



Town of Bethany Beach

FY 2026 Approved Budget

Approved on March 21, 2025

**Town of Bethany Beach
FY 2026 Approved Budget
Table of Contents**

Budget Overview	2
Allocation of Funds	3
Revenue Budget	
General Fund	4
Sanitation Department	5
Water Department	5
Operating Budget	
By Department with comparison to prior year	6
By Type of Cost	7
Capital and Debt Service Budget Summary	8
Capital and Debt Service Budget Detail	9
Special Fund (Grants) Budget	10
Schedule of Fees	11 - 13

Town of Bethany Beach

FY 2026 Approved Budget Overview

Budgetary Process

The budget is prepared by the Town Manager in conjunction with the Finance Director and Department Managers. Department requests are discussed with an emphasis on minimizing waste while ensuring that employees have the tools needed to meet operational needs. The town-wide budget is compiled into a draft budget and submitted to the Budget and Finance Committee for review.

The purpose of the Budget and Finance Committee is to provide assistance and guidance to the Town Manager and staff leading to the development, drafting and review of the Town's annual budget, both short-term and long-term. The committee reviews the proposed budget and schedule of fees, conducts mid-year reviews comparing the budget to actual results and makes recommendations regarding budget adjustments. The Town's Fund Balance Policy gives direction to the Budget Committee regarding the appropriate level of Operating, Capital Replacement and specific reserves in each fund. The Budget Committee holds meetings, which are open to the public, generally in the months of January, February, March, July and October to accomplish these tasks.

The budget is presented to the Town Council in March. The Town Council reviews the budget and holds a public hearing to allow the public to provide input. The Council then votes to approve the budget or request specific changes. This vote usually occurs at the March Town Council meeting. Fiscal year 2026 runs from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

Budget Segments

The General Fund is the largest segment of the Town's budget and encompasses all Town services except for the Sanitation and Water Departments. The three main funding sources are property taxes, rental taxes and parking. The largest portion of funds goes to Public Safety which includes the Police Department and Beach Patrol (lifeguards). The second largest portion of funds goes to Public Works that includes Streets & Parks, Stormwater and maintenance of the Beach, Boardwalk and Comfort Station.

The Sanitation Department is a stand-alone Enterprise Fund. This means that it is a self-supporting department so that sanitation fees are used only for sanitation related expenses. The Sanitation Department's main operational costs are for personnel and for disposal fees charged by the Delaware Solid Waste Authority. Reserves are maintained for the replacement of trash trucks.

The Water Department is also a stand-alone Enterprise Fund. The operational and capital needs of the town water system are funded entirely through water specific revenue. Water services are priced with a goal of fully funding the current and future water service needs of the town. The Water Department's main operational cost is personnel followed by the chemicals needed to treat the water and then the electricity needed to run the equipment.

The Water Department Debt Service Fund is funded through a Sinking Fund Fee. This fee is charged to all properties based on front footage. Monies raised from this fee are restricted to use for repayment of the principal and interest of Water Department debt.

**Town of Bethany Beach
FY 2026 Approved Budget**

General Fund

Projected cash, receivables & investments at start of FY 2026	14,200,000
FY 2026 Revenue Budget	11,292,000
Total Available Funding	25,492,000

FY 2026 Operating Budget	9,938,000
FY 2026 Capital Budget	2,692,000
Capital projects remaining & budgeted in prior fiscal years	1,289,000
Committed for post-employment health care benefit	323,000
Committed for Cultural and Historic Committee	51,000
Committed for Storm Emergency Relief Fund	3,957,000
Committed for Capital Replacements - recommended range \$4,668,000 to \$8,884,000	5,254,000
Operating Reserve - recommended range of 15% to 30% of the Operating Budget	1,988,000
Total Allocation of Projected Funds	25,492,000

Sanitation Department

Projected cash, receivables & investments at start of FY 2026	1,194,000
FY 2026 Revenue Budget	1,759,000
Total Available Funding	2,953,000

