

**TOWN OF BEDFORD  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
January 8, 2020  
BEDFORD MEETING ROOM  
10 MEETINGHOUSE ROAD**

**1. ROLL CALL:** A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Rd. Present were Bill Duschatko (Chair), Melissa Stevens (Vice Chair) and Councilors Denise Ricciardi, Phil Greazzo, Dave Gilbert, Chris Bandazian, and Catherine Rombeau. Also present was Town Manager Rick Sawyer.

Chairman Duschatko opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Councilor Ricciardi.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.

**4. PUBLIC HEARING**

**a. First public hearing on the proposed 2020 budget**

**MOTION by Councilor Rombeau to open the public hearing.  
Seconded by Councilor Stevens. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

Chairman Duschatko thought they'd done a good job putting the budget together.

General Fund	\$31,348,938
Recreation Day Camp	83,006
Bedford Community TV	457,738
<u>Sewer Fund</u>	<u>1,790,796</u>
Total Appropriations	\$33,680,478

Chairman Duschatko stated that Recreation Day Camp, BCTV and Sewer Fund were enterprise funds and had no negative impact on the tax rate. The General Fund consisted of two components: Capital spending and operating expenses. The capital spending will be a separate warrant article than the operating expenses. They have a projected tax rate for 2020 of \$4.36, which was based on the latest assessment. The rate is subject to change based on the Department of Revenue Administration administered by the State. They won't know the final rate until late September or early October. From 2015 through the projected tax rate in 2020, they had an overall decrease of \$220 per year on a house assessed at \$400k. He thought they made good progress in controlling the costs and keeping the non-property tax revenues at very attractive levels. Many of the non-property tax revenues were controlled by the State. He congratulated the Departments for working hard to keep the overall expenditures down. He mentioned that a huge impact for this year was an extra payroll period, which

amounts to about \$440k extra. To offset that impact, they are using some of the unallocated reserves. The unallocated reserves balance reflects increased revenues in past years from taxes and underspent allocations. Also, approximately \$800k that would be directed at renovating Sportsman Field with artificial turf, new lighting, etc. bringing it up to a Class A field. The use of unallocated reserves to do this will not affect the taxes. He thought it was a wise use of that money. They've gone out of their way to make sure that they keep a modest or decrease in the actual cost of living in Bedford.

Lori Radke, 50 McAfee Farm Road, was sad to see that nobody from the public was there. She mentioned that last year they talked about adding a Parks & Recreation Director, but didn't see it included in the budget and wanted to know if they were still talking about possibly added that position at some point, maybe for next year. Chairman Duschatko stated that he would like to see that type of thing come up from the Parks & Recreation Commission and to his knowledge there has been no discussion. Councilor Gilbert stated that they had not broached that subject, but thought it was a subject for next year. Councilor Stevens stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission only had two meetings since last year and it wasn't anything that had come up. If it's something she is interested in they can certainly bring that up at the next meeting. Ms. Radke thought it was something the Town needed to look at. They added eight staff last year and this year they are adding a full-time IT person, which all helps the staff, but she thought they needed to start to think about adding staff that really benefits the residents. She works in another community and the amount of programming and events that go on is amazing, and she thought the Town of Bedford needed that. When she moved to Bedford 20 years ago, there were programs and events all of the time for adults, seniors and kids, and there were trips like to the flower show. Over time that has disappeared. She thought they needed to bring some of that back to bring the community back. She thought that was a piece that was missing in Bedford. She asked the Council to think about that for the upcoming year and try to put that in their budget, because she thought they needed to start moving forward and start thinking about the community.

Ms. Radke wanted to know how they level funded the healthcare. Mr. Sawyer stated that the Finance Director took a close look at what they've been spending instead of just taking the anticipated increase of 10.7%. It was clear that they had continuously increased the budget based on the amount of the rate increase without actually looking at if there were spending that full amount each year. They believe this is the one year where they are able to level fund it and absorb that 6-month rate increase of 10.7%.

Ms. Radke stated that the budget handout didn't have the amount for the new IT position and she wanted to know what the overall cost for that position would be. Mr. Sawyer stated that it was only funded for half a year. They were able to offset some of those costs by the reduction of outside services by \$56k. Councilor Bandazian thought it was about \$45k for half a year. Mr. Sawyer stated that they are assuming a pay range of \$60k - \$75k annually and a total cost of about \$93k annually.

