

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
TOWN COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2018
BEDFORD MEETING ROOM
10 MEETINGHOUSE ROAD**

1. ROLL CALL: A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2018 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Rd. Present were Kelleigh Murphy (Chairwoman), Chris Bandazian (Vice Chair) and Councilors Catherine Rombeau, David Gilbert, Melissa Stevens, Bill Duschatko, and Councilor-elect Phil Grezzo. Also present was Town Manager Rick Sawyer.

Chairwoman Murphy opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Councilor Gilbert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Clerk Lori Radke swore in newly elected Town Moderator Bill Klein.

2. TAKING OATH OF OFFICE BY NEW COUNCILORS

Town Clerk Lori Radke swore in new Councilor Phil Grezzo, reelected Councilor Bill Duschatko and reelected Councilor Melissa Stevens.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chairwoman Murphy opened up the nominations for Chairman.

MOTION by Councilor Gilbert to nominate Bill Duschatko for Chairman. Seconded by Councilor Murphy.

Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

Chairman Duschatko opened up the nominations for Vice Chairman.

MOTION by Councilor Murphy to nominate Melissa Stevens for Vice Chairwoman. Seconded by Councilor Rombeau.

Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

4. BOARD & COMMISSION ASSIGNMENTS

MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council make the following appointments:

Planning Board – reappoint Mac McMahan as a regular member with a term expiring in 2021; reappoint Jon Levenstein as a regular

member with a term expiring in 2021; appoint Rene Pincince as a regular member with a term expiring in 2019; appoint Matt Sullivan as an alternate member with a term expiring in 2021.

Zoning Board of Adjustment – appoint Kevin Duhaime as a regular member with a term expiring in 2021; reappoint Leonard Green as an alternate member with a term expiring in 2021; appoint Dave Gilbert as an alternate member with a term expiring in 2019.

Parks & Recreation Commission – reappoint Diane Phelps as a regular member with a term expiring in 2021; reappoint Christine Donati as a regular member with a term expiring in 2021.

Historic District Commission – reappoint Judy Perry as a regular member with a term expiring in 2021; appoint William Granfield as a regular member with a term expiring in 2019.

Conservation Commission – reappoint James Drake as a regular member with a term expiring in 2021; reappoint Dave Gambaccini as a regular member with a term expiring in 2021; reappoint Beth Evarts as a regular member with a term expiring in 2021.

Energy Commission – reappoint John Russell as a member with a term expiring in 2021; appoint Bing Lu as a member with a term expiring in 2021; appoint William Coder as a member with a term expiring in 2019.

Water & Sewer Advisory Committee – reappoint Richard Moore as a member with a term expiring in 2021; appoint Scott Bourcier as a member with a term expiring in 2019.

Highway Safety Committee – reappoint Bill Jean as a regular member with a term expiring in 2021; appoint Julio Nunez as an alternate member with a term expiring in 2021.

BCTV Board of Overseers – reappoint Peter Macdonald as a member with a term expiring in 2021.

WBNH-LPFM Radio Board of Overseers – reappoint Bob Thomas as a member with a term expiring in 2021; reappoint Phil Bruno as a member with a term expiring in 2021; appoint Thomas Elwood as a member with a term expiring in 2021.

Cemetery Trustees – reappoint David Bailey as a Cemetery Trustee with a term expiring in 2021.

Town Treasurer – appoint Thomas Sauser as Town Treasurer with a term expiring in 2019.

Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed –7-0.

Chairman Duschatko read the appointments of Councilors to Boards & Commissions:

Planning Board

Primary: Chris Bandazian

Alternate: Kelleigh Murphy

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Primary: Melissa Stevens

Bedford Community Television (BCTV)