FY 2026 Operating Budget	1,408,000
FY 2026 Capital Budget	90,000
Capital projects remaining & budgeted in prior fiscal years	-
Committed for Capital Replacements - recommended range \$558,000 to \$1,116,000	1,173,000
Operating Reserve - recommended range of 15% to 30% of the Operating Budget	282,000
Total Allocation of Projected Funds	2,953,000

Water Department Operating & Capital

Projected cash, receivables & investments at start of FY 2026	3,840,000
FY 2026 Operating Revenue Budget	1,866,000
FY 2026 Impact Fee Revenue Budget	75,000
Total Available Funding	5,781,000

FY 2026 Operating Budget	1,629,000
FY 2026 Capital Budget	1,415,000
Capital projects remaining & budgeted in prior fiscal years	330,000
Committed for replacement of filter media	350,000
Committed for Capital Replacements - recommended range \$1,387,000 to \$3,607,000	1,731,000
Operating Reserve - recommended range of 15% to 30% of the Operating Budget	326,000
Total Allocation of Projected Funds	5,781,000

Water Department Debt Service

Projected cash, receivables & investments at start of FY 2026	18,000
FY 2026 Sinking Fund Revenue Budget	246,000
Total Available Funding	264,000

FY 2026 Debt Service Budget	246,000
Funds reserved for future Debt Service payments	18,000
Total Allocation of Projected Funds	264,000

Town of Bethany Beach
FY 2026 Approved Revenue Budget

General Fund	FY 2023 Actual Revenue	FY 2024 Actual Revenue	FY 2025 Approved Budget	FY 2025 Revenue 3/20/2025	FY 2026 Approved Budget
Property Taxes:					
Property Taxes	2,017,537	2,104,926	2,125,000	2,122,970	2,125,000
Penalties	3,447	6,237	5,000	4,200	5,000
	2,020,983	2,111,163	2,130,000	2,127,170	2,130,000
Real Estate Transfer Taxes	1,004,829	1,245,489	1,000,000	967,115	1,000,000
Rental Real Estate Taxes	2,173,159	2,055,126	2,175,000	2,184,018	2,175,000
Licenses, Permits & Fees:					
Concession Fees	86,528	89,989	90,000	93,589	106,000
Business Licenses	147,650	163,850	160,000	204,910	160,000
Commercial Rental Licenses	14,000	12,300	13,000	15,600	14,000
Residential Rental Licenses	60,500	55,800	64,000	84,300	69,000
Franchise Fees	112,517	107,191	115,000	104,993	115,000
Building Permits	999,612	930,178	600,000	726,004	600,000
Shuttle Permits	68,390	81,912	82,000	70,632	94,000
Trolley Fees	9,463	-	-	-	-
Trolley Advertising	750	-	1,000	-	-
Variance/Public Hearing Fees	3,000	6,750	2,000	4,250	2,000
	1,502,409	1,447,971	1,127,000	1,304,278	1,160,000
Parking:					
Parking Permits - Annual	157,750	156,790	155,000	159,640	212,000
Parking Permits - Daily/Weekly	34,430	42,915	40,000	52,950	70,000
Parking Pay Stations & Meters	2,019,012	2,340,872	2,355,000	2,486,506	3,307,000
Parking Fines	403,510	540,266	490,000	436,831	578,000
	2,614,702	3,080,843	3,040,000	3,135,928	4,167,000
Police:					
Police Department Misc. Revenue	23,909	21,407	15,000	14,848	15,000
Traffic Fines - Alderman Court	3,201	4,379	6,000	3,586	6,000
Traffic Fines - State Court	36,320	41,087	30,000	28,028	30,000
	63,430	66,872	51,000	46,462	51,000
Contributions & Miscellaneous:					
Grass Fees	1,500	-	2,000	-	2,000
Junior Lifeguard Program Revenue	13,620	13,620	14,000	13,806	14,000
Electric Vehicle Charging Stns	2,504	3,186	4,000	3,487	4,000
Contributions Private Source	1,500	500	1,000	2,720	1,000
Contributions for Cultural & Historic Affairs	24,640	24,208	20,000	6,705	26,000
Contributions for Fourth of July Parade	20,956	22,106	22,000	23,508	24,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	852	745	1,000	1,799	1,000
Returned Check Fees	245	225	-	585	-
Insurance Proceeds	10,000	29,614	-	29,332	-
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	646	5,315	-	14,192	-
	76,463	99,519	64,000	96,133	72,000
Interest Income:					
Interest Income	137,882	456,062	525,000	589,205	537,000
General Fund Revenue Total	9,593,857	10,563,046	10,112,000	10,450,308	11,292,000
			Change from prior year budget		1,180,000
					11.7%

