

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 12, 2019
BEDFORD MEETING ROOM
10 MEETINGHOUSE ROAD**

1. ROLL CALL: A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 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. Councilor Stevens arrived a few minutes after the start.

Chairman Duschatko opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Councilor Gilbert.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Jennifer Healy, 32 Wellesley Drive, talked about the ‘no left turn’ from Bedford Center Road onto Route 101. She didn’t think the three signs indicating ‘no left turn’ were a deterrent. Her and her son were nearly killed last week when someone ran through the no left turn sign and had her son not screamed, they would have been t-boned. She careened into the gravel and had there been a Continental worker there, she would have killed him. She stated that she called the police chief looking for solutions and she got excuses. She thought that because of all of the road construction, residents are getting frustrated and looking for a shortcut. She stated that at 5:30pm last week there were six cars cued up to make that illegal left and around 3:00pm there were three cars. She had photos and gave them to the Council. She mentioned that the Highway Safety Committee wasn’t meeting until the end of July, which was disturbing to her considering they are in the height of road construction. She thought they had to do something to protect the citizens and that’s why the Council was elected. She urged them not to wait until somebody gets killed or hurt. The signs aren’t getting it done and they need to do something more. She understood that the police were understaffed, but didn’t understand why they couldn’t have some police presence during rush hour. She urged the Council to please do something, because the apathy was disturbing.

Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if Ms. Healy had any suggestions of what could be done. Ms. Healy mentioned putting cones just past Chandler Road with a sign that said ‘local traffic only’. She talked to NHDOT and they thought that was a brilliant idea. They said they couldn’t do it because it’s a Bedford Road. It would cost the Town no money and would be a better deterrent and would give people a chance to do a U-turn on Chandler Road as opposed to trying to do a U-turn at the end. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if they were able to ask the NHDOT or Continental Paving put a flagger at the intersection while they are there working. Ms. Healy stated that according to NHDOT, it’s a Bedford road, so they can’t, but putting some cones with ‘closed to local traffic only sign’ would be more than acceptable.

Councilor Bandazian wanted to know if Ms. Healy observed much right hand turning traffic and Ms. Healy responded no, she didn't observe any. Councilor Bandazian thought maybe a jersey barrier blocking off that lane may do the trick. They talked about the traffic back-up on Meetinghouse Road and Wallace Road.

Chairman Duschatko stated that they have discussed it with the Police Department and he's corresponded with Ms. Healy regarding those discussions. They are looking for solutions; one that was considered was a jersey barrier to prevent left-hand turns as Councilor Bandazian suggested, but he understands that the NHDOT was not in favor of that. Councilor Greazzo mentioned a jersey barrier at the end of the lane that gets to make the left or right to exit Bedford Center Road onto Route 101. It would still allow right turns onto Bedford Center Road for those travelling west on Route 101. Chairman Duschatko stated that they will bring it up with the DPW.

4. Meeting update with the Town Clerk

Sally Kellar, Town Clerk, stated that since taking her oath she has had the pleasure to meet a lot of new residents and other friends she knows in Town. She's had some training: new clerk workshop, Regional Town Clerk Association meeting, ElectionNet training, and vital records training. There has been a lot of dog registrations and marriage licenses. She talked about the State rep resignation and a possible special election. If the Council decides to have a special election, they would need to get approval from the Executive Council. Once the Executive Council approves it, the ball gets rolling and the election has to be completed within 110 -124 days. The discussion about this is going to take place at the June 26th Council meeting. She's been putting together what the rules are such as how many ballot clerks they need, how many polling booths they need to set up, and she's been putting together a budget to see what it cost to do the Town election. Historically, special elections don't get high voter turnout.

Councilor Greazzo wanted to know how many days or months until the next State rep election. Mr. Sawyer stated that it's a full year away. The option would be to leave the seat vacant for the full year or hold a special election.

Councilor Bandazian thought it made sense to wait until after Labor Day to hold a special election. Ms. Kellar didn't think anything would take place until after school is back in session. There has to be a primary before the special election if there is more than one person interested in any party. If there is only one Democrat and one Republican running, there doesn't have to be a primary.

Chairman Duschatko wanted to know how much time they had for that decision. Ms. Kellar stated that once the Executive Council approves it, which they meet on a Wednesday, the five days of filing is the following Monday through Friday. Mr. Sawyer stated that the decision about primary or no primary is based on if people apply or not. Chairman Duschatko wanted to know what happens if they had two in one party and one in the other and Ms. Kellar stated that they would have to have a primary. The special election occurs between the 100 and 124 days and the primary is so many days

before that. If they wait too long to get to the Executive Council, one of the dates that was calculated is the Tuesday right before Thanksgiving.

