

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING ON FY 2021 DRAFT BUDGET
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2020**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Saxton called the March 13, 2020, Town Council Public Meeting on FY 2021 Draft Budget to order at 5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Councilmembers Derek Abbott, Don Boteler, Sue Callaway, Dick Oliver, Carol Stevenson, Frank Weisgerber, and Mayor Tim Saxton; Town Manager Maureen Hartman; Finance Director Renee McDorman; Chief Jason Lovins; and Administrative Assistant Pam Smith

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICER ANTHONY QUIROZ

Chief Lovins introduced Officer Anthony Quiroz who recently graduated from the Delaware State Police Academy.

REMARKS AND PRESENTATION OF FY 2021 DRAFT BUDGET

Councilman and Budget & Finance Chair, Don Boteler and Finance Director Renee McDorman, provided a Power Point presentation of the Budget Highlights for FY 2021.

Referring to the Capital Improvement Sources and Uses, Councilmember Boteler said the Budget and Finance Committee debated back and forth of the possibility of recommending a modest tax increase. Looking at the reserves and how well off the Town currently is, it seemed to the Committee a tough time to propose a tax increase. The Committee landed on sounding a warning for the Council and for the town that at some point in time the Town is going to have to consider a tax increase.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR FY 2021 DRAFT BUDGET

Randall Bartholomew, 6 S. 6th St. – Inquired about the Operational Reserve. Councilmember Boteler noted that the Operational Reserve is \$702,624. Mr. Bartholomew asked about the \$70,000 each year for beach access over a four-year period. Councilmember Boteler explained that the plan is to complete three beach access walkways per year for five years starting with the FY2020 Budget. Councilmember Boteler responded to a question from Mr. Bartholomew regarding the source of funding for the reserves. Mayor Saxton added that the funding is from the years when the Town has had a surplus. Mayor Saxton noted that the ARM Reserve is the first item to be funded.

ADJOURN PUBLIC MEETING ON FY 2021 DRAFT BUDGET

A motion was made by Councilmember Boteler, seconded by Councilmember Abbott, to adjourn the Town Council Public Meeting on FY 2021 Draft Budget at 5:52 p.m. Motion unanimously carried.