

2022 State of the Town Address

At the end of 2020, there was incredible hope that 2021 would be a radically different year. Everyone hoped that there would be an end to the pandemic, and things would go back to normal. After two years of the pandemic, we now know that some things won't ever be quite the same again.

Understanding where we were during this time, the Town focused on fundamentals this year. We made improvements to our core services, reinvested in equipment and facilities, and maintained our positive economic position, ending the calendar year with more in the bank than when we started the year.

In an accomplishment that garnered statewide recognition, the Police Department became the smallest department in the state to become accredited. This accomplishment is based upon four years of consistent hard work- refining policies, expanding outreach, increasing uniform practices, and an incredible commitment to training and excellence. This would not have happened without the investment into the department; the renovated building offered a facility and space to accomplish these goals that should make our citizens proud. At the same time that the Police Department was achieving this goal, they also had their largest toy drive, their largest trick or treat event, and also started clean up campaigns.

The Town reinvested in facilities this year. We replaced the roof on Town Hall and upgraded our Council chambers. We sold and replaced the bucket truck with a new lift. We purchased two new police cars and obtained a generator for the Police building. At our plant's facilities, we continued work on the water plant renovation and the sliplining project. We received approval for a project to have a standby generator for the Waugh's Ferry water tank. Mass grading plans for Brockman Park, including environmental planning to be reviewed by the state was commenced. And the Town did many of these things utilizing competitive grant funds. The Town applied for and received revolving water drinking funds (a \$150,000 grant), a grant for police car and body cameras to bring all officers to a single standard (\$20,000), a grant for the work at Brockman (over \$100,000). Additionally, the Town began work on the Comprehensive Plan, which is being completed at no cost to the Town by our Planning District Commission.

The Town should be proud of the good work done this year, the focus on fundamentals, and the continued financial health of the Town. Staff this year demonstrated that it is possible to be in hard times, get the good work done, and do it well at a low cost.

Thank you, and let's hope for a great 2022.