

SOUTH BRISTOL TOWN BOARD MEETING

December 8, 2025

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular meeting of the South Bristol Town Board was called to order December 8, November 10, 2025 at 7:00pm.

PRESENT

Daniel Marshall, Supervisor
Stephen Cowley, Councilman
Jim Strickland, Councilman
Meg Fuller, Councilwoman
Scott Wohlschlegel, Councilman

RECORDING SECRETARY

Judy Voss, Town Clerk

OTHERS

Jim Wight, Mary Marshall, Jonathan Heiderich, Scott Trumbower, John & Ian Bolton, Lisa Moore, Chris Bennem, John & Ian Bolton, Mark McCloskey, David Sauerhafer, Gary DeVries, Chris Woods
Online: Alan & Kristie Braun, Brooks Lyon, Diana McCloskey, Ann Jacobs, Mark Boylan, Jamie Hall

I. ROLL CALL

Supr. Marshall opened the meeting with roll call.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Councilman Wohlschlegel and seconded by Councilwoman Fuller, the Regular Town Board minutes of November 10, 2025 were ACCEPETED. Voting AYE: 5. Voting NAY: 0. Voting AYE: Marshall, Cowley, Fuller, Strickland and Wohlschlegel.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Councilman Stephen Cowley, of County Road 12, good evening. I just want to say to thank you to each and every one of you for your dedication and service for the Town of South Bristol. I've known each of you for many decades, 40 years, 30-ish years and over 50 years. I've known all of you for a long time. Jim: It's been a pleasure sitting next to you for the last 10 years, thank you for your many upgrades in this building, and of course, spearheading the playground upgrade. Looking forward to seeing that completion this spring, so thank you for doing that. Scott: it's been great having you on the Board because of your forthright perspective and tight financial oversight. You'll be missed, but not forgotten, I'll be seeing you tomorrow. Dan: of course, last 10 years have been fun, stressful and rewarding. Hoping you can enjoy your time away from the political scene. We will be okay. Your dedication to the Town of South Bristol has never been matched before being the Town Supervisor for 24 years. It's been an honor sitting beside you for the last 10 years. My good neighbor, thank you. Thank you all for the time as public servants, it is greatly appreciated.

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Lisa Moore, Supervisor-elect, of Seneca Point Road, thank you for your 24-years here, thank you for your stewardship of this Town. It's been an honor to work with you, thank you so much for your guidance and this transition period. Thank you for what you have done for us.

Councilwoman Meghan Fuller, of South Hill Road, I want to take a second to just thank each and every one of you. You've all been mentors to me over the years. Jim: thank you so much for the long conversations, your guidance and your thoughts have really shaped how I view this community. I am so thankful for that and thankful for the time getting to know you on this Board. Scott: I love sitting next to you, I appreciate your insights and guidance. You've been a mentor to me, I am going to miss having a chance to see you here but I can't wait to see you at Brew & Brats. Dan: I can't thank you enough for all the opportunities that you've given to me, personally over the years, but all that you've given to our community. Every single one of you have given your time to this place that we all love so much and it's the greatest service you can do. I know I am always honored to serve, but I also know that the work and responsibility that comes with it, I am so thankful for you guys for putting yourself out there for serving our community and your dedication. I appreciate each and every one of you and I am going to miss you all a whole lot.

Clerk Voss mentioned that a resident on Stid Hill had requested privilege of the floor, Gary DeVries is looking to open up the north end of Stid Hill Road.

Supr. Marshall noted that he and Supt. Wight have discussed this and it probably, pretty problematic.

David Sauerhafer, of Stid Hill Road, we just had a couple of questions about the road up there. I know that there was a court case years ago and for me, I am wondering who owns the road. I am wondering if I need a right of way so I cannot be landlocked up there.

Supr. Marshall said Mr. Sauerhafer is speaking to the extension of Stid Hill Road beyond the point where the Town maintains. Currently, you guys own the road.

Mr. Sauerhafer asked, so I would need a right of way from the neighbors ahead of me so that I could never be landlocked?

