

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 26, 2019
BEDFORD MEETING ROOM
10 MEETINGHOUSE ROAD**

1. ROLL CALL: A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held on Wednesday, June 26, 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.

Chairman Duschatko opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Councilor Rombeau.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Susan Labrie, Jefferson Road, wanted to know if the elderly income requirements could be raised from \$65k for two people to \$75k. She thought the \$150k asset amount was too low. She thought the exemption amounts could be raised by \$10k.

Councilor Stevens wanted to know if they were bound by State law in how much they can give for an exemption. Mr. Ingalls, Town Assessor stated that they are only bound by the minimum amounts and the Town far exceeds both of those minimums. They increased the exemptions a couple of years ago and they adjust the income every year.

4. Department update with the Town Assessor

<p style="text-align: center;">Assessor's Office Update to Town Council</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JUNE 26, 2019</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Assessor's Office Personnel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Assessor William Ingalls • Assistant Assessor Doug Irvine • Administrative Assistant Karen Fischer • Hours: Monday - Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm • Messages can be left anytime at 603-472-8104 	<p style="text-align: center;">Physical Property Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6,392 Single Family/In Law Residential Homes • 38 Residential Multi-Family Properties (Either Two Family or properties with more than one House) • 634 Residential Condominiums • 205 Residential, 30 Commercial, and 11 Industrial Vacant Lots • 108 Commercial (76)/Industrial (32) Properties • 395 Commercial Condominiums
<p style="text-align: center;">Physical Property Information <i>Cont'd</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 Industrial Condominiums • 162 Parcels Containing Land in Current Use • 27 Public Utility properties • 263 Exempt Properties; Town, State, properties owned by Religious, Charitable, and other • Educational Organizations • Grant Total Parcel Count is 8,325 	<p style="text-align: center;">Total Assessed Value Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2018 Total Assessed Non-Equalized Value of Bedford is \$4,001,006,613.00 • \$3,031,777,312.00 or 75.8%, is Residential/Current Use • \$772,835,200.00 or 19.3%, is Commercial/Industrial • \$51,078,500.00, or 1.3%, is Utilities • \$145,315,601.00 or 3.6% is Exempt Property 	<p style="text-align: center;">Total Assessed Value Information <i>cont'd</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TIF District totals \$143,064,200.00 • Assessed value increase of the TIF District since inception = \$30,563,400.00 or 27.2% in growth • Trader Joe's and The Friendly Toast are open for 2019. We are optimistic for the future of our TIF District.

Exemption and Credit Information

- **820** Standard Veteran's Tax Credits at \$500 (\$410,000)
- **45** All Veteran's Tax Credits, Since Adopted in 2017, at \$500 (\$22,500) There were **34** in 2018
- **38** 100% Disabled Veteran's Tax Credits at \$2,000 (\$76,000)
- **100** Senior Exemptions (\$12,309,200)
- **8** Disabled Exemptions at \$52,000 (\$416,000)

Exemption and Credit Information *cont'd*

- **2** Blind Exemptions at \$35,000 (\$70,000) and **1** Deaf Exemption at \$35,000
- **114** Solar Exemptions Totaling \$1,193,170 (Tax Neutral) There were **99** in 2018
- If you think you may qualify for any exemption or credit listed, check the Assessing Department on the Bedford Town Website at www.bedfordnh.org for more information

Exemption and Credit Information *cont'd*

- The filing deadline for exemptions and credits of any kind is **April 15** of the year you wish to apply for the exemption
- You must own and occupy your home as of April 1 of the year you wish to apply for the exemption
- There are other requirements as well. If you have further questions contact the Assessor's Office

Post 2017 Update Market Activity Into 2019

- **100%** as of April 1, 2017, but **95.3%** overall for end of 2017
- **90.9%** for 2018
- Using sales between April 1, 2018 through April 1, 2019 we are already at a ratio of **89.8%** overall

Post 2017 Update Market Activity Into 2019 *cont'd*

- Ratios By Strata:
 - Residential single family homes = **89.9%**
 - Residential condominiums = **87.9%**
 - Vacant land all types = **92.9%**
 - Commercial/Industrial overall = **81.6%***
 - *Often not many sales

Post 2017 Update Market Activity Into 2019 *cont'd*

- For 2019, using qualified transactions of all types between October 1, 2018 and June 1, 2019* we are at **89.8%**
- This consistent strong Market Activity supports the decision to conduct another statistical update for 2019
- * A town or city ratio is determined by the DRA using sales 6 months before through 6 months after April 1 of the tax year. So for 2019 sales from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019 will be used

Post 2017 Update Market Activity Into 2019 *cont'd*

- The market has remained strong overall in Bedford since the 2017 update, even in the areas and types/styles of properties that experienced the largest % increase during the 2017 update
- Demand especially, combined with a lower inventory of properties for sale, is a big factor in the overall strength of the market
 - Example : There are about 50 +- homes for sale; at this time 2018 there were 75, and in 2015 there were 97

2019 Update

- We need to avoid the large increases we experienced from the 2017 update
- We need to update more frequently
- We are proceeding with updating again for the 2019 tax year, then 2021, 2023, 2025 and so on, in up markets and down markets
- Not all classes of property increase or decrease at the same rate

