

# The City of Lewes



The Cities of Lewes and Milford, Delaware will co-host a Local Government Management Fellow. Lewes and Milford are approximately 21 miles from each other, both located off an arterial highway. In 2019, Lewes and Milford shared a Local Government Management Fellow.

## **About Milford, Delaware**

Milford, Delaware sits on the Mispillion River, straddling the border between Kent and Sussex Counties. Originally settled in 1680, by the 1770s Milford had a thriving shipbuilding industry which continued through World War II. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Milford became the commercial center for much of southern Delaware's agricultural community. Today, Milford's downtown is home to art galleries, restaurants, a community theater, boutiques and the Milford Library. The Mispillion Riverwalk runs along the Mispillion River. Milford has a population of about 12,000 and occupies a land area of 10 square miles. Bayhealth, central Delaware's regional healthcare provider, recently opened their Sussex County campus in Milford. The City worked with partners to create a master plan in the area surrounding the hospital in advance of the new hospital's construction. The City of Milford operates the electric, water, wastewater, and solid waste utilities for the City. The City's annual budget is just over \$44 million, \$33 million of which represents the utility funds.

*Governance: Council – Manager form of Government; Eight members of City Council representing four wards, Mayor elected citywide – not a member of Council*

## **About Lewes, Delaware**

Settled by the Dutch in 1631, Lewes was Delaware's first colonial settlement and is known as the "First Town in the First State." Lewes is located at Cape Henlopen, where the Delaware Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean, and until the 1960s was home to a thriving fishing industry. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, after the fishing plant closed, Lewes started to become a tourist destination. An historic central business district with thriving boutiques and restaurants sits on the west side of the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal surrounded by an historic district of Victorian homes. East of the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal is Lewes Beach, which includes some commercial uses, residential communities, and public beaches. Lewes has a year-round estimated population of 3,198 residents, but also has numerous part-time residents and tourists. The City is 4.6 square miles in land area and includes large areas of wetlands and beaches. Lewes is home to Beebe Healthcare, which is a regional healthcare provide for eastern Sussex County. The City has an annual budget of about \$9.2 million. The City's water, wastewater, stormwater, and electric utilities are operated by the Lewes Board of Public Works, which is overseen by an elected board.

*Governance: Council – Manager Form of Government; Five members of City Council, including Mayor – all elections are citywide*

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The First Town in the First State

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## **Local Government Management Fellow Workplan**

Both Lewes and Milford have a number of projects where the Local Government Management Fellow will play a key role. The projects for each municipality are listed below:

### **City of Milford:**

- Police Labor Negotiations
- National Citizen's Survey
- Development of a Charitable Trust for Utility Payment Support
- Develop Street Occupancy/Excavation Permit Ordinance
- Develop Ordinance for Right-of-Way Abandonment
- Develop and implement standard Capital Project Description forms to use in the Development of CIP
- Investigate and evaluate positions that may be move to Work-from-Home positions (Customer Service). Determining barriers and how to resolve them?
- Act as Staff Liaison for Police Station Building project
- Assist with implementation of new City-wide ERP program
- Work on possible development of an industrial park
- SE Front Street streetscape/two way traffic
- Walnut Street Bridge pedestrian crossing
- Comprehensive Sidewalk Master Plan
- Development of short educational videos of posting on website/social media
- Evaluation of creating Arborist/Tree Crew as well as overall vegetation management

### **City of Lewes:**

- Development of multi-year capital plan (Lewes currently does not have one)
- Development of financial policies
- Assist City Manager with implementation of a Beach Parking Committee report
- Assist Planner with amendments to Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance
- Assist with National Community Survey and National Police Service Survey