an expedient manner.

We are also seeking a grant to update our City-Watch automated phone notification system. This system is used to notify our community during emergency situations, i.e., evacuations.

The Town also recently signed an agreement with the Delaware National Guard which will allow us to use their Dagsboro facilities should our Administration and employees be forced to evacuate.

Additionally, in September the Town added an "Emergency Alert" notification button to our web-site which allows the public to view and read the latest information pertaining to an "on-going" emergency situation in Bethany Beach. This proved to be very helpful during the September coastal storm.

As reported earlier, the Town met standards and requirements set forth by the Community Rating System pertaining to the National Flood Insurance Program. Although the date may again change, the projected date for the public to be eligible for flood insurance discounts is May 1, 2009.

Bethany Beach 4th of July Festivities



The year 2009 represents the 25th anniversary of the Bethany Beach 4th of July Parade. Since July 4, 2009 falls on a Saturday, we will have the Parade on Friday, July 3rd.

The 4th of July Parade Committee is in the process of planning for the Silver Anniversary Event. This Committee is an all volunteer group. The Town of Bethany Beach does not provide us with any funds but supports us with a great deal of logistical help such as Town officials, their staff and town employees, the Police Department, Volunteer Fire Company and the Public Works Department and their crew.

We are planning for a special event for 2009 by adding more marching bands, other entertainment groups, etc. All funds to cover the cost of the parade are realized from donations from civic-minded citizens, businesses, Town governments, civic groups, various homeowners associations and the sale of T-Shirts.

If you would like to support this fun and patriotic parade, please mail a donation to:

The 4th of July Parade Committee,
P.O. Box 800,
Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Come be a part of our 25th
Independence Day Celebration!

New Ambulance Service



The Towns of Bethany Beach, South Bethany, Fenwick Island and the community of Sea Colony have entered into an agreement with the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company to fund the start up and yearly operational costs of providing Ambulance service to our area.

Emergency services (Fire and Ambulance) **throughout** the state of Delaware are provided by volunteer fire companies with only one exception, the City of Wilmington. These volunteer companies are funded by a percentage stipend on all insurance premiums paid in this State apportioned by formula to all 60 Delaware volunteer fire companies and by donations.

Traditionally over the decades ambulance service for our area and our Town has been provided by the Millville Fire Company. In recent years, in acknowledgement of the traffic congestion that exists on Route 26 in the summer months the Millville Fire Company has stationed an ambulance in Bethany Beach for the summer season.

More than a year ago the Millville Fire Company noticed all affected parties of their intention to stop providing ambulance service in the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company service area (an area that begins at the State line in Fenwick Island and extends to the Indian River Inlet). The Millville Volunteer Fire Company cited growth in their service area as their prime reason for making that decision and also stated that the decision was irrevocable.

Once noticed of this change the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company went to work on a plan to fund and operate an ambulance service in our area. Having just constructed a new facility and with a significant long term capital equipment replacement plan in effect the Company did not, nor did it anticipate, having the resources necessary to provide a new ambulance service. One of the first things that the Company attempted was the passage of legislation in the Delaware General Assembly that would enable the County to collect an ambulance fee from all properties in the Fire Company's service area to cover start up and operating expenses for the service. That legislation was not well received by the Volunteer fire services in the State and never made it to the floor of the Delaware General Assembly.

When their attempt to equitably share costs with all residents in their service area failed the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Service then turned to the four large communities in their service area, the Towns of Bethany Beach, Fenwick Island, South Bethany and Sea Colony. Of the 10,000 properties in the service area these communities represent 7000 homeowners. The Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company asked those communities if they would commit to funding the ambulance service while the Company worked to again attempt to pass the legislation and/or actively solicit cost sharing with the other smaller communities in the service area.

After a number of meetings with Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company an Agreement was reached that created a sponsoring group comprised of Bethany Beach, Fenwick Island, South Bethany and Sea Colony. This sponsoring group committed for a ten year period to fund ambulance services in the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Companies service area. The Agreement clearly states

that if any other source of funding becomes available that the Agreement will end.

This Agreement has been reviewed by our attorney and attorneys for the other communities and presented to the four affected legislative bodies where it has been discussed and approved.

The total projected cost for yearly operation of this service, which also includes repayment of a ten year loan on new equipment, is approximately \$500,000. When other sources of funding are taken into consideration (State and County monies available for emergency medical service) the commitment for the four communities is approximately \$300,000 at this time. This works out to a cost that will be approximately \$40.00 a year for residents and business owners in Bethany Beach. All taxable parcels in the community will be assessed and all businesses as well.

As part of this agreement the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company promises to work to pass legislation that will enable them to assess all residences in their service area and further they promise to aggressively pursue all smaller communities in their service area to subscribe to the service, thus driving down our Town's financial commitment. The Agreement gives the four sponsors the authority to review and approve the Ambulance Service yearly budget and obligates the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company to make quarterly fiscal reports to the sponsors.

It is anticipated the Town will make the first assessment for this service in February of 2009 in an individual mailing to all property owners. This first assessment will be for costs associated with the startup of the service and will be \$30.00. Subsequently the assessment will be levied with the yearly tax/sanitation/sinking fund billing and is estimated to be approximately \$40.00. Business owners will be assessed at the time they renew their yearly business license.

Town of Bethany Beach

**214 Garfield Parkway
P.O. Box 109
Bethany Beach, DE**

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Feel free to contact us either by telephone (302-537-3771) or email (admin@townofbethanybeach.com).



A special thank you is offered to all of those individuals who contributed to this issue of the Bethany Beach Newsletter!



**Town of
Bethany Beach**

*One of the
Quiet Resorts*



Tony McClenny, Mayor

Carol A. Olmstead, Vice-Mayor

Jack Gordon, Secretary/Treasurer

Joseph T. Healy, Council member

Lew Killmer, Council member

J. Robert Parsons, Council member

Margaret Young, Council member

Clifford M. Gravier, Town Manager

Lisa A. Kail, Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk

Ralph J. Mitchell, Public Safety Director

Michael D. Redmon, Chief of Police