Councilor Stevens wanted to know when the Executive Council meets next. Ms. Kellar thought the next one would be July 10th. Mr. Sawyer stated that this would be an agenda item at the Council's next meeting on June 26th. The Town Clerk will have it all laid out as to the schedule and the cost and there would have to be a request to the Council to transfer funds from the unallocated budget to cover it. They need to find a venue and school will be in session.

Councilor Gilbert wanted to know the remaining term of the rep that resigned and Mr. Sawyer stated that it would be the remainder of the term, which is a 2-year term, so it would be one year.

Councilor Stevens thought that if the Council decides not to, the Executive Council could still make the decision to make them have a special election. She wanted to know if there was an instance where a town decided not to hold a special election and the Executive Council hasn't made them. Mr. Sawyer didn't have that answer. He thought if it was during the 2nd year, a lot of communities would forgo filling the seat, but where it's not very far into the term, he thought most communities would request to move forward. Because of the number of voting booths they are required to have, the school is the only venue big enough to hold the election. Ms. Kellar stated that if anyone has suggestions of other venues to let her know.

Mr. Sawyer stated that Sally had been a great addition to the team at the Town Office. She has picked up everything that Lori and Gloria had left. Gloria left a booklet on procedures that's helped tremendously. Gloria has been back to help whenever needed. He couldn't be happier with the work that Sally had done already.

Chairman Duschatko, with no objection, moved the first agenda item under New Business up as the next item.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Civil Forfeiture Warrant for unlicensed dogs

Ms. Kellar stated that they currently have 886 unlicensed dogs including 747 licenses that have not been renewed and 139 dogs that have never been licensed. They know about the unlicensed dogs, because of the rabies certificates that the vets send in. She is requesting that a warrant be issued per RSA 466:14 to authorize the issuance of civil forfeiture letters for each unlicensed dog.

Councilor Greazzo wanted to know what that consisted of. Ms. Kellar explained that 20 days from now a warrant would be issued to her and the animal control officer to issue civil forfeiture letters for each unlicensed dog. She will send out civil forfeiture fine letters, and that 800 should dwindle pretty fast. The civil forfeiture fine will take effect as

of June 23rd. She explained that up until April 30th, it costs \$7.00 to license a spayed or neutered dog. As of May 1st, there is a \$1 monthly late fee, so now people are paying \$8. After civil forfeitures go out, residents are to pay their license fee, any late fees they've incurred, as well as the civil forfeiture fine of \$25. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know what happens if they don't pay the fine. Mr. Sawyer stated that eventually they will go and knock on their door and pursue them until they do. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if they take the dog. Mr. Sawyer stated that they've never taken a dog. He stated that the animal control officer gets very good compliance after Labor Day. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if they are aware of these dogs only because the vet sends a notice that the dogs have been given their rabies shots. Ms. Keller explained that she also has a list of the dogs that were licensed last year. The majority of the dogs that haven't been licensed yet are dogs that have not been renewed for many reasons such as they no longer have the dog or have moved away. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know of the people that have not renewed if she still continues to get updates from their vet that their dogs have received their shots and Ms. Keller responded yes.

Councilor Bandazian pointed out that the license is a way that an injured or stray dog can be matched up with the owner so that it could be returned safely. He thought it was the proper thing to do for dog owners. It's not just for the public safety, but for the safety of the pet as well.

Ms. Keller stated that the price for seniors to register dogs is \$2 and none of that goes back to the State. It costs \$7 for a puppy or spayed or neutered dog and \$10 for an unaltered dog and of that \$7 or \$10, the State takes a total of \$2.5 per dog. She had the list of the unregistered dogs and the dogs that have not been renewed.

MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council pursuant of RSA 466:14 authorize the Town Clerk and Animal Control Officer, on behalf of the Town Council, to send civil forfeiture letters and collect civil forfeiture fines to all dog owners of Bedford who have not licensed their dog as of June 23, 2019. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken–Motion Passed –6-1 (Greazzo-nay).

5. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Consideration of Ordinance 2019-01 amending Chapter 130, Fire Prevention, to require emergency first responder radio coverage equipment in applicable structures**

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

Councilor Greazzo wanted to know how often they haven't had radio coverage in any buildings in Town. Lt. Bernard stated that they don't have operability in the Sportsplex, Iron Horse Drive, and Whole Foods. They did tests at the Friendly Toast and Trader Joes and they had full operability in both buildings. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know

how often they have had a situation where they needed to communication during an emergency or course of business and have not been able to communicate in any building. Lt. Bernard stated that it can happen often; it depends on how many calls for service they get. He didn't have a number on a monthly basis, but it all depends how often they go to the buildings where they know they don't have operability in.

Chairman Duschatko wanted to know if a company puts in a unit if that helped existing properties or adjacent areas. Lt. Bernard stated that it only helps that building, because it's only wired for that building.

Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if this was only for new construction. Lt. Bernard confirmed that it is only for new construction only. Existing buildings are exempt.

Councilor Stevens wanted to know if building owners had this installed if it would help them with their property insurance. Lt. Bernard wasn't sure if they would get money off.

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

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council approve Ordinance 2019-01 amending Chapter 130, Fire Prevention, to include a new Article VI and new Sections 130-21, 22, & 23, and renumbering existing Articles VI through X and existing Sections 130-21 through 39 accordingly. Seconded by Councilor Rombeau. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

b. Proposed Fee Table Amendment

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

Mr. Sawyer explained that the fee table was last revised in 2016. One of the amendments is an increase of \$5 in the fee for a Police detail and an increase in the fee for a Police cruiser being on that detail from \$10 to \$20. Another amendment is the price to load wood chips at the Transfer Station with the range being \$25-\$75 depending on the amount of wood chips being picked up. The rest of the fees in the fee table are either set by State statute, Library Trustees, or the Planning Board.

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

MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council approve the increases in miscellaneous Town fees as presented in the staff report dated June 3, 2019 with an effective date of June 13, 2019. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed –6-1 (Greazzo-nay).

6. NEW BUSINESS

b. Approval of Employee Compensation Wage Ranges and Amendment to the Police Union Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mr. Sawyer explained that the request is for three things: starting new officers at step one in the contract rather than the entry rate or step zero, implementing a hiring bonus for both certified and non-certified officers at different rates as well as a bonus for referrals by existing officers for certified officers only, and adjusting the prosecutor pay range to match the lieutenants as it had in the past.

Chief Bryfonski explained that currently the Police Department has seven sworn vacancies due to four retirements, one new position that has yet to be filled, and two officers have left for other departments, and they have one possibly pending to Manchester, and if that occurs, they would have eight vacancies. There are some factors that are affecting all police departments including lucrative private jobs that pay more money and have more attractive working conditions and scheduling than in police work and negative media attention on law enforcement. Another reason Bedford is not competitive in starting salary, which is about \$49k. Other towns have higher starting salaries than Bedford does. They also found other departments that have more lucrative compensation plans. To be more competitive, they are requesting several ways to attract and retain officers. One is starting officers at a higher entry level salary, step 1, which is a little over \$50k. They would also like to include a bonus payment program for both certified and non-certified applicants to make them even more competitive particularly for certified police officers, because it shortens the timeframe significantly to recruit, hire, train, and bring someone on board and out in the field by almost half. It takes about a year to identify, recruit, bring someone to a conditional offer, run them through a background investigation, put them through 16 weeks of required Police Academy training, and then bring them on board for another 20 weeks of field training. By hiring certified officers, it cuts that timeframe in half and is a significant cost savings. For NH certified officers, they are proposing a \$10k bonus; \$5k would be paid at signing and then the other \$5k just before the end of their probationary period. This would require in a conditional offer in contract that if the employee for any reason leaves voluntarily within five years, they would have to repay that \$10k bonus plus additional damages and fees that incurred during the initial hiring process. For non-certified officers, they are proposing a \$5k bonus; \$2.5k at the beginning of their career and then \$2.5k just before the end of their probation. If they leave within a three year timeframe, they would be required to return the \$5k bonus plus additional costs and fees related to their training and background investigations. They would also incentivize current officers by offering a \$2.5k incentive payment if they recruit a NH certified police officer. That would be contingent upon documentation by the employee and the applicant and subject to approval by his office before they would award the \$2.5k payment. Also, they are requesting to reset the salary range for the Police prosecutor who has been with the department since 2006. He was hired under the Lieutenant's salary range, but has become separated from that range over the past 13 years. They found other departments pay their prosecutor significantly more money. The Bedford prosecutor

also does the most of the work at the Merrimack District Court. He talked about Prosecutor Bill Thornton's history with the Town.