Councilor Bandazian echoed the out of the ordinary appropriations this year for the rehabilitation of Sportsman Field and the additional payroll. Without those, they would

have a significant tax decrease. Chairman Duschatko thought they also overlooked that they are putting in around \$50k for the PFOA studies. Councilor Bandazian noted that they had some additional expenses for stormwater and for groundwater contamination. Chairman Duschatko thought they should be thankful for everybody, particularly Councilor Bandazian, in getting involved in these studies and trying to find ways to come up with some affordable solutions for the entire community and entire State.

**MOTION by Councilor Bandazian to close the public hearing.  
Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

**b. First public hearing on proposed Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan  
Warrant Article**

**MOTION by Councilor Bandazian to open the public hearing.  
Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

Mr. Sawyer explained that this would allow the Town to recoup \$60k; \$30k would be on the taxpayer side and \$30k would be on the sewer ratepayer side. Residents and business owners would benefit by a \$60k reduction in cost. This is work that they have to do in order to meet the State and Federal mandates. If they get approval of the 'loan', which is 100% forgiven, that money is the Town's. It would be in the best interest of the community to have this pass. It requires two-thirds passage at Town Meeting and it's to complete asset management plans for the Town for wastewater and for stormwater. Chairman Duschatko thought they were foolish if they don't take advantage of it. Councilor Rombeau emphasized that they have to do the work. They are leaving money on the table by not taking advantage of it, because it has to be spent anyway. Mr. Sawyer added that the \$30k on the taxpayer side was about \$0.01 on the tax rate, so it could reduce the tax rate by a penny. Chairman Duschatko encouraged Department Heads as well as Councilors to get out there and sell it to the public; it is important.

**MOTION by Councilor Bandazian to close the public hearing.  
Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Modification of the Road Bond Issuance Schedule**

Mr. Sawyer explained that in 2014, the voters passed a bond authorization of \$30m for road improvements. In 2015, they sold a bond for \$9m, \$11m in 2017 and they have \$10m left to sell; they would like to sell that in February. The last time the Council voted on this bond process, it included a motion that said they would selling that last \$10m in 2019. They had enough money from savings from the excellent work of the DPW over the first four years of the bond program and the amount of work they could physically get done in those calendar years that they didn't need to sell the bond in 2019. They never asked the Council to take a formal vote to modify that intended schedule. If any bonding company was thinking about submitting a bid for this bond, they might question

whether the authorizations were all in place. They have a visit on January 22<sup>nd</sup> with Moody's rating agency. They fully expect to retain their Aaa bond rating. The Finance Director, Planning Director, Assessor, and he have been working to prepare all of the documents for that meeting. Five days after that meeting, they will give Bedford their new rating, and then the bond is scheduled to be sold on February 4<sup>th</sup> with a closing a couple of weeks later. They are moving quickly to sell in February based on a meeting that they (Chairman Duschatko, Finance Director, and Town Manager) had with their financial advisors and the earlier in the year seemed to be the best time of year to sell municipal bonds and when they get the best rate.

**MOTION by Councilor Rombeau that the Bedford Town Council modify the road bond issuance schedule to reflect \$10 million in 2020 and to authorize Councilor Duschatko to accept and award the bids on February 4, 2020. Seconded by Councilor Stevens.**

Mr. Sawyer mentioned that historically, the Council has authorized one of its own members to be the one who actually approves the bond.

**Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

Councilor Bandazian added that the prospectus the Town assembles to submit to Moody's is historically been quite impressive and he thought it would be a good thing to post on the website once it's completed.

#### **b. Fire Department SAFER Grant Application**

Mr. Sawyer stated that they are looking for the Council to support the application for a SAFER grant. They felt that having a governing body vote to support the grant strengthens their application and gives it a better chance of being awarded, but it's not required. The grant would help to offset the financial impacts to the community as they move to increase minimum staffing from six to seven starting in 2021. At the budget workshop, the Council approved moving four firefighters to captains in 2020, which is the first phase. The grant provides for 75% of the cost in each of the first two years and 35% in year three. The Town to be fully responsible in the fourth year. It's not binding.

**MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council endorse the application of the Bedford Fire Department for the 2019 SAFER grant for four firefighters inclusive of all allowable reimbursements. Seconded by Councilor Rombeau. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

#### **c. Appointment to the ZBA**

Chairman Duschatko explained that this to replace Gigi Georges who resigned. The ZBA chairman recommended that they appoint Leonard Green who is currently serving as an alternate member as a regular member.

Councilor Stevens stated that they were unfortunate to lose Gigi who was a great asset to the Board. She mentioned that Len attends all of the meetings had no issues moving Len Green from an alternate to a regular member. Councilor Gilbert had no issues.

Councilor Bandazian stated that he had respected Len Green, but it was so close to the regular cycle when they make appointments that he was resistant having certain applicants cut in line and setting that precedent. Mr. Green can continue to serve as an alternate and be appointed on a month by month basis for those two remaining meetings. He was reluctant to set a precedent of a citizen coming forward two months ahead of schedule and they just cut in line. Nobody else is considered for appointment by doing that. He wants to stand by procedure and wait another two months. Come March the Council can appoint him to be a regular member. He didn't see any detriment to the operation of the ZBA between now and then. Councilor Stevens clarified that the ZBA chairman had requested this. Procedurally, it makes her a little bit embarrassed that they are constantly having to put alternates in as regular members at the beginning of meetings. Mr. Green's term doesn't expire until 2021 and so they would be doing this anyways in the next two months. In this case she saw it as an exception to the rule.

Councilor Greazzo mentioned that the regular vacancy expires in 2020. If Mr. Green were to move from alternate member to regular member, his term would expire in March and it would still be another group of people applying to take that seat. Councilor Greazzo pointed out that the seat would become available in 2020. Mr. Green would have to request to be reappointed. The Town Council would choose who takes the seat.

Mr. Sawyer stated that the Charter amendment at their next meeting is proposed to modify their appointment process, which would change the interviews to after their organizational meeting. They would appoint sometime in April for positions to take effect in May. Anybody who is currently appointed to any board or commission needs to stay on until May and not step off in March. Their terms are until they are replaced. This wouldn't give the Zoning Board an additional member. He could be serving the same role as a full member or an alternate member; the chairman just felt that it was important to have as many regular members seated as possible.

Councilor Bandazian stated that he served on the ZBA for many years with alternates filling in as regular members. Chairman Duschatko thought that was the chair's biggest concern. Councilor Bandazian didn't think it would be affected, just his title is different. He thought it was a matter of principle; everybody should have a fair opportunity to apply. He thought Councilor Greazzo's point that the appointment goes away in March influences him more. They wouldn't be letting somebody cut in line, because they wouldn't be making an appointment to that position until March, April or May anyway.

Councilor Stevens wanted to know the volunteers were that Councilor Bandazian was talking about, because it's hard to get people to volunteer. She would love to empower and support volunteers who regularly show up and she thought in this case they are able to do that. They have a problem with getting volunteers to show up to meetings.

They have had a few instances where they get appointed, and then they show up to two or three meetings a year. When she sees someone like Mr. Green, her bleeding heart says to do everything they can to keep him happy. Councilor Bandazian stated that because the position goes away in March or April that he's okay with it, but they often have multiple people applying for the same board. He didn't want someone appointed to a board simply because they applied in January as opposed to waiting to be weighed with all of the other applicants. He thought the facts may justify an exception here, but thought it should be an outlier. They want to staff the boards with the best people available and nobody else was aware that there is a vacancy to apply for right now. It's a no harm, no foul situation and he would go along with it if that's the majority will.

Mr. Sawyer stated that the position was advertised. Councilor Bandazian stated that nobody would be expecting to see those ads and people have an expectation that they apply next month.

Councilor Gilbert stated that if they appoint Mr. Green from an alternate to a regular member, his alternate term is through 2021, so if he takes over Gigi's spot, which ends in 2020, he would be losing a year. Mr. Sawyer stated that that was correct. Councilor Gilbert didn't think it made sense to do that. They are going to have three people up for reappointment anyways: Mr. Morin, the vacant spot, and Mr. Casale. He was siding with Councilor Bandazian for a different reason. He didn't want to see Mr. Green lose tenure. He would be agreeing to be tenured down a whole year and a half. Councilor Stevens guessed that the chair talked to Mr. Green about that or considered that and Mr. Sawyer stated that that was his understanding. Mr. Sawyer stated that they could leave it on the agenda for two weeks and seek clarification if they would like.