Town of Bethany Beach
FY 2026 Approved Revenue Budget

	FY 2023 Actual Revenue	FY 2024 Actual Revenue	FY 2025 Approved Budget	FY 2025 Revenue 3/20/2025	FY 2026 Approved Budget
Sanitation Department					
Sanitation Fees:					
Refuse Fees	1,236,511	1,260,415	1,700,000	1,695,461	1,700,000
Penalties	1,692	1,033	2,000	2,998	2,000
Refuse Fees - Special	3,458	2,372	3,000	2,585	3,000
Interest	8,807	35,391	25,000	50,892	54,000
Sales of Fixed Assets	96,300	-	-	-	-
Sanitation Revenue Total	1,346,768	1,299,211	1,730,000	1,751,936	1,759,000
			Change from prior year budget		29,000 1.7%
Water Department Operating Revenue					
Water Usage:					
Water Usage - In Town	1,000,217	1,015,541	1,016,000	614,213	1,220,000
Water Usage - Salt Pond	305,540	298,116	300,000	195,870	360,000
Water Usage - Savannah's Landing	86,951	88,568	87,000	45,982	105,000
Water Usage - Other	28,013	29,142	28,000	19,272	34,000
Penalties	3,331	3,776	4,000	4,408	4,000
	1,424,053	1,435,143	1,435,000	879,744	1,723,000
Other Fees & Interest:					
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,505	1,581	1,000	64	1,000
Interest Income	33,293	106,279	115,000	133,423	115,000
Insurance Proceeds	-	-	-	24,867	-
Tap Ins	10,500	5,900	3,000	5,000	3,000
Meter Reimbursements	39,607	24,450	15,000	32,869	15,000
Cut Off Fees	5,850	5,075	8,000	7,950	8,000
Inspection Fees	1,435	805	1,000	980	1,000
Returned Check fee	70	225	-	56	-
	92,260	144,314	143,000	205,209	143,000
Water Operating Revenue Total	1,516,313	1,579,457	1,578,000	1,084,953	1,866,000
			Change from prior year budget		288,000 18.3%
Water Impact Fee Capital Revenue	157,210	93,555	75,000	96,672	75,000
			Change from prior year budget		- 0.0%
Water Debt Service Revenue					
Sinking Fund Fees:					
Sinking Fund - Town	188,106	189,007	189,000	188,829	189,000
Sinking Fund - Salt Pond	40,728	39,694	40,000	40,728	40,000
Sinking Fund - Savannah's Landing	13,478	13,478	14,000	13,478	14,000
Sinking Fund - Other	3,627	3,627	3,000	3,627	3,000
Water Debt Service Revenue Total	245,940	245,806	246,000	246,663	246,000
			Change from prior year budget		- 0.0%
Town-Wide Revenue	12,860,089	13,781,074	13,741,000	13,630,531	15,238,000
			Change from prior year budget		1,497,000 10.9%