Councilor Rombeau mentioned the referral bonus and wanted to know when that payment is made. Chief Bryfonski explained that the incentive payment would be made to the employee once the candidate has completed the application process and has been accepted and has been offered a conditional offer. Councilor Rombeau wanted to know if there was a waiting period before the award was given. Chief Bryfonski stated there is no waiting period on the incentive award. The incentive is to bring the employee forward and then the department command staff determines the qualifications and whether or not the candidate is a proper fit for the department. Councilor Rombeau wanted to know if they would revisit the program at some point. Chief Bryfonski stated that with the exception of moving folks that start with no experience from step zero to step one, everything else is contingent upon the Town's determination, so at any time the Town could suspend the bonus award as well as the incentive award payments, which would be part of an MOU with the union. The union is fully aware that the Town could suspend the program at any time.

Councilor Ricciardi mentioned the hiring incentives being paid back if an employee decides to leave and wanted to know how enforceable it was. Chief Bryfonski explained that the amended conditional offer, which is a contract that is signed and sworn to by the candidate and the Town, has a provision that garnishes their wages, so any final payments or buyouts that they would be subject to would be first subject to the Town's recovery if they fail to meet the provisions of the conditional offer.

Councilor Bandazian wanted to know how offering signing bonuses to new recruits would sit with the people that are newly hired. Chief Bryfonski explained that the most recent addition to the force is Officer Mansfield who was hired last year, and at that point they had three vacancies and that number has now doubled. The staffing has become more of an acute critical issue since the last person was hired. He thought it was more important that they make sure anyone currently in the process that may be hired be subject to the award. They wouldn't want to create a problem with a new employee that was hired today and then two weeks later someone else is hired and they get \$5k or \$10k. He thought there was enough of a span of time in between the last hire and the difference in differentiation in the number of vacant positions since that time to make a good case as to why it wasn't done back then. They are also proposing and would be required to move six employees that are either at entry step zero or at step one, so that they are not being paid the same amount of money that someone who has already been on the job for 7, 8, or 9 months or even a year. That cost is part of the provision that is listed in the staff report. Councilor Bandazian mentioned that if officers leave voluntarily within the time period, they have to return the money, but if they leave involuntary, they are terminated for cause, it sounds like they get to keep the money. Chief Bryfonski stated that was true. The onus is on the department to make sure they hire the proper individual. There hasn't been anyone in the eight years he's been here that they've dismissed an officer as a result of their failure to complete the requirements that are set forth. Councilor Bandazian thought that speaks in favor of having a

compensation structure where they don't have a revolving door, because of the amount of upper level staff time spent recruiting and vetting. Chief Bryfonski stated that the entire process is a huge drain on the department. The entire process from recruiting to initial testing and vetting to command staff interviews, and background investigations. Close to 1,000 hours of detective time on background investigations. He mentioned the Field Training Officers that are with trainees in the cruiser for up to 20 weeks, which gives the field training officer a lot more work to do. There's a lot of work that goes into recruitment, testing, vetting, psychological testing, polygraph and then the police academy and the field training process, it's a huge strain and a burnout factor.

Sue Labrie, 14 Jefferson Road, wanted to know if the money was already in the budget for these increases or was it above and beyond and was going to increase the taxes. Mr. Sawyer explained that there is no request for additional appropriations to do this. It would all be spent out of the current Police Department budget because of the vacancies they have within the department for the 2019 year.

MOTION by Councilor Ricciardi that the Bedford Town Council approve the compensation changes outlined in the staff report from Chief Bryfonski dated May 14, 2019 and authorize the Town Manager to complete any necessary agreements with the Bedford Police Union. Seconded by Councilor Rombeau. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

c. Appointment to Southern NH Planning Commission

Mr. Sawyer explained that there is a Bedford vacancy on the Southern NH Planning Commission due to one of the members recently moving out of Town. In accordance with RSA 36:46-III, at the May 20th Planning Board meeting, the Planning Board recommended that Charlie Fairman be appointed to complete that term.

