

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY  
TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026  
9:00 a.m.**

**Meeting Called to Order**

Mayor Dondero called the February 27, 2026, Town Council Budget Workshop to order at 9:00 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; and Town Manager Maureen Hartman, Town Finance Director Renee McDorman, Chief Jason Lovins, and Town Clerk Matt Amerling. Public attendees: 1; virtual attendees: 2.

Mayor Dondero thanked everybody for their patience during this incredibly difficult week and acknowledged the staff for their efforts to keep us updated with information, and the Public Works Department for their exemplary snow removal and cleanup efforts. Councilwoman Cindy Van Horn thanked Mayor Dondero for being present at Town Hall from Monday to Wednesday to make sure people got in, got warm and answered any questions they had.

**Public Comment**

Mark O'Brien, 209 Anchorage Drive, commended the Town staff, public works, and Mayor for their work during the snowstorm, but stated his concern regarding Delmarva Power, specifically their communication process via their website and app information dissemination system and its inaccurate reports. Mayor Dondero stated she spoke with a Delmarva Power public service representative and let him know that this was a problem for our residents who were making decisions on whether to stay or go based on the faulty information and pointed out that people were receiving text messages and automated phone calls that had different restoration times. She stated that Delmarva Power is well aware of the issue, and we will continue to have that conversation with them.

**Review, discussion and possible action on FY2027 draft budget**

Councilman Randy Bartholomew thanked the Finance Director and Town Manager for their hard work during the drafting process, then provided an overview of the fiscal year 2027 (FY27) budget. He highlighted key revenue figures, including operating revenue of \$2,923,800, grant revenue of \$138,540, and town services revenue of \$442,080, totaling \$3,515,300. The budget will be discussed at the March 13, 2026, Town Council regular meeting, the March 27, 2026, workshop, and the April 10, 2026, regular meeting of Town Council when it will be approved. A notable change was the reclassification of engineering services as an expense, resulting in a \$105,000 deficit funded by the operating reserve, which will be further discussed during the review process.

Councilman Bartholomew stated the Town's revenue is trending higher than budgeted, with transfer tax and rental tax performing well, though rental licenses are below target at 65% of the budget. The Budget and Finance Committee (B&F) took a conservative approach for FY27, projecting realistic numbers based on current trends. General and administrative expenses include a \$20,000 increase for general insurance, primarily due to cyber coverage, and \$50,000 budgeted for future bidding-type items related to infrastructure projects.

Councilman Bartholomew stated the budgeted expenses for FY27 have increased from last fiscal year for various categories: General & Administrative increased \$25,000, due to an increase in general insurance and compensation; Public Works increased \$53,000 due to the addition of a part-time employee, and maintenance of canal ends and yearly algae harvesting; Public Safety

increased \$31,000; and Beach Patrol increased \$25,000. The total operating expenditure for FY27 went up by approximately \$107,114.

Council discussed a \$105,000 engineering study by the Woods Hole Group for canal depths, which was moved from the capital budget to operating expenses due to accounting considerations. Council discussed that the study is a prerequisite for future dredging, which would cost over a million dollars and require permits, but the data would only be valid for two to three years. Council agreed to keep the study in the current budget but not proceed with it until they have a clearer plan for the longer-term capital project, which they need to update.

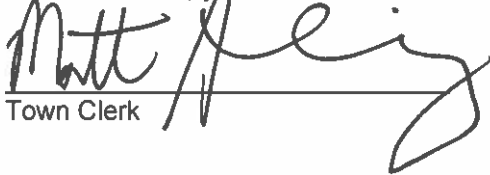
After a lengthy discussion, Council decided the draft budget will be sent to the Finance Director, Town Manager, and Treasurer for revision based on today's comments. The draft budget will then be reviewed a second time at the March 13th Council meeting.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Councilwoman Van Horn, seconded by Councilman Bob Biciocchi to adjourn the February 27, 2026, Town Council Budget Workshop meeting at 10:53 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Council Secretary

  
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Town Clerk

3/13/2026  
Date of Approval