Primary: Melissa Stevens

Alternate: Chris Bandazian

Conservation Commission

Primary: Catherine Rombeau

Alternate: Phil Greazzo

Energy Commission

Primary: Chris Bandazian

Alternate: Catherine Rombeau

Highway Safety Committee

Primary: Kelleigh Murphy

Alternate: Bill Duschatko

Historic District Commission

Primary: Catherine Rombeau

Alternate: Phil Greazzo

Merrimack Valley Water District

Primary: Bill Duschatko

Alternate: Dave Gilbert

Parks & Recreation Commission

Primary: Dave Gilbert

Alternate: Bill Duschatko

School Board

Primary: Bill Duschatko

Alternate: Melissa Stevens

Water & Sewer Advisory Committee

Primary: Phil Greazzo

Alternate: Kelleigh Murphy

WBNH-LPFM Radio Board of Overseers

Primary: Dave Gilbert

Alternate: Bill Duschatko

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Award of Liberty Hill Road Contract

Jeff Foote, Public Works Director and Jeanne Walker, Town Engineer, came forward to present to the Council. Mr. Foote stated that five vendors took out bids, four people submitted bids and Continental Paving was the low bidder. The project will include Liberty Hill Rd, Gage Rd, Pheasant Run, portions of Barrington, Sebbins Rd, Sandy Pond Parkway, Teaberry Lane, Mulberry Lane, and may be another one in that area.

Chairman Duschatko wanted to know if they would clean up the section of Old English Rd that goes out to Liberty Hill at the same time they are doing Barrington. Mr. Foote stated that they hadn't put a lot of thought into that, but that's the type of thing they typically do. The bid is based on estimated quantities. They can assign the contract to increase or decrease quantities and they could look at that and address it. Chairman Duschatko mentioned that the contract calls for a reconstruction of the existing sidewalk. Mr. Foote confirmed that it does and explained that on Liberty Hill Rd between McKelvie School and Karen Road, there is some sidewalk there that they are proposing to reconstruct as part of the roadway improvements to Liberty Hill Road. Councilor Duschatko wanted to know if that violated the terms of the bond. Mr. Foote stated that it does and they can itemize those costs out towards local roads if that's an acceptable alternative. Councilor Rombeau wanted to know if the sidewalk had to come up as part of the project and then put it back. Mr. Foote stated that they need to put the curbing back regardless. The only additional expense would be for the asphalt sidewalk between McKelvie School and Karen Road. They need to replace the curbing because there is some drainage in the area that they have to direct the water and use the curbing as the method to do that. Councilor Murphy thought that there was currently a sidewalk and they were going to take the sidewalk up and replacing it with sidewalk. Mr. Foote stated that that's what they are doing. Councilor Murphy thought that where there is an existing sidewalk and they have to take it up to do the roadwork and then replacing it with sidewalk, she didn't think that that runs afoul of the language prohibiting sidewalk construction in the road bond, because they are simply replacing that which they are removing. Mr. Sawyer stated that they are aware of that restriction and they wouldn't spend road bond money; it's not allowed. They would review that with the Finance Director and report back to the Council. Chairman Duschatko felt the same way as Councilor Murphy, but wanted clarification. Mr. Sawyer stated that they would

leave it in the project and will report back to the Council after they've reviewed the bonding language with the Finance Director and legal counsel if necessary. It's not a major expense and if they had to do it from local roads, it's not an issue.

Councilor Stevens wanted to know if they used local roads money if they would be prohibiting themselves from doing something else that they would be doing this year. Mr. Foote didn't think it would be more than \$5k or \$8k.

Chairman Duschatko wanted to know if the water system goes through Back River Rd this year, would this project be postponed until 2019. Mr. Foote explained that they came up with two projects that are approximate to that project knowing that there was a strong possibility Liberty Hill Rd would not be constructed in 2018. They are working on plans for Gage Rd, Barrington, Pheasant Run, and the Sandy Pond Parkway area and are prepared to move forward with those. Ms. Walker stated that they put language in the contract that states that Continental will hold their bid prices if the Liberty Hill Rd work doesn't go forward this year; they will hold it and do that work in 2019.

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council approve the award of the Liberty Hill Road Reconstruction project to Continental Paving, Inc., of Londonderry, NH, in the amount of \$3,139,037.50 and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract and issue change orders as appropriate to complete construction. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

Chairman Duschatko complimented the Public Works Department clearing the roads during the snowstorms. He had a comment from a non-resident that travels through Bedford and notices how clear the roads are once she gets into Bedford. The roads are so much better and so much better maintained. Mr. Foote stated that it's a great team effort and thanked the Council for all of their support.