**MOTION by Councilor Greazzo to table this to their next meeting.  
Seconded by Councilor Rombeau. Vote taken – Motion Passed –7-0.**

#### **d. Other New Business**

Councilor Ricciardi stated that she was going to start holding scheduled office hours at the Town Office, so any resident who has questions, concerns, is new to Town or just wants to talk, she is going to make herself available. The hours will be posted on the Town website and she invited any other Councilors to join her. The first one is scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Mr. Sawyer reminded the Council that other Councilors can join her, but they need it scheduled so they don't end up with a quorum of Councilors; they can't have more than three Councilors without posting it as a meeting. Councilor Rombeau stated that she volunteered to join Councilor Ricciardi on the 6<sup>th</sup>, but she can't be there for the whole time, so if anybody wanted to share some time, she would be happy to do that.

Mr. Radke thought it was a great idea and wanted to know if Councilor Ricciardi was planning on any evening hours. Councilor Ricciardi responded yes. She decided to try this timeframe and see how it goes and then try some morning and some evening, mix it up so that all residents have an opportunity.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Old Business**

Councilor Bandazian gave an update on the PFAS Legislative Commission and developments. He stated that the injunction is going to be before the Supreme Court, so that injunction halts the application of the new lower standard and the current standard enforced is the 70/ppt standard. To Saint Gobain's and the DES's credit, they are continuing with the work plan that is necessitated by the new lower standard, so they are proceeding in good faith and he commended them for that. They are proceeding with the well testing and all of that information is available online on the Town's website under Town Manager. The testing is propagating from where water had been brought before in the Greenmeadow area and the Sebbins Pond area. That's an area where they are seeing results that are higher than the new limit and lower than the old limit. He didn't want to alarm those neighborhoods; it's simply an artifact of where there were existing well tests, it's not that they are singled out as hazardous locations. They are getting new people on bottled water and those tests will roll out over the course of the year. Consistent with the work plan, they have also identified some sites with sensitive populations such as preschools and daycares. He explained that the groundwater management zone is basically Route 101 towards the river. Within those boundaries, Saint Gobain under the consent agreement would be responsible for extending public water or providing alternate water if the results are above a newly promulgated limit. That seems to be where the higher levels are concentrated in Town, but it doesn't mean that there would not be results that are elevated on the other side of Route 101. For that, the State's consent decree doesn't apply, but it doesn't mean the Town of Bedford or individuals couldn't pursue Saint Gobain, but there is an issue as to whether they are responsible for any contamination outside of that area founded by the groundwater management zone. As for the litigation, that could take six months to several years to reach a conclusion. The criticism is the State and the Legislature didn't go in depth enough in the hearing process before passing the regulation. He believed that the science was strong enough that those are good health recommendations and they will ultimately be found to be so. The State may have to go all the way back to the beginning and start with rulemaking all over again. He didn't know how long that process would take place. The thermal oxidizer approval is going forward. The comment period closed the end of last month and Saint Gobain has until Friday to submit any comments that they have in response to the comments and the State has 30 days in which to issue a decision. The thermal oxidizer is to clean the air emissions. The plant emits both contaminated water and air. The thermal oxidizer will burn up any polyfluorinated substances that go up through the stacks. The State had some hearings on the equipment that was proposed followed by a comment period followed by Saint Gobain's comment period and the State will make a decision in the next 30 days and they still expect that to be implemented over the course of the year. Air contamination was probably the biggest concern of the Town of Bedford. The NHMA (New Hampshire Municipal Association) has been approved to submit an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in the litigation; he didn't know why they were interested in doing

that, so that was a bit of a concern to him. He didn't think they should be weighing in on a health impact, one side or the other. If their position was if this was something that small water companies have to pay for that there should be some mechanism for reimbursement, he wasn't sure that would be of interest to the Supreme Court justices this round. Mr. Sawyer stated that one of the parties in the case is the Town of Plymouth's sewer district and part of the concern from the Municipal Association is an unfunded mandate with the new State regulation that towns are responsible for their transfer stations and potentially all of their sewer systems or water systems that they may have to meet the new standard without any State or Federal funds provided. Councilor Bandazian thought if the Municipal Association was weighing in on a health standard, its territory they maybe shouldn't be in; funding it is a different matter. He didn't think that a public water system being required not to provide contaminated water was an unfunded mandate. He thought they've always been required to provide uncontaminated water.