Town of Bethany Beach
FY 2026 Approved Operating Budget

	FY 2023 Actual Expended	FY 2024 Actual Expended	FY 2025 Approved Budget	FY 2025 Expended 3/20/2025	FY 2026 Approved Budget
General Fund					
Administration & Trolley	1,339,240	1,493,161	1,565,000	1,545,574	1,612,000
Public Safety:					
Police	2,200,872	2,401,407	2,550,000	2,462,224	3,033,000
Parking	758,144	780,676	847,000	770,642	924,000
Alderman Court	38,783	41,521	48,000	43,714	48,000
Beach Patrol	711,482	791,618	909,000	968,268	1,055,000
	<u>3,709,281</u>	<u>4,015,222</u>	<u>4,354,000</u>	<u>4,244,847</u>	<u>5,060,000</u>
Public Works:					
Streets and Parks	1,287,805	1,377,923	1,535,000	1,385,696	1,601,000
Stormwater Management	181,721	247,067	257,000	179,068	257,000
Beach, Boardwalk, & Comfort St.	463,771	513,490	589,000	501,360	589,000
	<u>1,933,298</u>	<u>2,138,480</u>	<u>2,381,000</u>	<u>2,066,124</u>	<u>2,447,000</u>
Building Official / Code Enforcement	294,718	283,433	335,000	323,424	350,000
Bandstand & Entertainment	303,891	303,060	348,000	352,277	409,000
Cultural & Historic Affairs	21,670	19,811	30,000	15,941	30,000
Fourth of July Parade	9,204	17,934	30,000	25,473	30,000
Total General Fund Operating Costs	7,611,302	8,271,100	9,043,000	8,573,660	9,938,000
			Change from prior year budget		895,000
					9.9%
Sanitation Fund	1,103,870	1,160,951	1,304,000	1,107,248	1,408,000
			Change from prior year budget		104,000
					8.0%
Water Fund	1,359,828	1,426,324	1,516,000	1,369,778	1,629,000
			Change from prior year budget		113,000
					7.5%
Town-Wide Operating Budget	10,075,000	10,858,374	11,863,000	11,050,686	12,975,000
			Change from prior year budget		1,112,000
					9.4%

Town of Bethany Beach
FY 2026 Approved Operating Budget by Expenditure Type

	Full-Time Employees	Personnel	Supplies	Contract Services	Operations	Minor Capital	Total
General Fund							
Administration	4.65	836,000	50,000	554,000	62,000	110,000	1,612,000
Public Safety:							
Police	13.45	2,411,000	114,000	308,000	64,000	136,000	3,033,000
Parking	2.70	339,000	17,000	511,000	3,000	54,000	924,000
Alderman Court	0.25	46,000	-	1,000	-	1,000	48,000
Beach Patrol	-	842,000	54,000	78,000	48,000	33,000	1,055,000
Public Works:							
Streets and Parks	8.00	841,000	122,000	537,000	5,000	96,000	1,601,000
Stormwater Management	-	25,000	11,000	210,000	1,000	10,000	257,000
Beach, Boardwalk, & Comfort St.	-	247,000	69,000	204,000	2,000	67,000	589,000
Building Official / Code Enforcement	2.25	296,000	15,000	27,000	4,000	8,000	350,000
Bandstand & Entertainment	1.00	138,000	5,000	257,000	1,000	8,000	409,000
Cultural & Historic Affairs	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	30,000
Fourth of July Parade	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	30,000
General Fund Total	32.30	6,021,000	457,000	2,687,000	250,000	523,000	9,938,000
Percentage by Expenditure type		60%	5%	27%	3%	5%	
Sanitation Fund	6.80	839,000	80,000	432,000	2,000	55,000	1,408,000
Percentage by Expenditure type		59%	6%	31%	0%	4%	
Water Fund	5.90	805,000	236,000	569,000	4,000	15,000	1,629,000
Percentage by Expenditure type		50%	14%	35%	0%	1%	
Town-Wide Total	45.00	7,665,000	773,000	3,688,000	256,000	593,000	12,975,000
Percentage by Expenditure type		59%	6%	28%	2%	5%	