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council vote to appoint Charlie Fairman as an alternate member to the Southern NH Planning Commission for a term that expires on June 30, 2021. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

d. Other New Business – None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Amendments to the Town Council Rules of Procedure

Chairman Duschatko explained that at previous meetings they've discussed possible amendments to the Town Council Rules of Procedure. With input from himself, Ms. Boufford, Mr. Sawyer and Councilor Bandazian, they've got a document they can work from. Per Councilor Bandazian's suggestion, he thought they should have a date certain as far as the timing for the annual appointment process. Mr. Sawyer thought they could

use on or before February 1st or March 1st for specific dates. Councilor Bandazian thought it eliminated an exiting Council having responsibility and an incoming Council having the rest and an impossible schedule. Mr. Sawyer thought that it satisfied the goal of having the newly election Council and all of the Council members being able to participate in the interviews and appointments. He mentioned that there would have to be a Charter amendment as well that would need to be on the ballot. He outlined a simple Chart amendment and has reviewed it with the Town's legal counsel and he sees no issues with the Charter amendment. There is a recommendation that the Council hold a public hearing in January of 2020 for the March 2020 election.

Councilor Stevens wanted to know if they had to do the Charter amendment before they could change their Rules of Procedure. Mr. Sawyer responded that technically yes. They can adopt their Rules of Procedure as they currently are without making the changes recommended or make the changes contingent on the Charter amendment passing. He pointed out that there had been many years that the Council didn't make their appointments at their organizational meeting, so they've been out of compliance with it and they can make appointments to boards and commissions at any point during the year. The Charter already allows them to make appointments later in the year as well, but technically the Charter requires the appointments to be made at the organizational meeting. If the Charter amendment passes, they wouldn't be doing the appointments until after the Charter amendment anyways, so if they amend the procedures, they are fine. They could add an effective date if they wanted or make it conditional on the Charter amendment passing. Chairman Duschatko thought they should make it contingent on the Charter amendment passing. Mr. Sawyer suggested that the Council use the proposed practice for their next appointment cycle no matter what they do tonight. Mr. Sawyer stated that the Charter amendment changes the appointments from being the first Monday following the second Tuesday in March to being May 1st and ending at 11:59pm on April 30th.

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council schedule a public hearing for Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 7:00 PM to consider a change to Town Charter Section C11-3, Terms of Office as per the draft attached to the staff memo dated June 3, 2019 and adopt the Rules of Procedure as shown on the draft with revisions through today, June 12, 2019 contingent upon voter approval of the Charter change. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

b. **Other Old Business** – None.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. **Interview Minutes – May 22, 2019**

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the May 22, 2019 Interview. Seconded by

Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 5-0-2 (Duschatko and Ricciardi abstained as they were not present for the interview).

Councilor Rombeau pointed out that her name was not in the minutes as attending and she was present. Councilor Stevens pointed it out that Chairman Duschatko's name was in the minutes as present and he was not there.

MOTION by Councilor Rombeau that the Bedford Town Council amend the minutes to reflect that she was in attendance and Chairman Duschatko was not. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

b. Public Session – May 22, 2019

MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the May 22, 2019 Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Stevens. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 5-0-2 (Duschatko and Ricciardi abstained as they were not present for the meeting).

9. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- 1) Warning – we are aware of a delinquent tax collector scam targeting Bedford residents. Please know that the Town does not use a third party to collect taxes and please call the Bedford Tax Collector's office at 472-3550 if you have any questions.
- 2) Tax bill have been issued and need to be paid by July 1st to avoid any interest.
- 3) Crews have mobilized and started work on Liberty Hill Phase 1 and starting on Tuesday, June 11th there will be local access only between the McKelvie Intermediate School and Highland Farms Drive.
- 4) I would like to thank the Bedford Garden Club for making landscaping improvements at the Town Office Building and Library as it really enhances the visitor experience to our buildings. They also did plantings at the Burleigh Triangle.
- 5) Library summer hours in effect - closed on Sundays open Saturday 10-1.
- 6) The "A Universe of Stories" summer reading program runs June 22nd - August 10th with signup beginning June 22nd.
- 7) June 13th - Thursday Theater, "Fighting with my Family" 2:00 PM and "Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse" at 6:30 PM
- 8) The Bedford Pool is tentatively scheduled to open June 16th (Father's Day) and single \$75, family \$125, and family with baby sitter passes are available. Passes are free for those over 60 years of age.
- 9) The Bedford Farmers Market opens June 18th and continues on Tuesdays from 3-6 PM until October at the St. Elizabeth Seton Church parking lot.
- 10) June 19th – Library Lunch Seminar - "Investing Principles: Every Day Counts & Social Security: With you through Life's Journey", meet with experts on investing and Social Security, 11:30 AM – 2 PM, Bedford Library.
- 11) June 20th – NHDOT Public Meeting – Route 101 @ Pulpit Brook Bridge replacement and Twin Brook Lane turn lane, at 6:30pm at BCTV, 10 Meetinghouse Road. The

official public hearings to notice the need for that project will take place in the fall. They are putting together a commission with members of the Town and Councilor Greazzo was contacted to be a member of that.