Councilor Bandazian stated that he would be interested if anyone's physician ever said to them, 'Do you live in Bedford, Litchfield, Londonderry, or Merrimack and if you do maybe you should talk to your public officials if you are on well water.' He didn't hear that going on in the medical community and that was a big disappointment. They are losing an opportunity to do some good science. If somebody is on a well, should a doctor order a blood test just as a precaution; that would be some good science to do.

Councilor Bandazian stated that they meet regularly once a month as a whole commission and another time a month in their subcommittees. It's a fast developing area and he would be happy to show anybody. It's a 6-step process to drill down to the documents that the State has posted, but they are all getting up there within in three weeks of when they become available. Councilor Stevens wanted to know what site they were on. Councilor Bandazian explained that if they go to the Town Manager website and click on the PFOA link, down near the bottom is a link called OneStop. It has a number after it and that's the number for the Saint Gobain site. You put that number in the search box and then click on that and it will get you to another list of all the things they have going on for that site. You would click 'waste management', because that's what they call this. It's the waste management division of DES that's responsible for this. You will get to some other icons, one of which is 'documents'. If you click on 'documents', you get to what you are looking for. Councilor Stevens wanted to know if those were documents from the commission that he sits on. Councilor Bandazian clarified that those are all public documents that DES has for the Saint Gobain site. Those will include every test result, every letter that is sent to a resident about getting the test done, the test results, if they are above the limit there is a letter telling them how to get on Monadnock water. They are not screening things; everything is there. Councilor Stevens wanted to know how to get the minutes from the commission he sits on and the subcommittees. Councilor Bandazian stated that that would be a different link going through the Town Manager webpage. Councilor Bandazian stated that the public was welcome to come to their meetings and make comments; ultimately they are charged with proposing any new legislation by November 1<sup>st</sup>, which means that they would be coming to those conclusions in September. Those

meetings are held in the Legislative Office buildings either in Room 204 or Room 304. Anyone who has questions should feel free to get in touch with him. He's very impressed with the people they have working for them at the DES. There is interest in having a public information session. Mr. Sawyer added that the request had been made to DES to hold another public information session in Bedford. They are trying to decide the best time and venue, topics to be discussed, and how many people would attend. He thought DES felt that just holding regular office hours in each community was a better approach than continuing to have the public meetings at night based on attendance at the last few, which have always been at Merrimack. In Bedford, they have over 70 new homes on bottled water and adding homes to that list every week, so they need to do all the hearings they did before all over again for the new homes.

## **7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **a. Public Session – December 11, 2019**

**MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the December 11, 2019 public session. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0-1 (Stevens abstained as she was not present for this meeting).**

## **7. TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Sawyer thanked the Council and all the staff, especially the Department Heads, for helping him out over the last couple of months. He had a detached retina in his left eye and he got it repaired just before the Council meeting in November and then had complications and detached again in December just before the Council meeting in December, so he's missed the last two Council meetings. The latest checkup showed that it's reattached and healing the way it's supposed to.

1. The registration period for open elected positions is January 22, 2020 through 5 PM January 31, 2020.

Open Town Elected Positions:

- Two Town Council positions (3-year terms)
- One Town Clerk (3-year term)
- One Town Moderator (2-year term)
- One Library Trustee (3-year term)
- One Trustee of the Trust Fund (3-year term)
- Three Supervisors of the Checklist (one 6-year term, one 4-year term, one 2-year term)

Open School District Positions:

- Two School Board positions (3-year terms)

Any Bedford registered voter wishing to file for Office must do so by contacting Town Clerk Sally Kellar at 472-3550. The clerk will be available during office hours at the Town Office Building, 24 North Amherst Road and until 5 PM on the last day of filing.