Mr. Sawyer stated that they had a public meeting for the Sebbins Pond area prior to the Budgetary Town Meeting and they had a much greater turn out at that neighborhood meeting than they did at the Budgetary Town Meeting.

b. Adoption of New Ambulance Billing Rates

Theresa Young, Finance Director and Scott Wiggin, Fire Chief, came forward to present. Ms. Young stated that they are asking the Council to increasing the ambulance rate to mirror the Comstar Top 15 NH rates. Ms. Young explained that the increase would provide a 7-8% increase on what they could potentially collect. It wouldn't affect any Medicare or Medicaid, because those rates are set and are far below the Top 15 NH rates. Ms. Young explained that they started contracting with Comstar in 1999 and renewed with them in 2016. They renegotiated the fee that they charge and went from 7.5% of what they collect to 6.5%. Currently they collect about \$1 million for the Town. Every year Comstar gives the Town rates to consider and they bring them to the Town

Manager. Back in 2013, the Town Manager Jessie Levine and Finance Director Crystal Dionne brought the rate and rate structure to Town Council. In 2016, they actually asked the Council to change the structure from a la carte to a bundled structure. They would like to continue with the bundled structure, but would like to adopt the Top 15. The Town's collection rate is 80%. They receive about 25% of what's billed for Medicare. An increase to the NH Top 15 really affects those paying through the insurance company. Ms. Young referred to a breakdown of the different kinds of services and different kinds of rates and the activity tracking report for 2017.

Chief Wiggin explained the different ambulance services and how the rates are different depending on the type of care.

Councilor Murphy mentioned the collection rates from insured going down and wanted to know if that was something that was a statewide and nationwide issue. She also knows that Bedford's collection rate was much higher than some of the neighboring communities. Ms. Young stated that it mirrors what happens in the other communities in New Hampshire, but wouldn't say it was true nationally. Mr. Sawyer stated that sometimes it takes a number of years to actually collect from the insurance companies.

Councilor Murphy wanted to know when they finally get the money from the insurance companies, if the statistics for the prior years updated or does it roll into statistics for the current year. Ms. Young explained that they are rolled into the year that they were originally billed for. Chairman Duschatko wanted to know how they account for that in current revenues. Ms. Young explained that in current revenues they actually do right-offs. When they went to do the budget, they expected what they might receive for revenues and they take 20% of that out so they aren't using it to reduce the tax rate. They are not budgeted for. Mr. Sawyer thought Chairman Duschatko was asking if the Town gets a payment from a previous year, how it is accounted for. Ms. Young explained that if they've accounted for 80% and they get more than 80%, it will go into 2017, but they count it as a 2018 inside of the budget, but in the reporting it's going to show for a prior year; it's a prior year revenue.

Chief Wiggin stated that Comstar suggested they do a non-transport fee. Currently, if they respond to a residence and it's a lift assist or a diabetic where they restore the person's blood sugar levels, and then they leave, there is no charge. Comstar was looking for them to do a 50% charge for the service, but they opted not to do it, but keep it as a service for the individuals in the community. Councilor Murphy asked about an overdose situation and wanted to know if those were all transports. Chief Wiggin stated that it depended on the results of the treatment. If somebody had been Narcan'd and responds and becomes coherent, sometimes they just take off, so there's nothing more they can do, but if they do get transported, they do get billed.

Chairman Duschatko wanted to know about the NH Top 15 billers and their prices and if they were negotiated with the insurance companies. Ms. Young stated that the Town doesn't negotiate with all of the insurance companies. Instead, they subscribe with Comstar for the billing services. They are not individually contracting with the insurance

companies. Chairman Duschatko wanted to know why they don't go to the top of that in terms of their rates. Ms. Young stated that that would be a large increase. The Council could approve more of an increase. The people that it's going to affect are those that are insured and have the high deductible health plans.

