

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY  
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 9, 2019**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Mayor Saxton called the April 9, 2019, Town Council Special Meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Callaway, seconded by Councilmember Stevenson, to waive the eight-hour notice of intent for Councilmember Oliver to attend this meeting by remote electronic access. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, and Mayor Saxton

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

**ATTENDANCE**

Councilmembers Don Boteler, Sue Callaway, Carol Stevenson, Frank Weisgerber, and Mayor Tim Saxton; Town Manager Maureen Hartman; and Administrative Assistant Pam Smith.

Present by Remote Access: Councilmember Jimmy Oliver

Excused Absence: Councilmember Jerry Masiello

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO CREATE A TEMPORARY CIVILIAN POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO OVERSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT PENDING A SEARCH FOR NEW POLICE CHIEF**

Councilmember Callaway said the candidate was recommended by Dan Rosenblatt who ran the International Association of Chiefs of Police for 25 years. The candidate has been involved in law enforcement for 40 years and lives locally. The candidate is a very professional law enforcement official with great respect for law enforcement and great respect for the community. The candidate will not serve as a sworn officer but as a civilian consultant.

Councilmember Callaway reviewed and discussed the proposed Scope of Work.

Mayor Saxton stated that this will not be a full-time position and suggested that the position be limited to 30 hours a week. Mayor Saxton said he would like to reduce the time to three months with the option to renew if needed.

Councilmember Oliver said he thinks the Scope of Work could be much clearer and more concise and instead of hours he would rather have a dollar figure. He believes the Town should focus on recruiting a new Chief of Police as quickly as possible. Councilmember Weisgerber said he had concerns similar to Councilmember Oliver's concerns, but he thinks the amount of work (paper work, recruiting, interviewing of new candidates, training officers, etc.) is overwhelming for the one current police officer.

Mayor Saxton suggested changing the title of the position to Public Safety Advisor.

Mayor Saxton took public comment before the vote:

Jack Whitney, 105 Boone Rd. – Fully supports this initiative. Thinks the Scope of Work could be tightened up.

Dr. Dan Cowell, 110 Henlopen Dr. – Inquired if funds were included in the FY 2020 Budget for this position.

Larry Budd, 4 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. – Supports bringing some help to the Police Department and appreciates Council's efforts around finding a talent. Mr. Budd asked if Council had considered forming an ad hoc committee as suggested during public comment at a previous meeting. Mayor Saxton said there has not been a member of the Council to bring it forward. Mayor Saxton said he has done some consultations with others, and a police department is the responsibility of the Town Government not a responsibility of a committee.

Motion by Councilmember Stevenson, seconded by Councilmember Boteler, to go forward with the Scope of Work. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, and Mayor Saxton

AGAINST THE MOTION: Councilmember Oliver

The motion carried with a 5-1 vote.

### **PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF SEARCH FOR NEW POLICE CHIEF**

Mayor Saxton said the position will be advertised starting this week. The Town has already received applications for the position from highly qualified and experienced individuals

### **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL CANDIDATE(S) FOR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Motion by Councilmember Boteler, seconded by Councilmember Weisgerber, to go into executive session to discuss potential candidate(s) for Director of Public Safety. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, and Mayor Saxton

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

Administrative Assistant's Note: Prior to this vote Councilmember Oliver was disconnected due to technical difficulties. Councilmember Oliver was reconnected to the meeting for the Executive Session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 11:40 a.m. Council went into executive session for purposes of discussing an individual citizen's qualifications to hold a job or pursue training unless the citizen requests that such a meeting be open 29 Del. C. §10004(b) (1)

### **MOTION TO RECONVENE**

Motion by Councilmember Callaway, seconded by Councilmember Weisgerber, to reconvene the Town Council Special Meeting at 12:30 p.m. Mayor Saxton clarified that Councilmember Oliver had to drop out of the meeting due to travel. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, and Mayor Saxton

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT TO CANDIDATE AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Motion by Councilmember Boteler, seconded by Councilmember Weisgerber, to offer retired Police Chief Mike Carroll a contractual assignment as the Town's Public Safety Consultant at an hourly rate Council agreed to in executive session and for a duration of up to three months with an option to renew as needed and for up to an average of 30 hours per week. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, and Mayor Saxton

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

Councilmember Callaway read Chief Carroll's bio for the public.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dick Oliver, 410 Victoria Rd. – Said the resume is impressive and thanked Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilmember Boteler, seconded by Councilmember Weisgerber, to adjourn the April 9, 2019, Town Council Special Meeting at 12:37 p.m. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Oliver, and Mayor Saxton

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.