Supr. Marshall said he suspects very much that you all ready have a right of way, but that would have to be something to be determined.

Supt. Wight said that's what they call a "qualified abandoned road." At one time it was a road and there are right of way's in there. You have rights of way as property owners. In order for us to come back in there and make it a roadway, you don't want that. Every one of those landowner's would have to sign off to make a 2-rod road. It gives the town access to their property in order to widen that road, ditch it properly, trees will come down.

Mr. Sauerhafer, said he did not want that because I am 50-feet from the center of the road.

Supr. Marshall said that if you make that a Town road, everybody and their uncle has the right to drive up and down your road. It just becomes that way.

Mr. DeVries said technically, legally, they do now. We can't stop them; qualified abandoned means it is still a publicly owned road that the Town choses whether or not they want to maintain. I agree, we do not want to turn that into a highway. What I am worried about is because I don't own the road, it was deemed qualified abandoned so the Town owns the road, so I don't have the right to maintain it. I don't have the right to plow it and what's worse is if I did do something like that, maybe I undercut the ditch a little bit and the delivery driver goes down

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there and wads his truck in there, I don't want that liability. That is part of the issue, too, I love it down there, we have a nice view and it's quiet. I agree, if you put a 4-rod road down there and there is State land right there, you'd have a lot of people going down there. What I am worried about is just the liability of maintaining it and how's that is formulated in this case.

Supr. Marshall said he can't answer that question, it would need some research as to what it all means.

Councilman Wohlschlegel asked, didn't we have a situation with Schoolhouse Road? That was a qualified abandoned road and then it got turned over to the landowners, right.

Supr. Marshall said that was correct and had one landowner that had an issue with it.

Supt. Wight said that he will plow this part of Stid Hill and does that so that any emergency vehicles can down there, they would be calling me for help anyways.

Discussion.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS: **HIGHWAY**

Councilman Cowley read the Highway Report:

Highway report for this month is as follows;

- 1,000 tons of road salt ordered and stocked in the barn.
- New steer tires installed on the roll off.
- Summer equipment all winterized.
- New 10-wheel dump truck put into service.
- Expecting to install snow fence on Seneca Pt. later this week.

Anxious for Spring to arrive.

On a motion made by Councilman Strickland and seconded by Councilman Cowley, the Highway Report was ACCEPTED. Voting AYE: 5. Voting NAY: 0. Voting AYE: Marshall, Cowley, Fuller, Strickland and Wohlschlegel.

FINANCE

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

VII. NEW BUSINESS: **APPOINTMENT – JONATHAN HEIDERICH - ZBA**

Supr. Marshall said he was pleased to suggest to the Board that we appoint Jonathan Heiderich to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Fuller and seconded by Councilman Wohlschlegel, to appoint Jonathan Heiderich to the Zoning Board of Appeals was ACCEPTED. Voting AYE: 5. Voting NAY: 0. Voting AYE: Marshall, Cowley, Fuller, Strickland and Wohlschlegel.

REPLACEMENT OF OUR ASSESSOR

Supr. Marshall noted that the Assessor announced 2 weeks ago that she was leaving. We are suddenly without an Assessor while being in the midst of a re-val project that is underway. We need to find an Assessor quickly. Two resumes were sent to us and one of those candidates was interviewed by Supervisor-elect, Lisa Moore, and Councilman Cowley. The second candidate then pulled his application for the position.

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Councilman Cowley said in the interview, the candidate is very knowledgeable, she was hitting all the points and seems to be very outgoing. Not afraid to say her opinion, has 21 years of experience and is okay with 3 days per week in the office. My vote would be to hire her for the position. Only thing we didn't figure out was salary.

Supr. Marshall noted that normally there would be more than one or two interviews, however, we have a time of the essence here with the fact that we have a re-val in process at this point and time. The other thing I noted, I did not interview her myself, she has had several revals in her past. In addition, we have all ready-made arrangements to utilize an outside firm for assistance on doing the assessments for the lakefront properties and the condominiums at Bristol Harbour. The salary range is up to \$55,000.00. Supr. Marshall asked for a motion to offer the position to the interviewed candidate.