Councilor Stevens mentioned a Bedford mom that was having some problems with billing and how the service gets coded and arguing back and forth with the insurance company to get the service covered. Their child was taken by ambulance as a necessity but the insurance company is saying that it wasn't an emergency. She wanted to know who decides how the trip is billed. Chief Wiggin stated that the ambulance does certain coding and then it goes to Comstar, but if there is a discrepancy in the coding of it, speaking to Comstar directly, they can usually work through those problems. Sometimes it's frustrating for people to call Comstar or the insurance company, but if they have a problem, call the Town and they can initiate it on their end. They are in contact with Comstar all the time for discrepancies or right-offs, etc.

Councilor Stevens mentioned conversations with people, and it's been brought up that in a lot of circumstances people have coverage where the insurance company only pays 80% and they have to meet the yearly deductible first. She wanted to know if the increase would increase the amount of money that people in Town would have to pay who have those sorts of coverages. Ms. Young stated that it could happen. Councilor Stevens mentioned people calling an Uber to go to the hospital instead of an ambulance, because of the cost of the ambulance services. She's hesitant to pass the increase, because it seems to be a sensitive topic and people are shocked by the price of ambulance services. They understand why the cost and are grateful for the services they receive, but she needs more convincing as to why they would vote for the increase. Chief Wiggin explained that the insurance industry was driving a lot of the prices. They encourage people to go to urgent care prior to calling an ambulance, but they have so many people that do not have a primary care physician and use the emergency room as their primary physician and that's very costly. He thought the insurance system was somewhat broken and people misuse it. Mr. Sawyer explained that they are trying to balance a user fee versus the tax base. A lot of people use the ambulance service who do not live in Town. If they don't increase the ambulance rates, the taxpayers who maybe aren't using the service are having to make up that difference. It's almost a pay as you go, user fee type situation. Although there is no way to cover the full cost of the fire department, but having the users who are using the ambulance helps offset the impact to the taxpayer. Ms. Young added that it reduces the subsidy, because the \$900k they collect in revenues doesn't cover everything that they do for the ambulance services, so by not increasing the rate, they are leaving \$9,200 on the table. If they hold the rate constant, they are leaving the money on the table that doesn't even affect the folks that have the high deductible. It's the folks that come from Manchester or the people that live somewhere else and work in Bedford. So it's not just the Bedford residents. The 7% is a \$9,200 change. If they don't change the rates and they stay consistent with the rates they have, they will fall far behind. They fell almost 13% behind one year and they've already waiting two years to ask for an increase. It's going to increase the subsidy. If it's not coming from revenues it's coming from taxes.

Councilor Rombeau wanted to know what the rate increase was in 2016. Ms. Young stated that the increase in 2016 was only a 3 or 3.5% increase. The Top 50 for the United States is 21% increase, but they don't recommend that.

Councilor Murphy mentioned an email from Comstar to Ms. Young where he lays out the average rates and then the Top 15. She wanted to know what Bedford was currently charging for BLS, ALS-1, and ALS-2. Ms. Young explained that the BLS current rate is \$1,157.80k and they are recommending that it goes up by 7.6% to \$1,245.52. Chairman Duschatko thought where they are getting hit is the low rates for Medicaid and Medicare, so the taxpayers of Bedford are subsidizing the Medicaid and Medicare patients. They can't continue to do that. He wanted to know if they had a good handle on what it is costing per trip or service call. Chief Wiggin stated that it's almost impossible because of the cross-training of the personnel. Councilor Bandazian stated that on the subject of the cost of providing the service, he mentioned that Senate Bill 552 is still pending, that bill would require the Town to maintain a list of trauma facilities within 75 miles and will make mandatory a trip to any hospital selected by the patient who the person in authority to direct where the patient goes within an hour. That will mean that they will be sending ambulances down to Boston, which could mean an hour down and 3 hours to get back. It will take ambulances off the road and instead of being a 10 mile round trip it will be a hundred mile round trip. The wear and tear on the ambulance fleet will be compounded. Councilor Murphy stated that having personal experience with that thought that sometimes that's important.

