

JOSEPH T. HEALY

1. Background and Experience. My wife, Peggie, and I have been coming to Bethany Beach since the late 1960's. We became property owners in 1988 and since 2011 we have made this lovely Town our full-time residence. My entire professional career as a CPA has been in finance and business management. This enabled me to develop skills in long-term planning, budgeting and managing for results. As I reduced my professional practice to part-time status, I was able to devote more time to volunteer activities in Bethany Beach, including service in our Town government. From 2006 to the present, I have served on the Budget and Finance Committee and over the past 12 years as one of your Town Council members.

I have fostered and accentuated an emphasis on fiscal responsibility. Together with other Council members and our outstanding Town staff, I am particularly proud of our success in ensuring the continued sound financial condition of our Town. The common thread uniting all of us is the objective of doing the best job we can for the continued betterment of Bethany Beach.

In considering the wide-range of issues that come before the Council, I have encouraged and welcomed public input as an important part of the process. With that input, I have sought to resolve all issues in the best interests of our entire community.

2. Policy Direction. If reelected, I would like the Council to continue to focus on long-term planning issues, to include annual review and evaluation of our capital project priority plan. In addition, I think it is vitally important to continue to focus on scheduling and ensuring funding for beach replenishment and dune maintenance. Other issues that will require ongoing Council attention include: pedestrian and bike safety; flooding; high speed internet technology and infrastructure; and completion of the development of the Town park. A general policy objective, shared by other Council members, is to continue to consider the interests, concerns and opinions of property owners and residents in all matters that may affect them.

3. Issues:

A. Rain and Tidal Flooding. Flooding continues to be a serious on-going problem because the Town is at or below sea level and is bordered on three sides by the ocean or canals. The importance of maintaining the protective dune is clearly evident. As to tidal flooding along the Loop Canal, the Council has approved pursuing another study and possible partial solution with the Army Corps of Engineers; has already acquired over 20 acres of wetlands so far for conservation to help reduce flooding; and continues with necessary ongoing work to maintain our storm drainage system. Requiring the use of pervious surfaces, rather than concrete or asphalt, in future construction is another remedial option to consider as well as the possible effect of dredging in the back bays as well as the canals to mitigate storm water flooding.

B. Working With Other Coastal Towns. The current Council and our Town Manager continue to work collaboratively with other coastal towns, as well as other towns in Sussex County, on shared concerns and issues. The efforts include participation in the Sussex County Association of Towns, the Association of Coastal Towns, and the Delaware League of Local Governments. They provide a forum for discussion and an avenue for more influential united communications with the County Council, state agencies and representatives of federal agencies and officials, and thereby ensure that the interests of Bethany Beach are considered. Issues have included beach replenishment, storm and climate change resiliency and flooding. We are also working with S. Bethany in a joint effort to expand a planned DelDOT project to install lighting in the median along Route 1 through our towns.

Based on my background, experience in our Town government, and commitment to the best interests of our entire community, I believe I have the necessary qualifications to continue to serve as a member of your Town Council. Your consideration of my candidacy is very much appreciated.

Thanks also to the BBLA for this opportunity for the candidates to communicate our views to the voters.