

<p><b>TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 16, 2011</b></p>
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**ATTENDANCE**

PRESENT: Mayor Jay Headman; Councilpersons Pat Voveris, Al Rae, Sue Callaway, George Junkin, and Jim Gross; Town Manager Melvin Cusick; Chief Joe Deloach; and Financial Administrator Renee McDorman

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Councilman John Fields

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Mayor Headman called the December 16, 2011, Town Council Workshop Meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Mayor Headman stated that the Council had taken four Workshops to look at the Town of South Bethany April 2011 Comprehensive Plan Community Survey – Presentations of Recommended Improvement Reports. He said the purpose of this meeting is to look at the recommended improvements and provide information to the Budget and Finance Committee of things the Council would like to do. The Budget and Finance Committee will look at it in the context of the whole budget and come back to Council with their recommendations.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments from the public.

**FUTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

Council had a discussion regarding the points listed in a memo dated December 14, 2011, to Council Members and the Mayor from Councilwoman Voveris (attached).

Councilwoman Voveris reviewed the FY 2013 Requested Improvement List for Town Services worksheet (attached). During discussion, the following points were made:

- Councilwoman Voveris believes Beach Rule Signs at the walkways could be put in the operational budget. The Town Manager added that the first four items on the list could be funded between the FY 2012 sign budget and the FY 2012 walkways and dunes budget.
- After a discussion regarding installing a fence on DeIDOT property at the East end of the Anchorage Canal similar to the fence around the perimeter of the retention pond which is listed under Implementation Strategies in the Town of South Bethany Comprehensive Plan 2006 (listed as Fence loop canal/Fore bay on the attached FY 2013 Requested Improvements List for Town Services), Council unanimously agreed to take Fence loop canal/Fore bay off Council's list of requested improvements. Mayor Headman stated that he would contact Ron Wuslich regarding this issue.
- Council discussed prioritizing the following items on the list: 2 year Pilot Project Diffuser System, Study on retrofits to improve storm water management along east side of DE Route 1, and Ocean Drive & Cross Street Signage.
  - Councilman Junkin believes the 2 year Pilot Project – Diffuser System should be first on the list because property owners rated diffusers in the canals third out of fifteen on the April 2011 Comprehensive Plan Community Survey. He believes the Town needs to find out whether a diffuser will in fact produce an improvement or not. Councilman Junkin noted that he has tried to get grant money for the project but has been unsuccessful. He added that he has one more possible grant opportunity that he is looking into.

Councilman Junkin stated that science says the key to stormwater management ponds is to minimize the amount of pollutants going into the ponds and aerate the water in the ponds. Councilman Junkin stated that the local communities that he has talked to that have stormwater management ponds say diffusers get the DO to about 4 instead of being near 0. Councilman Junkin stated that he would put the Study on retrofits to improve storm water management along east side of DE Route 1 last on the list because he believes the Town can get money from grants with the Center for the Inland Bays which could include not only the study but the implementation of the results of the study. The CIB study would also include Middlesex. Councilman Junkin said the Town could do the study in FY 2014 if the CIB is not successful.

- o Mayor Headman believes the Town should try to get grant money for the 2 year Pilot Project – Diffuser System. Mayor Headman stated that everything he has learned about pollution or water quality is to attack the problem at the source, which has been South Bethany's focus with the bioretention areas, the rain gardens, and the drainage. Mayor Headman stated that the CIB does not recommend or support the concept of a diffuser system in South Bethany's canals. Mayor Headman does not believe this is the time for the Town to spend \$21,000 on a pilot project that is not supported by the scientific community. Mayor Headman does not believe it is eminent to do this pilot program this year. The Town does not have unlimited funds.
- o Councilwoman Callaway stated that it is very clear that the beach and the canals are the Town's two greatest assets. She believes the Town has to do everything it can to promote better water quality and enhance the canals. She believes the Town needs to look like a thriving, progressive community. She stated that the survey showed the people are supportive of aerators in the canals. She believes the Town could do one canal, see the results, and then let the community weigh in on whether or not they want to spend additional funds to do all the canals. Councilwoman Callaway believes all three of these items on the list speak to this progressive look that South Bethany is a thriving community.

A motion was made by Councilman Junkin, seconded by Councilwoman Callaway, that Council prioritize the two year project as the number one item out of the three on the list. After discussion the voting result was three in favor, two against, and one abstention. The motion was defeated. (Administrative Assistant's note: § C-7K(5) Quorum. Four (4) members of the Town Council shall be present in order to constitute a quorum to conduct business. Council decisions shall require voting approval of a majority of the entire Council.)

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Gross, seconded by Councilman Junkin, that the Council is in favor of all three items and that the Budget and Finance Committee should look at it in that way and come forward with a budget that Council can then vote on and negotiate about. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments from the public.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Junkin, seconded by Councilman Gross to adjourn the December 16, 2011, Town Council Workshop Meeting 11:30 a.m.

phs:Workshop Minutes.12.16.11

Attachments: Memo dated December 14, 2011, to Council Members and the Mayor from Councilwoman Voveris  
FY 2013 Requested Improvement List for Town Services worksheet

# Memo

**To:** COUNCIL MEMBERS & THE MAYOR

**From:** PAT VOVERIS

**Date:** December 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2011

**Re:** THURSDAY WORKSHOP

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Please keep these points in mind as new projects are considered:

1. Please be fiscally conservative.
2. Consider our economy. We are not 100%, or anywhere near it.
3. We will not have any big surplus this year, FY 2012.
4. For last year's surplus \$150,000 of it was just moved to fund our under funded part of past depreciation.
5. That brings our available funds to \$500,000.
6. We have another \$147,000 to fund this budget for Long Range Planning (\$115, 00) and the remaining inflation on the depreciation Reserves (\$32,000).
7. That brings our available funds down to \$353,000.
8. Next year's depreciation number to include bulkheads, dredging, and inflation, is \$250,000. Available funds are looking like \$103,000 then.
9. Transfer tax last year was \$370,000. This year our budget is just for \$300,000...and we are not reaching it at the moment.
10. We need to consider only taking on projects that can be funded through grants.
11. We need to put money aside for future projects.
12. We need to remember that no project carries "time is of the essence" label.

Thanks for your help!

**FY 2013  
REQUESTED IMPROVEMENT LIST FOR TOWN SERVICES**

	requested cost	actual cost	notes
Beach Rule Signs at the walkways	\$2,000		
Replacement rule signs for Lifeguard Chairs	\$2,000		
Shore Break Warning signs (Waiting on estimate from sign company)	\$500 (approximately)		
Rip Current Signs (Waiting on estimate from sign company)	\$500 (approximately)		
Lifeguard Radios (2 radios, 2 will be purchased with a grant)	\$900	\$0	
High/Low Tide Signs	\$1,000	\$937	
Junior Lifeguard Program	\$0	\$0	
Fence loop canal/Fore bay	\$850		
Beach clean up (4)	\$6,000		
Trash Bins	\$7,200	\$2,200	
Bioretention Areas	\$17,000	\$10,685	
2 year Pilot Project - Diffuser System Electrical and maintenance	\$21,000 \$2,300		
Oyster Gardening	\$4,000		
Study on retrofits to improve storm water management along east side of DE Route 1	\$12,000		
Ocean Drive & Cross Street Signage	\$9,383		
Speed Control for Side Street	\$0	\$0	
Solar Radar Signs	\$8,850	\$0	