Councilor Greazzo mentioned the Medicare and Medicaid line and that the total charges versus the allowable charges were significantly different. He wanted to know why the total allowable was so significantly lower than the total charges and also wanted to know if they could bill differently to different insurance agencies. Ms. Young stated that they can't negotiate Medicaid or Medicare at all. She referred to a page in the staff report where it shows what Medicare will reimburse them for. It's set by the Federal Government. It's what they determine is the best most reasonable cost to reimburse the Town for their services. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if the Town could vary the rate across the different providers rather than the patient. Ms. Young stated that they don't directly contract with insurance companies. If they directly contracted with them, they could charge different rates. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if she thought it would be advantageous for them to attempt that or stick to the current system. Ms. Young didn't think it would be, because the Town is actually small compared to others.

Mr. Sawyer pointed out that the Council has the option of changing the staff recommended motion to be more of an annual increase, so that they don't have to consider it every year. They could change the motion and just have it annually be the Top 15 NH rates.

Councilor Stevens wanted to know when they could negotiate Comstar's fee again. Ms. Young thought they were going out to bid this year, but the contract goes through September 2019. Councilor Stevens was wondering if the Town could increase their rate and ask Comstar to decrease their rate a little bit. Ms. Young stated that when they

looked in 2016 and negotiated down 1%, it was the average of what the other organizations were charging. They did do a three year, 2016-2019, to keep services consistent for three years.

MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council approve an increase in the ambulance rate to mirror the current Comstar Top 15 NH Client rates and authorize the Town Manager to effect such changes. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert.

Councilor Bandazian mentioned the Town Manager's suggestion wanted to know if it should be an annual increase. Councilor Murphy was not comfortable amending her motion to allow it to be an annual increase. Chairman Duschatko thought they should deal with it on an annual basis. Councilor Rombeau agreed. Chairman Duschatko wanted to know what the other 14 Top 15 were and Ms. Young stated that they don't disclose it anymore. Councilor Stevens wanted to know if Comstar had a direct competitor. Chief Wiggin mentioned that there was one in Connecticut and one out west that does it, but there is a large percentage in the NE area that use Comstar. They are not the only one, but they are the largest.

Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0-1 (Rombeau-nay).

c. Schedule a Public Hearing – Consideration of Ordinance 2018-01 to expand the Sewer District

Jeff Foote, Public Works Director and Jeanne Walker, Town Engineer, came forward came forward to present.

Mr. Sawyer explained that this request came from a private property owner who owns three properties on Old Bedford Road. It's something that under the Town Council's jurisdiction. It's been before the Planning Board as a design review project for a 150 bed assisted living complex. It went to the Water & Sewer Advisory Committee where there was a vote to support the project on a 3-2 vote. The minutes of that meeting will be supplied when they are available. After watching the meeting, he thought that those that voted against the project were concerned about the potential of undue pressure that extending sewer to those three parcels could have if the project weren't to move forward in the future. It's under the Council's abilities to make modifications to the map under Article 212-3 and the request is to schedule a public hearing on April 18th.

Mr. Foote explained that the developer was proposing to work with the BVI and introduce a gravity line that will serve these three lots, the BVI site, and head easterly to a catch basin. They are proposing to extend the municipal sewer to those three lots for a 150 bed assisted living facility and to eliminate a private wastewater pump station. Mr. Sawyer added that water already exists in the roadway adjacent to the property and the sewer has been extended by the applicant through the Bedford Grand property right up to their property line.

MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council schedule a public hearing for Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 7:00 PM to discuss Ordinance 2018-01 amending Chapter 212-14 the municipal sewer district map to include Map 10, Lots 50-3, 50-5 and 50-6 for a proposed 150 bed assisted living facility. Seconded by Councilor Stevens. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

Chairman Duschatko read the proposed ordinance:

*Town of Bedford, NH
Ordinance #2018-01*

*Amending Chapter 212-14 of the Code of Ordinances
Sewer District Map*

WHEREAS, The Bedford Town Council has plenary authority over the Town of Bedford Sewer System; and

WHEREAS, The Bedford Town Council has the authority to define that area of the Town which is located within the sewer district, and, from time to time, may amend the boundaries of the sewer district; and