On a motion made by Councilman Cowley and seconded by Councilman Strickland to offer the Assessor's position to the interviewee.

Councilman Wohlschlegel asked if there a probation period? That probationary period is useful especially if it doesn't work out.

Councilman Cowley said that we would put the employee on probation for 6 months, it is up to the employee to say that they want to stay, or she might not like the job and gives the opportunity to that person.

Supr. Marshall said typically there is a probationary period, but because this is an appointed position for a 6-year term, not sure if the probationary period can apply here.

Councilwoman Fuller asked if she provided any references at all?

Lisa Moore said she hasn't yet, she's getting them. Councilman Cowley agreed.

Councilwoman Fuller said, my only hesitation is that we should probably, before we make any, we should probably call some references. Her resume appears that she has jumped around quite a bit in the last 5 years, did she talk at all to that?

Supr. Marshall said he looked at that too, if you look closely, time frame wise, she was working for all 3 at the same time.

Councilwoman Fuller said it seems like she's moved around a bit, so maybe just calling some references to see if the reason why she moved around. I personally would feel more comfortable having outside references before taking a vote.

Lisa Moore suggested including "pending positive references" in the motion, Meg makes a good point.

Discussion.

Supr. Marshall that the Board is telling Councilman Cowley and Supr.-Elect Moore to continue the process of having discussions with the candidate, if she says she is willing to take the job, then at the Year-End meeting we would appoint her.

Councilman Cowley rescinds his motion.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Fuller that we permit Lisa Moore and Councilman Cowley to continue the conversations with Stephanie and seconded by Councilman Cowley was ACCEPTED. Voting AYE: 5. Voting NAY: 0. Voting AYE: Marshall, Cowley, Fuller, Strickland and Wohlschlegel.

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VIII. REPORTS: **CEO**

On a motion made by Councilman Cowley and seconded by Councilman Wohlschlegel, the CEO Report for November, 2025 was ACCEPTED. Voting AYE: 5. Voting NAY: 0. Voting AYE: Marshall, Cowley, Fuller, Strickland and Wohlschlegel.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTION

On a motion made by Councilman Cowley and seconded by Councilman Strickland, the Town Clerk's Report for November, 2025 were ACCEPTED. Voting AYE: 5. Voting NAY: 0. Voting AYE: Marshall, Cowley, Fuller, Strickland and Wohlschlegel.

IX. ACCOUNTING: **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Supr. Marshall read the Executive Summary, as of November 30th, the Town has \$3,630,739.29 in the bank. Expenditure through November on average should equal 91.63% of the annual budget. The General Fund is at 91.18% of the annual budget and the Highway Fund is 87.95% of the annual budget.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Fuller and seconded by Councilman Wohlschlegel, the Supervisor's Report for November, 2025 was ACCEPTED. Voting AYE: 5. Voting NAY: 0. Voting AYE: Marshall, Cowley, Fuller, and Strickland.

BUDGET TRANSFER

On a motion made by Councilman Strickland and seconded by Councilman Wohlschlegel, the Budget Transfers dated December 9, 2025 were ACCEPTED. Voting AYE: 5. Voting NAY: 0. Voting AYE: Marshall, Cowley, Fuller, Strickland and Wohlschlegel.

<u>General Fund</u>		
Transfer From:	AA1120	Non Prop Tax Dist by County
Transfer To:	AA1610.4	Central Serv, Contr
	AA1620.4	Buildings, Pers Serv
	AA1620.4	Buildings, Contr
	AA1650.4	Central Comm Sys
	AA3310.4	Traffic Control
	AA8010.4	Cemetery, Contr
	AA9010.4	State Retirement
	AA9710.7	Debt Interest
<u>Highway Fund</u>		
Transfer From:	DA5142.1	Snow Removal, Per Serv
	DA5130.2	Machinery, Equip
Transfer To:	DA5148.1	Serv of Other Govt, Per Serv
	DA9010.8	State Retirement

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

On a motion made by Councilman Wohlschlegel and seconded by Councilwoman Fuller, the Abstract of Vouchers, totaling \$156,903.28 was ACCEPTED. Voting AYE: 5. Voting NAY: 0. Voting AYE: Marshall, Cowley, Fuller, Strickland and Wohlschlegel.