As per RSA 669:19 candidates who file on the last day of the filing period shall do so in person before the Town Clerk.

2. BCTV in High Definition – BCTV has launched our first and one of the first in the nation community high definition channels on December 11, 2019. Please visit Comcast Channel 1072 to view your local community broadcast in high definition. Also please join me in congratulating Bill Jennings, Station Manager and the entire team at BCTV for bringing this great service to the community.
3. Family Snowman Challenge – build a snowman in your own yard and submit a picture by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Be sure to challenge your friends and neighbors!
4. January 9<sup>th</sup> – Thursday Theater 2-4 PM & 6:30-8:30 PM “Downton Abbey” – Library.
5. January 12<sup>th</sup> – Snowflake Shuffle road race. Avoid Old Bedford Road, Donald Street, Holbrook between 8:30 and 11:00 AM. There may be delays on Route 101. The race starts and ends at the Copper Door site.
6. January 20<sup>th</sup> – The Town Office Building, Library, and Transfer Station will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
7. January 21<sup>st</sup> – Extended hours to register to vote. The cutoff to register to vote prior to the Primary is February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
8. January 25<sup>th</sup> – Stuff A Cruiser for the Bedford Community Food Panty, 10 AM-2 PM, Harvest Market.
9. February 1<sup>st</sup> – Educational Farm at Joppa Hill, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Snow Ball Gala, 7 PM, Murphy’s Taproom, Bedford, NH. Tickets can be purchased online.

## **8. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Councilor Rombeau was glad to have Mr. Sawyer back and is glad he is doing better. She mentioned that the Energy Commission was discussing doing a Town clean-up day. If anybody is interested or wants to reach out to her, she’s offered to help start planning it. Councilor Bandazian mentioned the Energy Commission’s Green Business Award. They are hoping to make that award on Earth Day and it’s to recognize a local business that has done something outstanding. In the past they’ve done it for energy efficient building construction design, energy efficient building construction itself as well as recycling in the case of Hannaford, which does a great job of recycling their waste. The application form is on the Energy Commission website. Anyone can nominate a business; it doesn’t have to be the business itself that comes forward.

Councilor Bandazian stated that this was the last year of his current term on the Council and with all of the projects he’s been involved with members of the Council, Department Heads over many years, many issues still requiring major work, probably not too many days have gone by this year that he hasn’t thought about what it would be like to abandon those efforts. He borrowed a quote from a speaker he listened to, ‘I like the mission, I like the people, and the job is open’, so he is going to reapply for re-election.

Councilor Stevens stated that Councilor Bandazian does a great job of keeping them on track and providing institutional knowledge. She is grateful for what he has done for the community and the Council. She mentioned that her daughters competed at the cheer competition in Florida and are the National champions. She commented on the

community coming together and thanked the businesses, athletes, parents, and coaches for showing the rest of the country what Bedford was made out of. She talked about her missing dog and how through social media and some of the Facebook sites dedicated to the Town and people out looking for the dog, the community came together and it warmed her heart. Her dog was found and she thanked everyone in Town and the neighborhood for helping out.

Councilor Ricciardi thanked her co-Councilors for their time and energy that they put into this volunteer position. In the nine months that she's been on the Town Council she's learned so much and looks forward to the coming year. One of her personal goals for 2020 was to improve communication between the Councilors and the various boards and subcommittees that they all represent. When there is an overlap between boards, committee agenda and mission items, those boards should work together versus separately. The collaboration and communication are paramount to the success.

Councilor Greazzo was glad that everyone had a happy new year.

Councilor Gilbert thanked everyone who purchased a Christmas tree from the Bedford Men's Club. It was another successful year. He thanked the Town Manager for putting the up the notice for the EFJH Snowball Gala. He mentioned that the Farm is not funded by the Town. They are funded by donations and grants and volunteers. They sell meat and eggs and are going to start selling produce. They are pretty much doing it on their own and doing pretty well. They have a lot of improvements and lofty goals and they can use all of the support they can get.

Chairman Duschatko thanked his colleagues on the Council and the Department Heads and their employees for their hard work and support.

**9. NON-PUBLIC – RSA 91-A:3 II (if necessary)**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION by Councilor Bandazian to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Greazzo. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

Public Session ended at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford