

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ELECTORS 2015

It is my sincere belief that the City is in the strongest position it has been in a very long time. It is fiscally sound because of changes that have been made in the last two years. These modifications prevented increased debt, allowed us to operate our utilities responsibly, brought the City to a stable fiscal position, and the year will be ending with a small reserve for emergencies.

We have begun a large number of projects, some that have been talked about for years. Repairs to the sewer lines are taking place to help reduce the amount of rainwater that goes into the sewer system. The City's overall cost savings by reducing the amount of rainwater being transmitted and treated will result in savings to the citizens. This will also help the City to stabilize costs to the residents. The shift in the way the City bills for water and sewer has made these repairs possible without the City incurring additional debt. Keeping debt down and preventing tax increases is important to all citizens of Harrington. There has been a reduction of 6.5% in the amount of water consumed by the residents. This equals 3.8 million gallons of water since January. Less water being used results in the reduction of sewer costs as well. Sewer flow is down by just under 11%. In addition, the trash service contract has been renewed with no cost increase to the citizens.

We have created a balanced budget for fiscal year 2016, while at the same time reducing the debt service. The City has cut the cost of workers comp insurance by joining DFIT which is a self-insured group. Moving the employee health insurance to the State of Delaware plan has saved money while maintaining the same level of service.

There have been several projects this year to maintain and enhance Harrington. There were many repairs made to the city museum by the Historical Society, protecting our heritage. The Greater Harrington Historical Society is a volunteer group and are part of the silent heroes of the City. The Harrington Parks and Recreation building with the guidance of Bill Falasco and Faye Smith has been extensively renovated through grants and monies provided by Senator Simpson, Representative Outten, Representative Wilson, the General Assembly, and the USDA. The pavilion at Freedom Park now has a permanent movie screen and movies have been enjoyed by many on Saturdays during the summer months. This has become a community gathering place, and the improvements were paid for by donations at no cost to the residents. Chief Norman Barlow has been named Police Chief of the Year by the Delaware League of Local Governments. Congratulations Chief Barlow. We are very proud of you.

Harrington continues to move forward. The City is finalizing a major Zoning Code rewrite which will help in the growth of the City by simplifying the process for contactors to encourage building. New construction is on the rise from the previous year. We have a business going in at Spartan Station that will employ 30 people and is actively taking job applications; UPS has installed a seasonal center and may be looking to have a permanent facility within city limits; the Pliant building has been purchased and is in

development by the owner; and development may begin again in Friendship Village. In addition, we are evaluating library sites and considering a new library building.

As the Mayor, I will be asking the City Council for committees to be reformed and for term limits to be established. Looking hard at what the contractors need to get businesses to come to town and homes built. What policies need to be put in place for permitting to become easier and clearer. As a government, we will continue to be open and transparent, improve communication, and seek more stakeholder involvement in the decision making process by seeking more opinions and keeping an open dialogue with the residents and property owners.

In closing, I would like to thank each and every Council Person, City Manager Terry Tieman, the employees in City Hall, Alan Moore and Public Works team, Christine Hayward and her crew at the Library, Bill and Faye at Parks and Recreation, Carl in Code Enforcement, and Chief Barlow and all the police officers for putting themselves out their everyday to protect each and every one of us. Without these people the progress we have made in the last year would not have been possible. I ask that every resident of the City take the time to thank these people when they run across the in their travels.

Thank you to the citizens and business owners of Harrington for making this a great town to live and work in.