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Supr. Marshall noted that the 2026 Organizational Meeting to be held by the new Town Board will take place on January 12th at 6:00pm with the Regular Town Board meeting immediately following thereafter.

Supr. Marshall said this is his last meeting, it has been 24 incredible years. I would like to take the time to thank the Board that I've been working with. In particular, Scott Wohlschlegel, leaving after 12 years. Without Scott we would not have had anyone that specializes in SEQR. A SEQR specialist is a good thing to have. Scott was also responsible for the Comprehensive Plan with a committee of residents and board members.

Jim Strickland is the Board member that spearheaded and brought to fruition the new playground that will be installed this spring. He was also responsible for getting 5 miles of fiber and internet on Gannett Hill Road.

The other 2 people here, Meg & Steve, you've just been incredibly supportive. We've worked together a lot and I am going to miss working with you.

We purchased the Wilder property on Route 64 that enabled us to open up the original pioneer Wilder Cemetery as well as open a brand-new cemetery, Founder's Cemetery.

The land that was donated to the Town by Odell Scott for the Town Overlook as well as the 38 acres below it that is now within the Finger Lakes Land Trust.

The 30+ year old highway garage was torn down and then built a \$2.3 million facility which started just as Covid was hitting.

Supr. Marshall said that tonight is his 288th consecutive Town Board meeting, in all these years, never missing one.

Supt. Wight said as the current Highway Superintendent for the Town of South Bristol, starting in 2009, now in my 17th year, Dan has been there every step of the way, providing funds that the Highway needed to do the job that I do. Dan has been there as moral support, and was the driving force behind the new Highway building. I would like to thank you for everything you've done on my part since I've been here.

Councilman Wohlschlegel said it's been a pleasure working with the Town all these years. I was here during that rough patch, and it was a little rough and had thought that for a moment, what did I get into? It was a rough patch but we got through it, and met a lot of good people along the way. I've learned a lot from all the people, Hermann Arndt taught me a lot, I was on the Zoning Board with him, he taught me SEQR and also took the SEQR training. It's been interesting and have learned a lot, appreciate working with each and every one of you. Meg you've been special to work with. Jim, you've been on the Board 10 years and Steve and I go way back, pleasure working with you. Dan, I appreciate your leadership, remember you talking to me a long time ago about getting on the Board. It didn't happen immediately, but I did get on the ZBA for about 6 years. Good job, pleasure working with everybody and with the new team coming in, if you need any help, I'll be glad to assist.

Councilman Strickland thanked everybody, it has been a pleasure. Dan, what you have done for this town and guiding us along through this whole process has been wonderful. Enjoyed it immensely. This has been a cohesive board to work with. Jim, I can say the same for you, you've done an excellent job over there. Judy, you also. I'd also like to thank Donna Goodwin, who is not here tonight, and Meghan you took her spot. Meghan, the newby on the

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Board, you've learned a lot since you've come here, and more as it goes on. It was an absolute pleasure. Everyone needs to remember we are residents same as everybody, so what goes on here affects us just as much as it affects you. We love this town, that is why I joined the Board. We are putting that in good hands. Carry on.

Supr. Marshall noted that his wife, Mary, found a newspaper with Jim, Stephen, Judy, Donna at the Fish & Game Club on the front page, "Marshall sweeps the slate." That was a fun night.

Supr. Marshall said he would be re-miss if he did not mention his wife, Mary. For 53 years we have been married, for the last 24 years she has put up with me getting home after Town Board meetings, banging my head against the wall, saying "why am I doing this?" She has reminded me lately that, don't forget, there were days when you really didn't want to be there. And she is right, it's been a great run. I will miss this Town and feel like I am handing over my baby for somebody else to take care of. I am fairly certain that will be in good hands. Thank you so very much, I appreciate it.

X. ADJOURN: 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted:

Judy Voss
South Bristol Town Clerk