

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 22, 2025
9:00 A.M.**

Meeting Called to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Dondero called the August 22, 2025, Town Council Workshop meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Attendance and Absences

In attendance were Mayor Edie Dondero and Councilmembers Randy Bartholomew, Bob Biciocchi, Mark Giler, Chris Keefe, Bob Shields, and Cindy Van Horn; Town Manager Maureen Hartman, and Town Clerk Matt Amerling. Public attendees: 2. Virtual attendees: 6.

Mayor Dondero thanked the staff for their efforts in monitoring and keeping everybody informed about hurricane-related events the last couple days. Mayor Dondero particularly wanted to thank Beach Patrol Captain Ryan Dacey and the Beach Patrol for their very professional handling of the ocean closure, and the guards who were sitting out all day in the rain and wind, making sure people were staying safe.

Public Comment

Gerald Injaian, 406 Bristol Road, stated there is six inches of water on Bristol Road this morning and he implores Council to finish the flood mitigation project of raising York Road this year and finish the same project on Bristol Road and other adjoining roads next year.

Update on Town stormwater project

Town Manager Maureen Hartman stated this is the report Public Works Lead Nick Donatoni submitted for the Council: With relation to current projects, Public Works just completed a right-of-way survey on Plymouth and York Road, and right after the season ends, they're going to put in a new basin on the corner, connecting that to an existing pipe. The second one is on the corner of Carlisle and York, in front of 200 Carlisle Drive, and that's just going to be an update of an existing box and connecting to an existing pipe. The check-valve installations which have been completed are one on Victoria, two on Bristol, and one at the end of York Canal. Jetting has been completed on 17 roads: York, Carlisle, Plymouth, Victoria, Rebecca, Kimberly, Bristol, Tamarack, Black Gum, Cattail, Layton, Henlopen, Brandywine, New Castle, Kent, Bayshore, and Tern. They did find some blockages, which were removed and cleared, so that helped in some areas as well. In other areas, they found some pipes that don't have the grade that they should have, and that's going to be another issue that Public Works is going to have to deal with at some point.

Some miscellaneous projects that they are working on: rain gardens at the corner of Mays and Elizabeth Way, and a rain garden at Elizabeth Court and Elizabeth Way. Public Works rebuilt an area between 126 and 128 Elizabeth as well. Two locations on Peterson had some draining issues, so Mr. Donatoni established positive flow for both of those issues. Mr. Donatoni and Town Manager Hartman both met with the Canal Water Quality committee chair and liaison, and they talked to us about revamping some of the rain gardens on the west side of Coastal Highway, where the walking path is located. Mr. Donatoni is also working on some mulch removal around some of the rain gardens, so the mulch doesn't fall into the canals. With regards to budget considerations, something Mr. Donatoni would like to remind the Council for the budget planning for fiscal year 2027 (FY27), the Town has to continue the routine maintenance, street sweeping schedules, and public education efforts. As far as street sweeping, Mr. Donatoni started doing that a couple months ago and does it about once a week. He said street sweeping is essential to try to help save some of the

storm water that gets into the basins. Mr. Donatoni wants to continue to upgrade our aging infrastructure; he would also like a well-funded and scheduled street sweeping program; and he is requesting community outreach to educate the residents about their role in protecting stormwater systems.

Review, discussion and possible update of Capital Needs Plan (Dondero)

The Council reviewed capital needs planning and budget considerations for multiple infrastructure initiatives, including road improvements, drainage systems, and potential disaster preparedness funding. There was a budget adjustment for phase one of the York Road mitigation project, which increased to \$375,000 to cover engineering oversight, as well as the submission of a grant request for phase two, which, if funded, would require a \$47,500 Town contribution. Council expressed concerns about the cost estimates for raising bulkheads but agreed to further research current rates for bulkhead replacement as well as a town-wide analysis of bulkhead heights to help determine which existing bulkheads need to be raised; however, raising bulkheads requires property owners' involvement and coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) due to floodplain regulations. The capital needs plan added two new items: a placeholder for potential police department renovations to meet accreditation requirements, and a disaster preparedness fund. Council discussed the need to prioritize projects based on affordability and available funds while exploring alternative financing options. Councilman Biciocchi proposed three new projects for consideration: canal circulation improvements, the addition of more forebays, and additional berms, which Council agreed would be up for discussion in the future.

Appointment of Charlene Sturbitts to the Board of Adjustment

Councilman Mark Giler motioned to approve Charlene Sturbitts to the Board of Adjustment, seconded by Councilman Bob Shields. Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilwoman Cindy Van Horn, seconded by Councilman Shields, to adjourn the August 22, 2025, Town Council Workshop Meeting at 10:36 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Council Secretary



Town Clerk

9/12/2025
Date of Approval