WHEREAS, The Bedford Town Council has received a request to amend the boundaries of the sewer district.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN OF BEDFORD ORDAINS that the Bedford Town Council has voted to amend the Town of Bedford Sewer Ordinance as follows:

The Sewer District Map, provided for under Section 212-14 of the Town of Bedford Sewer Ordinance, shall be amended to include within the sewer district Map 10, Lots 50-3, 50-5, and 50-6, for the limited purpose of permitting a 105 unit (150 bed) assisted living facility to be located thereon, subject to the conditions that the waste water from the assisted living facility on the combined lots shall not exceed 21,946 gallons per day and the owner shall be subject to all sewer charges and fees provided for in the Town of Bedford Sewer Ordinance and any or all apportioned capital costs necessary to operate and maintain the Town's municipal sewer system.

Mr. Sawyer stated that the ordinance was drafted by the Director of Public Works along with the Town attorney to make sure it was in conformance with the requirements.

d. Consideration of a letter in support of the Granite State Power Link project

Mr. Sawyer explained that it was a request that came from the proponents of the Granite State Powerlink project shortly after the Northern Pass project lost their proposed project. Granite State Powerlink presented to the Council conceptually on May 10, 2017 and their project would bring 1,200 megawatts of power from Canada to NE, primarily Massachusetts. The line that they would use is the existing right-of-way easements that National Grid owns through Bedford off of Back River Road and across 101 up 114 to the Market Basket. The proposal was to leave the center tallest power lines and power polls in place and utilize and upgrade to the polls that are on the outside of the tallest piece.

Mr. Sawyer stated that the Council was under no obligation to issue any kind of letter, but the request was made and it was placed on the agenda.

MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council table this item pending public input and additional information. Seconded by Councilor Greazzo.

Mr. Sawyer wanted to know if it was to table it to the next meeting. Councilor Murphy stated that it's tabled until such time as they take it off the table. She would like to see how other communities handle it first.

Mr. Sawyer stated that he requested from the Granite Power Link proponents to get copies of the other letters they've received.

Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

e. Discussion of the Media Policy, Code of Conduct, and TC Rules of Procedure

Chairman Duschatko stated that these are to be reviewed and then discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Councilor Stevens wanted to clarify the role of the primary member of the committee and the alternate member and that there be communication between the two if the primary member can't be at a meeting. There are some committees in which it's important for both Councilors to be present, because they can serve as voting members. Mr. Sawyer stated that the Council appointed somebody to the Zoning Board so potentially there could be two Councilors voting at Zoning Board meetings going forward. For all other committees, only one Councilor would be voting, but it's vitally important that the two Council appointees talk to each other if the other one is not going to be there to make sure there's coverage.

Councilor Gilbert mentioned a problem they had last year and wanted to clarify that he's an alternate for the Zoning Board and if he goes to that meeting, he's a voter. Mr. Sawyer stated that if there's a regular member absent and the Chairperson appoints him as a voting member. Councilor Rombeau added that the Chairperson could appoint another alternate member as a voting member. Mr. Sawyer stated that Councilor Gilbert was just a citizen member of the Zoning Board who happens to be a Councilor. Councilor Gilbert explained that last year there was an issue where a primary did not contact a secondary to be there. Mr. Sawyer stated that on the Zoning Board, he should be trying to attend every meeting, because he could be a voting member at any point. Chairman Duschatko stated that there is no primary or secondary on the Zoning Board. The Council doesn't have a position on the Zoning Board. They are serving as citizens and have taken it upon themselves to fill in those roles.

Chairman Duschatko stated that in the next couple of weeks if anybody wants to make any proposed amendments to any of these policies, they should submit them to the Town Manager's office or to him for review and they will get them on the agenda.

Councilor Rombeau thought it would be useful to revisit them with some of the Board chairs if there was miscommunication or confusion about how the voting works or alternates versus primary.