Town of Bethany Beach
FY 2026 Capital and Debt Service Approved Budget Summary

	FY 2025 Approved Budget	FY 2025 Expended 3/20/2025	FY 2025 Est. Carryover to FY 2026	FY 2026 Approved Budget
General Fund				
Administration & Trolley	210,000	50,986	159,000	-
Police	160,000	93,093	17,000	95,000
Parking	164,000	151,339	-	16,000
Beach Patrol	25,000	20,884	-	-
Streets and Parks	733,000	420,581	206,000	1,290,000
Stormwater Management	945,000	23,286	907,000	601,000
Beach, Boardwalk, & Comfort St.	100,000	56,160	-	620,000
Building Official	-	-	-	70,000
Bandstand & Entertainment	-	-	-	-
Cultural / Historic & Parade	-	-	-	-
General Fund Capital	2,337,000	816,329	1,289,000	2,692,000
 Sanitation Fund Capital	 320,000	 291,960	 -	 90,000
 Water Fund Capital	 340,000	 213,436	 330,000	 1,415,000
 Water Fund Debt Service	 246,000	 243,890	 -	 246,000
 Town-Wide Capital & Debt Budget	 3,243,000	 1,565,615	 1,619,000	 4,443,000

Town of Bethany Beach
FY 2026 Capital and Debt Service Approved Budget Detail

General Fund		FY 2025 Est. Carryover to FY 2026	FY 2026 Approved Budget	FY 2026 Total Funding
Vehicles & Equipment	Replace the 2005 Trolley	159,000	-	159,000
Admin Total		159,000	-	159,000
Land & Building	Replacement of the floor in the police department	-	40,000	40,000
Vehicles & Equipment	Replacement of two police vehicles in conjunction with grant funds	17,000	55,000	72,000
Vehicles & Equipment	Replace security camera backup server	-	-	-
Police Total		17,000	95,000	112,000
Vehicles & Equipment	Replacement the 2012 parking van with a EV LSV golf cart	-	16,000	16,000
Parking Total		-	16,000	16,000
Streets	Paving, street safety, alleys, parking lots, & lighting	71,000	1,200,000	1,271,000
Land & Building	Replacing the Public Works building on Rt 1	100,000	-	100,000
Land & Building	Renovations of Museum and Nature Center	35,000	90,000	125,000
Streets and Parks Total		206,000	1,290,000	1,496,000
Vehicles & Equipment	Replace a compact track loader purchased in 2014	-	101,000	101,000
Drainage Projects	Lake Bethany bulkhead and land strip restoration	97,000	500,000	597,000
Drainage Projects	Loop Canal dredging project design	50,000	-	50,000
Drainage Projects	Loop Canal retractable dam design	270,000	-	270,000
Drainage Projects	Repairs to drainage on N Pennsylvania Ave	490,000	-	490,000
Stormwater Total		907,000	601,000	1,508,000
Boardwalk	Repairs to the Boardwalk substructure and replacement ramps	-	600,000	600,000
Vehicles & Equipment	Refurbishing the Beach Rake	-	20,000	20,000
Beach, Boardwalk, & Comfort Station Total		-	620,000	620,000
Vehicles & Equipment	Replace the sound system at the bandstand	-	70,000	70,000
Bandstand & Entertainment		-	70,000	70,000
Total General Fund Capital Budget		1,289,000	2,692,000	3,981,000

Sanitation Fund		FY 2025 Est. Carryover to FY 2026	FY 2026 Approved Budget	FY 2026 Total Funding
Vehicles & Equipment	Replace a 2013 Ford F350	-	90,000	90,000
Sanitation Total		-	90,000	90,000

Water Fund		FY 2025 Est. Carryover to FY 2026	FY 2026 Approved Budget	FY 2026 Total Funding
Machinery & Equipment	SCADA & controls upgrade for wells and transfer pumps	-	175,000	175,000
Machinery & Equipment	Clarifier replacement and building in addition to State loan	258,000	1,000,000	1,258,000
Machinery & Equipment	Replace a 2015 and a 2016 truck	72,000	90,000	162,000
Machinery & Equipment	Replace equipment as needed	-	75,000	75,000
Water Systems	Distribution system repair work as needed	-	75,000	75,000
Total Water Department Capital Budget		330,000	1,415,000	1,745,000
Debt Service	Water Tower loan repayment	-	246,000	246,000
Total Water Department Debt Service Budget		-	246,000	246,000

Town-Wide Capital & Debt Budget	1,619,000	4,443,000	6,062,000
--	------------------	------------------	------------------

**Town of Bethany Beach
FY 2026 Special Funds (Grants) Approved Budget**

	FY 2025 Approved Budget	FY 2025 Actually Awarded	FY 2025 Expended 3/20/2025	FY 2025 Total Remaining	FY 2026 Approved Budget
Municipal Street Aid Street Repair (MSA) with interest	123,000.00	314,530.02	314,381.49	148.53	122,000.00
Pandemic American Rescue Plan (ARPA) with interest	-	690,666.69	690,666.69	-	-
State Bond Bill Collins Street Pathway Project	-	149,750.38	149,750.38	-	-
State Bond Bill Lake Bethany Bulkhead Design	-	71,967.07	-	71,967.07	-
State Bond Bill Loop Canal Dredging Project	-	475,000.00	-	475,000.00	-
Electric Vehicle and EV Charging Stations (DESEU)	-	353,090.00	225,609.72	127,480.28	-
Federal Lake Bethany Erosion Mitigation Project	-	500,000.00	15,173.79	484,826.21	-
Police Retirement Plan	76,000.00	95,305.83	95,305.83	-	100,000.00
Criminal Justice Council (CJC)	10,000.00	6,000.00	-	6,000.00	10,000.00
Office of Highway Safety (OHS)	20,000.00	-	-	-	20,000.00
Sussex County Police Vehicle	35,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	-	40,000.00
Bulletproof Vest Grant	2,000.00	3,085.95	3,085.95	-	2,000.00
Emergency Illegal Drug Enforcement (EIDE)	7,000.00	4,189.32	4,189.32	-	5,000.00
State Aid to Local Law Enforcement (SALLE)	7,000.00	13,708.62	10,872.80	2,835.82	6,000.00
Fund to Combat Violent Crime (FCVC)	30,000.00	31,281.12	-	31,281.12	30,000.00
Police Body Cameras	25,230.00	25,230.01	25,230.01	-	25,230.01
Total General Fund Grant Budget	335,230.00	2,773,805.01	1,574,265.98	1,199,539.03	360,230.01
N Atlantic Ave Water Main Elimination	22,364.25	22,364.25	18,885.75	3,478.50	-
Water Asset Management Grant	-	98,542.00	8,118.58	90,423.42	-
Clarifier Planning Grant	-	50,000.00	-	50,000.00	-
Total Water Fund Grant Budget	22,364.25	170,906.25	27,004.33	143,901.92	-

**Town of Bethany Beach
FY 2026 Approved Schedule of Fees**

ADMINISTRATIVE FEES:

Property Owner Address printed labels or listing (Tax List)	150.00
Property Owner Address on disc or email (Tax List)	50.00
Return Check Fee	45.00

APPLICATIONS TO PLANNING COMMISSION:

Application for Land Combining	250.00
Application for Land Partitioning	250.00
PRDs and Minor Residential Subdivisions	\$500 plus \$250 per dwelling
Major Residential Subdivisions	\$1,000 plus \$250 per dwelling

ADDITIONAL COSTS:

For all Planned Residential Developments, major and minor subdivisions and all construction projects that require engineering reviews, making periodic inspections or both, the applicants shall make a cash deposit in an amount to be determined by the Building Inspector for the purpose of covering all costs and expenses incurred by the Town of Bethany Beach in using any outside consultant or resource (engineer, scientists, consultant, etc.) in considering, examining, reviewing and making reports and recommendations concerning the plan, as submitted, or making inspections during construction. Upon the final review and approval of the submitted plans, but prior to the issuing of a building permit, the Building Inspector shall determine the costs which have been incurred by the Town for any outside consultant or resource and shall deduct those costs from the deposit made by the applicant(s). If the deposit exceeds the costs incurred by the Town, the Building Inspector shall refund the remaining funds to the applicant(s) without interest. If the deposit is less than the costs incurred by the Town, the applicant(s) shall pay the difference to the Town prior to the issuance of any approval for construction by any Town Official, Committee, or Commission.

APPLICATION FOR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS:

Basic Application to the Board	1,000.00
Application requiring Town Solicitor review	2,500.00
Application requiring Town Solicitor and court stenographer	3,250.00

BUILDING PERMITS:

Building Permit Fee	3%
Based on actual construction costs, but in an amount not less than the cost computed by the International Code Council's square foot construction cost standard (R-3 VB), if applicable. Charged on all commercial and residential primary buildings, accessory buildings, and improvements to an existing open deck, screen porch, accessory building or patio by adding walls and/or roof to become enclosed living space.	
Fee for renovations and retrofits is based on actual construction costs, but in an amount not less than the cost computed by the ICC's square foot construction cost standard (R-3 VB) if applicable.	
Building Permit Fee - 501 (c)(3) organizations with proper documentation	1%
Based on actual construction costs, but in an amount not less than the cost computed by the International Code Council's square foot construction cost standard (R-3 VB), if applicable. Charged on all commercial and residential primary buildings, accessory buildings, and improvements to an existing open deck, screen porch, accessory building or patio by adding walls and/or roof to become enclosed living space	
Fee for renovations and retrofits is based on actual construction costs, but in an amount not less than the cost computed by the ICC's square foot construction cost standard (R-3 VB) if applicable.	
Publicly funded organizations offering a public service (Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company and South Coastal Library) are exempt from Building Permit Fees.	
Building an Open Deck or Patio - Gross floor area of attached or unattached open deck with area open to sky	0.75/sq. foot
Repairs	
\$30.00 for 1st \$1,000 or fraction thereof	30.00
\$10.00 per additional \$1,000 of value or fraction thereof	10.00
All Other Permits	
Relocation of dwelling unit	100.00
Demolition of any building or structure	150.00
Driveway and sidewalk	150.00
Fence and permanent subdivision sign	75.00
Private swimming pool permit	150.00
Public swimming pool permit	300.00
Bulkheads, docks, and ramps, installation of new or removal of existing to replace with new	50.00
Solar Systems and GCL Heat Exchange Well Systems	50.00
Signs	50.00
Minimum Permit Fee	30.00

Town of Bethany Beach
FY 2026 Approved Schedule of Fees

MERCANTILE LICENSE FEES:

Business License (may purchase up to 3 years for \$250 per year)	250.00
Application for Home Occupation	50.00
Special Events Vendor Fee (per vendor engaging in for-profit activities at an event)	50.00
Rental License, Commercial or Residential. Residential license will not be issued without notarized safety certificate	100.00
Administrative fee for failure to obtain a license by the renewal due date.	100.00
Rental Tax - these taxes are due to the Town of Bethany Beach in addition to the State of Delaware's 4.5% short-term rental lodging tax (if applicable)	
Tax on gross rental receipts on Commercial and Residential rentals	7.00%
Tax on gross rental receipts on rentals subject to State Public Accommodations Tax of 8% on hotels, motels, and tourist homes	3.25%

OTHER FEES:

Shuttle Bus Permit (shuttle with seating capacity of 11 or more)	12,770.00	*
Shuttle Bus Permit (shuttle with seating capacity of 10 or less)	6,390.00	*
Shuttle Bus Permit (single day)	208.00	*
Permit for Portable on Demand Storage Unit (POD) or similar temporary storage, personal use	25.00	
Permit or permit renewal for Portable on Demand Storage Unit (POD) or similar temporary storage, construction	50.00	

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Document Fee	18.50
--------------	-------

PARKING DEPARTMENT:

Parking meter rate per hour	4.00	*
Park Mobile Convenience Fee. Charged on each credit card transaction	0.60	
Booting of vehicle for non-payment of parking fines	100.00	*
Collection agency fee equal to the original fine will be assessed when unpaid parking tickets are turned over to a collection agency.		

