

President's Report – February 2026

Note from President

February was a busy and productive month for Pittsville. The Town Council met on February 17th and took action on several important items — from expanding our speed camera program to investing in new equipment for Public Works. I'm especially pleased to share that our Water Treatment Plant Phase IV upgrade is nearly complete, a major milestone for our town's infrastructure that has been years in the making.

On Saturday, February 28, 2026 the Pittsville Fire Department held their annual banquet to celebrate the contributions each member makes to our community. The Council presented the Fire Department with a \$32,000 check from the town budget. Additionally, local and state officials, including State Senator Mary Beth Carozza, State Delegate Wayne Hartman, Wicomico County Executive Julie Giordano, Wicomico County Sheriff Mike Lewis, Wicomico County Council President John T. Canon, and Wicomico County Councilmember Joe Halloway were there to give proclamations to Fire Department members with milestone years of service, including 35 years by Gary Bratton (who also won Fireman of the Year), and 40 years by Peggy Pealey (who also won the Chief's Award), and Gene Pealey (who also won the President's Award). The members of the Fire Department are pillars of our community and I thank them for all that they do to serve our citizens.

Finally, I want to thank Dale Monroe, Sean Triplett, Johnny Knuckles, and the entire Public Works Department for the way they helped keep our town moving after the recent winter storm. Their tireless efforts helped clear the roads and keep our community safe.

As always, we're committed to keeping you informed about both our progress and the challenges we're working through. Thank you for your continued engagement with your town government.

Meeting Highlights

Water Treatment Plant Nearly Complete — The Phase IV upgrade is in its final stages. Painting of the pre-treatment building is done, the filter gallery is next, and once the remaining filter hatch work is completed, the project will be essentially finished. The MDE loan on the project has also closed, which will help replenish town accounts used to fund the work while we waited on financing.

Speed Camera Zone Expanded — The Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-03, extending the boundaries of the Town's speed camera enforcement zone to improve public safety on our roads.

New Backhoe Purchased — The Council approved the purchase of a 2000 Case Backhoe for up to \$25,000. This equipment will strengthen our Public Works team's ability to respond to infrastructure needs across town.

Challenges and Updates

Rental Housing Code Compliance — A reinspection of a local apartment complex identified ongoing issues that have not been remediated by the property owner. The Town is working with Town Attorney Erica Witz on next steps and continues to pursue every available avenue to protect residents living in those units. Regular rental inspections through First State Inspection Agency are being scheduled for April and May.

Drainage Work Scheduled — Public Works Director Dale Monroe is scheduling work on the Sandyfield Subdivision drainage issue and the Pitts Avenue drainage ditches. Town Manager Joe Mangini has also reached out to the County's Public Drainage Coordinator to arrange a broader discussion on stormwater management.

Water Update

The Water Treatment Plant Phase IV upgrade is on the doorstep of completion. The pre-treatment building has been painted using national color-coding standards, and the filter gallery is next. The final remaining task is the access hatch on Filter #3 — once that's done, the project is complete. The Wastewater Treatment Plant UV System is also finished and has been elevated above flood level. The Town's Wastewater Capacity Management Plan has been submitted to USDA, and we are awaiting their response.

Upcoming Events

Wild Game Dinner — Saturday, March 21, 2026. Tickets are \$50.00 per person and are available now.

Free Adult Dental Clinic — March 27–28, 2026 at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, hosted by Eastern Shore Mission of Mercy.

Strawberry Festival — Volunteers are needed! Contact the Town for more information.

Town News

Roadway Project Bids Opening — Bids for the Town's roadway improvement project will begin on March 11, 2026.

Railroad Avenue Traffic Update — Following concerns raised by residents, the Council adjusted the one-way traffic pattern on West Railroad Avenue, reverting the stretch from Collins Street to Parker back to two-way traffic.

Federal Funding Meeting — President McHugh met with representatives from Congressman Andy Harris' office to discuss potential federal funding opportunities. Most available funding is targeted toward shovel-ready projects.

Next Town Council Meeting

Monday, April 20, 2026 at 7:00 pm — Town Hall

Have questions for the Council? Submit them at: townhall@pittsvillemd.gov.