Councilor Murphy mentioned that Councilor Bandazian is the primary on the Planning Board and she is the alternate. She wanted to know to what extent she was allowed to participate. 1) She assumed that she may freely participate and encouraged to do so in all discussions; 2) was she was prohibited from making motions. Mr. Sawyer stated that the RSA says that she can participate in all levels up and until the point where a motion is made and then she has to discontinue her involvement. Councilor Murphy wanted to clarify that if there is a motion on the table and there is discussion that's occurring in conjunction with that motion, she may not participate in that discussion and Mr. Sawyer stated that that was correct. She also cannot make a motion unless she's an appointed voting member.

f. Other New Business

Chairman Duschatko mentioned letters received from students in Mr. Lane's class at the Lurgio School regarding plastic waste and how it is bad for the environment. They will not be read into the record, but they will be part of the minutes. They will get back to the students.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. PFC Update

Mr. Sawyer mentioned a PFOA meeting taking place on March 21, 2018 at 6:30 PM at Campbell High School, 1 Highlander Court, Litchfield. They are going to try and broadcast that meeting live on BCTV. The meeting has been posted everywhere. The State will also be holding office hours at the Town Office 24 North Amherst Road, on Thursday, March 22nd.

This will be the final consent decree that will order the work to be done, but he doesn't know the details of what that will actually be.

Councilor Murphy wanted to know if it was odd for the State not to notify Town officials prior to a public meeting announcement. Mr. Sawyer stated that notices went out to everyone this afternoon about 3:00/3:30. Councilor Murphy wanted to know if he anticipated contact prior to the meeting letting him know what was going on. Mr. Sawyer stated that there was going to be a public officials meeting at 4:00 pm prior to the public meeting. Chairman Duschatko wanted to know if any of them could go to that meeting. Ms. Sawyer stated that they would have to schedule it as a Council meeting.

The State was asking for what they typically have had in previous meetings with the State, which the Council liaison person as well as the Chairperson. They can have up to three people from the Council go before it becomes a meeting. The Council discussed amongst themselves who was available to go.

Mr. Sawyer stated that there was a chance when they issue their press release that it will have some detail as to what's going to be covered, but as of now, no information has been provided.

Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if any of the State actions would preclude the Town of Bedford from taking its own legal action. Mr. Sawyer stated no, except that the Town has no control over groundwater; that's all within the State purview. Councilor Greazzo meant as far as damages. Mr. Sawyer stated no, he didn't believe there was anything that would preclude them from moving forward on their own.

b. Other Old Business – None.

Chairman Duschatko mentioned that the NH DOT was having a public information meeting in Merrimack, Bedford, and Nashua to review and discuss the proposed widening of three segments of the F.E. Everett Turnpike. The meeting in Bedford is scheduled for Thursday, March 29th at the Town Meeting Room at BCTV, 10 Meetinghouse Road. The meeting will include an informal open house 5-7pm followed by a formal presentation at 7pm and will be aired live from BCTV.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Session – February 21, 2018

MOTION by Councilor Murphy to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2018 Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Stevens. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0-1 (Greazzo abstained as he was not present at that meeting).

9. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- 1) The most recent election during a significant snow storm (approximately 2') we had 2,448 voters or 14% turnout. The postponed local election of 2017 we had a similar number 2,491 or 14%. Both are down from the 2016 election where we had 3,558 voters or 21%.
- 2) The Route 101 widening work has restarted for the year and the State has implemented the restriction of: No Left Turns, Bedford Center Road onto Route 101.
- 3) Registration for Camp Witzel summer camp and other summer camp programs are now open and information is available through the Recreation page of the Town Website <http://bedfordreconline.com/info/activities/>
- 4) The property at 28 South River Road was scheduled to be before the Planning Board in January. They pulled the project back, but it's scheduled to be at the

Planning Board on Monday night. It's to replace that beat up building on South River Road. It has changed from being retail to being to being a restaurant.

- 5) The Tax Collector has issued 175 lien notices and is preparing 4 properties for potential deeding and 1 property is scheduled to be auctioned in April.
- 6) The Town Master Plan RFP has been out for a couple of weeks. It is due back by the end of this month and then there will be a selection committee put forward to recommend award of that contract and that will come to the Council.
- 7) March 20th – “Until Help Arrives”, presented by Bedford CERT, 6:30-8:30 PM, Saint Elizabeth Seton Church, 190 Meetinghouse Road.
- 8) March 21st – Bedford Historical Society: Poor Houses and Town Farms: The Hard Row for Paupers, 6:30-8:30 PM, Bedford Library.
- 9) March 25th, Bedford Lions Club 40th Annual Pancake Breakfast, 7:30-11:30 AM, Town Hall.
- 10) March 28th – BeBOLD Bedford, “Understanding How to Parent So that Children Can Succeed: Addressing Childhood Anxiety and its Potential Pathway towards Substance Abuse”, 7 PM, Bedford High School Auditorium.
- 11) March 29th – NHDOT- Widening of the F.E. Everett Turnpike from Nashua to Bedford, Open House 5-7 PM, Presentation at 7 PM, Town Meeting Room, BCTV.
- 12) March 29th – Easter Extravaganza Crafts & Egg Dying, 9:30-10:30 AM & 4-5 PM, Town Hall.
- 13) April – 1st – The Library will be closed for Easter.
- 14) April 8th – Sunday Concert Series, 2:30 PM, Bedford Library, “Permanent Vacation” – soft rock.
- 15) April 9th – “Hiding in Plain Sight” – A Social Media/Human Trafficking Summit, 6:30 PM, Manchester Christian Church, 56 Old Bedford Road.

10. COUNCILOR COMMENTS

Councilor Gilbert congratulated Phil, Bill and Melissa on their election. He acknowledged that Lori Radke did a fantastic job with the voting. He thought the plow drivers did a fantastic job. He stated that the snow is going to start melting and people will be walking so drivers be careful. He was disappointed that only 14% of voters voted. He heard that the citizen's police academy was starting up again. They are booked, but you get a chance to do it, it's fantastic.

Councilor Murphy congratulated everyone who was elected. Best wishes to Brian Shaughnessy who did a fantastic job as Town Moderator. He will be sorely missed. Congratulations to Bill Klein on taking his place. Congratulations to Bill and Melissa on their new leadership positions. She thanked Jeff and everyone at public works. She had an amazing time doing a ride along with a plow truck and she learned a lot. She stated that the last day of school is currently scheduled for Wednesday, June 20th. Chip McGee, School Superintendent went to the State and had the two weather cancellations from October's windstorm not taken against their snow days, so once those were not counted as opposed to being counted, it rolled it the last day from the 22nd to the 20th. She thanked her vice chair Chris Bandazian. He has all of the information and always does his homework and he's been an invaluable resource for her on the Council.

Councilor Rombeau was grateful to Public Works on Election Day. She learned a lot from getting to do the plow ride along. She expressed her appreciation for how many people work hard all day. It's a tremendous effort. She encouraged people to come. She felt good being there. Being part of Town elections really cements their sense of community.

Councilor Bandazian congratulated Bill, Phil, and Melissa on their election and reelections. He thanked outgoing Chairwoman Murphy for a very constructive and productive year. He appreciates her kind remarks. In response to the Lurgio students' concerns, he'll work with Dawn on getting a link to a website that provides locations in Town that accept plastic bags for recycling. They will get that posted on the Energy Commission's Recycling heading. Councilor Rombeau thought could be a good opportunity for the Energy Commission and the students to connect.

Councilor Stevens thanked Lori and Gloria and everyone that they work with and Brian and his team, because they did a lot of great work. She thought they run one of the best Election Days. It's an opportunity for people to feel part of the community. She thanked everyone who re-elected her. She appreciated the support of her friends. She thanked everyone for the Vice Chairmanship. She knows that she and Bill will make them proud. She mentioned the Our Promise to Nicholas Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 31st at 8:30am until 12pm at the Sportsplex.

Chairman Duschatko thanked everyone for voting for all of them. Even the ones that didn't prevail. He thought it was a great show out in lousy weather. It was totally supported by the efforts of Lori Radke and Brian Shaughnessy and the help of Bill Klein and all of the poll workers. He thanked all of his colleagues for having the faith in him to provide a good leadership role. He thanked Kelleigh for helping him out in pronunciations and how to run a vote.

11. NON-PUBLIC – RSA 91-A:3 II

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Councilor Murphy to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

The meeting ended at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford