

TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

The following Committee Members were in attendance in person, Treasurer and B&F Chair, Randy Bartholomew, Tim Saxton, Nancy Loube, Don Boteler, Steve Farrow, Russell Beland and Town Manager Maureen Hartman. Finance Director Renee McDorman and Committee Members Simon Moore, Joe Mormando, and Rich Juliano participated virtually.

Approval of December 5, 2025, Minutes

Minutes were approved with no changes.

FY 2026 Financial Reports/Midyear Review

The Committee reviewed the FY26 December financial reports. There were no questions.

Discussion on Investment Policy Update

Simon led the investment policy discussion and explained the town is in strong financial shape, has more than \$6 million in so-called investment funds, separate from our operating cash. And the needs for those funds are expected to stretch out over the next, say, 10 years. That's what the capital plan identifies. So, given that we have some funds, and given that our demands for those funds are expected to take a fair amount of time in the future, we think it is important to invest fruitfully. He explained that prudently does not mean too risky, but it also does not mean too conservatively, because if we invest too conservatively, we end up leaving a lot of money on the table, especially with a long-time frame.

The discussion continued with Simon explaining how the current IPS limits investments too government securities, CDs, money market funds, and those sorts of things.

The basic concept of the revised investment plan would separate our expected needs into near-term and long-term. Near term investments would be beginning balance with a two-year cap on allocation. Long-term investments would be any spending exceeding a 3-year term.

It was also discussed about hiring an investment advisor. The committee will request proposals, evaluate and select an outside advisor.

The investment policy statement would have some definition about the types of investments that we are open to, and it would be funds, not individual stocks, or bonds; primarily lower-cost index passive funds, or ETFs. Any rebalancing of funds or allocations would be done at the discretion of the B&F Committee.

Additionally, it was discussed that long-term investments would be based on an updated Capital Improvement plan voted on by the Town Council during the annual budget cycle.

The next step will be discussing with the Town Council the recommendations for this revised investment policy and getting their approval for the next steps.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.