PARKING PERMITS:

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS

1st Permit	N/C
2nd Permit (No more than 2 permits will be issued per property)	50.00
Replacement Permits	50.00

C-1 BUSINESS LICENSE HOLDER

Each Permit	50.00
Parking Meter Permits - Gold - In Town business owners only, excludes 2 hour meters and handicapped (Limit 2).	350.00
Parking Meter Permits - Platinum - In Town business owners only, any metered space except handicapped (Limit 1).	1,000.00

VISITOR PARKING PERMITS

Fee per calendar day. Permits are sold as 1-day, 3-day, 5-day, and 7-day passes	40.00	*
---	-------	---

CONSTRUCTION PARKING PERMITS (8:00am to 5:30pm on weekdays only)

1-day	25.00	*
Annual permit	500.00	**

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE:

Administrative fee -Violation of Town Code @ Property Maintenance (Per Lot)	First Offense	300.00
Administrative fee -Violation of Town Code @ Property Maintenance (Per Lot)	Second Offense	600.00
Administrative fee -Violation of Town Code @ Property Maintenance (Per Lot)	Additional Offenses	900.00
An additional fee may be charged for employee time or contracted work to bring properties into compliance with the Town Code.		

REAL PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX:

1.5% of Gross Sales Price

PROPERTY TAX RATE :

Per \$100 of Town of Bethany Beach Assessed Value (100% of Assessed value)	0.196
--	-------

TRASH FEES:

4 yard dumpster	3,560.00
3 yard dumpster	3,000.00
2 yard dumpster	2,300.00
Commercial: Flat Rate Per Unit	810.00
Residential: Flat Rate Per Unit	580.00
Special Trash or yard waste collection (minimum charge)	50.00

**Town of Bethany Beach
FY 2026 Approved Schedule of Fees**

WATER BOND SINKING FUND

Per Front Footage, minimum of 50 feet	1.07
---------------------------------------	------

WATER SERVICES:

In Town Flat Rate per year	216.00	*
0 - 10,000 gallons used	5.40/1000 gal	*
10,001 - 40,000 gallons used	6.60/1000 gal	*
over 40,000 gallons used	7.80/1000 gal	*
Out of Town Limits - \$6.50/1000 Gallons of Usage plus Flat Rate (Connection Charge) \$265/year for 5/8" Meter	\$318 Flat rate plus \$7.80/1000 gal	*
Additional water meter readings requested by property owner	25.00	
Check meter accuracy (will be refunded if meter is defective)	35.00	
Water turn on or off at meter (during regular Water Department service hours)	25.00	
Water turn on or off at meter (after regular Water Department service hours or on holidays)	200.00	
Water turn off at meter for non-payment	100.00	
Additional fee for restoring water service after regular Water Department service hours or on holidays	200.00	
Water Meter	Cost plus 20%	
Water Department Inspection Fee	35.00	
Install a tap into town water main with installation of lateral and curb stop	\$1,000 to \$1,500	
All costs associated with new or "re-taps" into the Bethany Beach water system will be borne by the property owner		
Water Impact Fee applicable to new construction and reconstruction	5,250.00	
For meters in excess of 1" the following multiplier table is used to calculate the fee for residential and commercial properties:		
Meter Type	Meter Size	Maximum Rate (GPM)
Simple	1"	25
Simple	1.5"	50
Simple	2"	80
Compound	2"	160
Turbine	2"	200
Compound	3"	350
Turbine	3"	450
Compound	4"	700
Turbine	4"	1200
Compound	6"	1400
Turbine	6"	2500
Compound	8"	2000
Turbine	8"	4000
Turbine	10"	6500
Buildings being demolished and rebuilt that were originally built during or after 1989 will be given a credit of \$1,250 representing the previously charged Water Impact Fee		
Additional fee for renovations and additions to current structures	1.50/sq. foot	
Sale of water to noncustomers (metered) \$7.50 @ 1000 Gallons - Minimum of fee of \$25.00 (One day advanced notice required)		

ALDERMAN COURT

Basic court cost	20.00
Additional court security fee per violation	2.00
Additional fee for appearance before the Alderman for traffic or town ordinance violations (per violation)	20.00
Appearance before the Alderman for parking tickets	10.00
Issuance of capias/bench warrant	15.00
Returned check fee (state mandated)	30.00
Additional fee for deferred payment plan	25.00
Additional fee for probation before judgement agreement, per case	10.00

AMBULANCE SERVICE FEE

The Town collects an annual fee for the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Department, which performs the ambulance service.	
The amount charged is based on the financial history and projections of the ambulance service.	60.00

* Change in fee amount

** New fee