- 12) June 27th – “Manchester Community Music School” - Concerts in the Park Series at 6 PM at the Bedford Village Common. Concerts continue through August 21st on Wednesday nights. Rain location for all performances is the Bedford Town Hall.
- 13) June 29th – Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, Highway Garage, 19 Chubbuck Road. You must have a valid Transfer Station sticker, no exceptions.
- 14) August 1st – Retirement celebration for Fire Chief Scott Wiggin, 5-8pm at the Manchester Country Club, tickets are \$25/pp.
- 15) Assistant Planning Director, Mark Connors, has passed the National Certified Planners exam and is not the 3rd member of the staff to be a certified planner.
- 16) Becky Herbert has passed her Certified Public Supervisor course.
- 17) Officer Swiadis was promoted to Sergeant.
- 18) Good luck Bruins!

10. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Councilor Stevens wished all of the dads a happy father's day and congratulated all of the graduates.

Councilor Rombeau mentioned pool passes and wanted to know if they could get numbers on how many people used the pool or had passes and Mr. Sawyer stated that they can get the numbers.

Councilor Bandazian mentioned the citizen comment about left turns off of Bedford Center Road onto Route 101 and wanted to know what the next action was. Mr. Sawyer stated that the Highway Safety Committee wouldn't be taking it up until their meeting in July. The problem of just barricading it is that right turns are permitted, so just putting a barricade at Chandler wouldn't allow right hand turns that are allowed. Councilor Bandazian wanted to know if it took a Town Council ordinance to prohibit. Mr. Sawyer stated that it probably would, but it would be for a temporary period. Once the road is completed there will be a median and there won't be a means to take a left turn. They are hoping the contractors can get that work done as soon as possible. It's a terrible situation when people do try to make a left turn and when they do, they've passed at least three signs that say you can't do it, and they still do it. The Police Department has stopped 56 vehicles in the past year with about half receiving summons and half receiving warnings for illegal left turns. There has been one accident as a result of a left turn out of there. The Police Department is there and very active trying to police it, but just isn't there all the time. They've met with DOT and some of the things that were discussed tonight that DOT has already installed an additional sign and if they can install some cones with an additional sign it may preclude a few more people from trying to do that, they will take those steps independent of Council action, just because of the timing. Councilor Rombeau wanted to know if there was a way to put the cones somewhat in the middle that would discourage a left, but still permit the right turn. Mr. Sawyer stated that the suggestion was putting cones at Chandler. He mentioned doing

a temporary no right turn policy that they would explore that with the Police Department and the Council at their next meeting. Chairman Duschatko thought of the same thing as Councilor Rombeau, which would be doing a little triangle of cones at the junction would force them to go right. Mr. Sawyer stated that they would ask DOT if they were able to do that. A similar situation occurs at Old Bedford Way and they have barrels for that because they took the triangle out.

Councilor Bandazian mentioned that the Energy Commission and Jeremy Spooner visited the recycling center in Billerica and talked about the process that takes place both electronically and manually, especially the problem with plastic bags. He stated that they should try and make sure those plastic shopping bags don't end up in recycling. Councilor Stevens stated that somebody told her they heard that the recyclables at the Transfer Station were actually going in with the rest of the municipal waste and Councilor Bandazian stated that that was not true. Councilor Stevens wanted to know what people should do with the plastic bags and Councilor Bandazian mentioned that Hannaford takes them and other stores.

Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if they could get a tour of the facility that handles the Town's solid waste. Councilor Bandazian stated yes, that would be the incinerator.

Councilor Ricciardi mentioned that the Conservation Commission is working to map out the trails and getting more grants.

Councilor Gilbert mentioned the Parks & Recreation Commission that took place last night and they approved the Field Use Policy and they will bring that and the MOU between the Town and the School to the Town Council at the next meeting. He thanked everyone that attended and volunteered at the EFJH Spring Fair. Chairman Duschatko wanted to know if they coordinated Old Towne Day with the EJFH fair and Councilor Gilbert stated that there would be no Old Towne Day this year. The EFJH decided not to get involved. He suggested that they put together a committee to see about holding one in 2020.

11. NON-PUBLIC – RSA 91-A:3 (if necessary)

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Councilor Gilbert to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Stevens. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

The meeting ended at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford