

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 15, 2022
9:00 A.M.**

Meeting Called to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Saxton called the November 15, 2022, Town Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendance and Absences

In attendance were Mayor Tim Saxton and Councilmembers Randy Bartholomew, Bob Biciocchi, Edie Dondero, and Tim Shaw; Town Manager Maureen Hartman, Town Clerk Matt Amerling, and Chief Jason Lovins. Councilmember Derek Abbott participated remotely, and Councilmember Dick Oliver was absent. Public attendees: 4.

Motion to go into Executive Session

Councilwoman Dondero motioned to go into Executive Session at 9:02 a.m. Councilman Shaw seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion to reconvene the Town Council meeting and discussion and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session

Councilman Shaw motioned to exit Executive Session and reconvene the Town Council meeting at 9:13 a.m. Councilwoman Dondero seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Councilman Shaw motioned to approve the actions discussed during Executive Session. Councilwoman Dondero seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment

Ed Nazarian, 20 Peterson Drive, questioned Chief Lovins if the Town stop signs apply to motorcycles and mopeds as he's noticed a resident running a stop sign near his home.

Joe Conway, 160 Henlopen Drive, read a letter he received from the Delaware Lt. Governor regarding the Lt. Governor's Challenge, which is to enhance walking and biking trails and make the waterways cleaner and safer for recreational use and fishing. The letter will be placed on the Town's website on the Planning Commission page.

Adoption of Minutes

Mayor Saxton mentioned the second paragraph under the Public Hearing October 14, 2022, Town Council minutes should be omitted. Motion by Councilman Shaw, second by Councilman Bartholomew to adopt the October 14, 2022, Town Council Meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Councilwoman Dondero, second by Councilman Abbott to adopt the October 25, 2022, Town Council Workshop minutes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Councilman Shaw, seconded by Councilman Abbott to adopt the October 25, 2022, Town Council Executive Session minutes. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion and possible action to reallocate reserves and recast current year capital budget

Councilman Bartholomew briefly described the reallocation of fund balances sheet showing the fund balances from the 4/30/22 audit as well as the Capital Budget. Councilman Bartholomew

indicated that this is an annual process that the Budget and Finance committee performs for the Council.

Mayor Saxton noticed a discrepancy with the Sussex County grant figure designated on the first page as opposed to the figure designated on the second page. Page one shows \$117,966.00 and page two shows \$100,000.00 with a match of \$17,966.00. Councilman Bartholomew said it could be easy to say the sources come from reserves and put the grand total up there, but he understands Mayor Saxton's point. Mayor Saxton also wants to see the unassigned \$1,374,991.00 either restricted, assigned, or committed. Councilman Bartholomew said the Town doesn't have specific plans, but it is a very fluid number which the Council allocated to roads, and anything the Council agrees to; but there is no specific program of which the money is allocated to. Mayor Saxton stated that we need to start thinking about how we're going to utilize this money. Councilman Bartholomew stated that Council members should start thinking of projects that are important and get that information to the B&F so they can review it during the budget process.

Councilman Bartholomew motioned to approve the reallocation of reserves as presented and reallocation of the fiscal year 2023 capital budget and expenditures. Councilman Shaw seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion and possible action on appointing Bob Biciocchi as chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee

Motion by Councilwoman Dondero, second by Councilman Shaw to appoint Bob Biciocchi as chairman of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee. Motion carried 6-0.

Leadership Reports

Mayor's Report – no report submitted but mentioned that someone from Orsted will be at our December meeting.

Town Manager Report – report submitted.

Police Chief Report – report submitted.

Treasurer Report – Councilman Bartholomew stated the report was submitted, and the Town is stable and online for the final budget.

Committee and Commission Reports

Budget and Finance Committee – report submitted.

Canal Water Quality Committee – report submitted. CWQ met with Budget & Finance to discuss the harvester options.

Charter and Code Committee – no report submitted. Councilman Abbott said they will be meeting at 1:30 p.m. today.

Community Relations Committee – report submitted.

Planning Commission – no report submitted.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Ad Hoc Committee – no report submitted. Councilman Biciocchi stated the committee will be meeting on Wednesday, November 16 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilman Shaw, second by Councilman Bartholomew to adjourn the November 15, 2022, Town Council Regular Meeting at 9:59 a.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary

Town Clerk

Date of Approval