

<p style="text-align: center;">TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES November 9, 2022, 3:00pm</p>

Attendance

Council Treasurer and B&F Chair, Randy Bartholomew, opened the meeting at 3:00 pm. Other Committee Members present included Chris Keefe, Don Boteler, and Rob Gensler and Colin Chasler attended remotely. Also in attendance were Finance Director Renee McDorman, Town Manager Maureen Hartman and Canal Water Quality (CWQ) liaison Tim Shaw and CWQ Chair Chris Vanuga.

Discuss the Canal Water Quality Committee's proposed options regarding algae harvesting

Treasurer Randy Bartholomew opened the meeting by indicating that the B&F Committee was requested by Council to meet with the CWQ liaison and chair to discuss the details and financial implications regarding the purchase of an algae/weed harvester as well as other options or alternatives for maintaining the Town's canals. Mr. Shaw and Mr. Vanuga provided a brief history of the Town's relationship with DNREC's Harvesting Program, their services with the Town, past dredging, the 2019 Woods Hole report, and causes of algae with runoff, development, fertilizers, etc. Mr. Vanuga presented a preliminary draft spread sheet with the following five options and cost data, for consideration: A) remain with DNREC's harvesting program; B) buy equipment and hire part-time staff; C) buy equipment and contract staff; D) contract services; and E) work with DNREC, borrow their equipment and use Town staff. Mr. Shaw commented that the CWQ is still waiting for confirmation from DNREC regarding approval to dispose of the harvested algae at the Salt Pond location owned by the DE State Parks. There are also additional unknowns such as (but not limited to), insurance and liability costs, fuel costs, number of support staff required, qualifications and training/costs, a dedicated launch site, maintenance costs for the harvester, use of Town dump truck and additional wear and tear and length of time the harvester will be utilized.

Ms. McDorman and Ms. Hartman reminded the committee members that the purchase of the harvester must go through the bidding process because of the Town's procurement policy.

After all options were discussed, Mr. Shaw and Mr. Vanuga stated that the CWQ recommends the purchase of a harvester and conveyor/trailer from Aquamarine located in Ontario, Canada, at the cost of \$142,980.00, which includes shipping fees. Mr. Vanuga stated that the vessel could be stored at Bob's Marine in the amount of \$1,100.00 and that includes shrink wrapping but does not include winterizing.

There were additional discussions about the other options, such as hiring a third-party contractor, but the Town would still be responsible for the algae disposal and Town staff would need to assist.

The consensus of the B&F Committee was to continue with DNREC's harvesting program (option A) for this upcoming spring and potentially supplement that effort with the third-party contractor if a disposal site is confirmed with DNREC.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.