2019 Update *cont'd*

- When a ratio becomes too low or too high it can result in the over assessment of some properties. In either case, an adjustment becomes necessary, which is where we are now
- The end result of the update is to achieve an overall ratio of about 97%, using sales from April 1, 2018 through April 1, 2019

2019 Update *cont'd*

- The DRA uses sales from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019 to determine the ratio for a town or city, which serves as a test of sorts against the work produced between April to April
- Any and all market trends and scenarios will be considered to assure a ratio of 97% is appropriate

2019 Update *cont'd*

Data

- Gathering and analyzing data from the many properties that sell each year
- Inspecting work done from building permits (barns, sheds, garages, additions, new finished area, and demolition/removal)
- Inspecting properties that were not completed the year before

2019 Update *cont'd*

Data

- Periodic Use of overhead flyovers with change detecting software/technology
- Picks up barns, sheds, pools, decks, additions, and other items we may not have on the property records

2019 UPDATE *cont'd*

Flyover Example



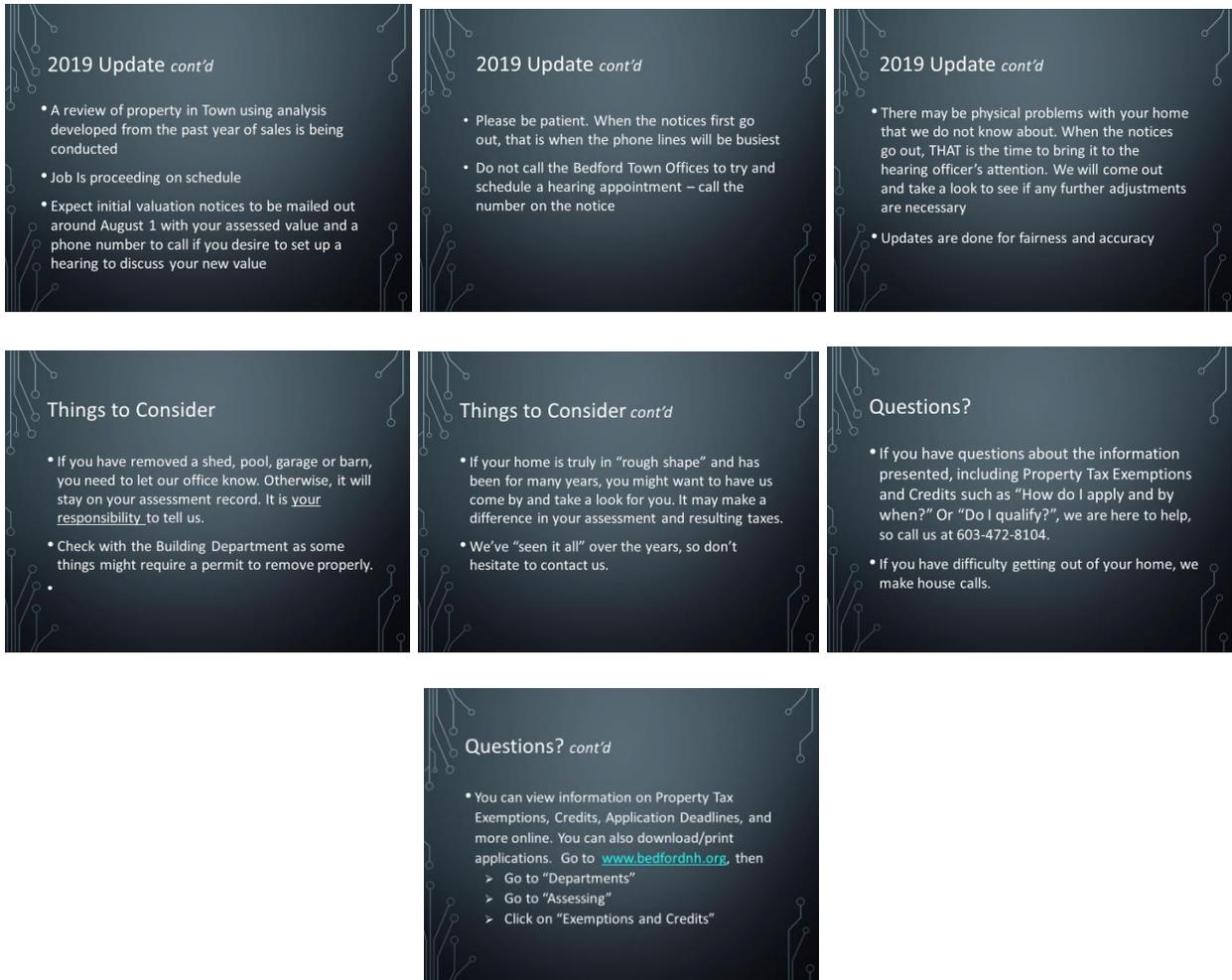
2019 Update *cont'd*

What does this mean?

- Prices for the most part are up and continuing so, and inventory is down, which can make it hard to find a home to re-locate in Town
- For those who are not and do not intend to enter the real estate market at this time, your property did not go up in value overnight. It has been two more years of strong activity.

2019 Update *cont'd*

- Not all properties will go up or down the exact same percentage. Some may stay the same, reasons:
 - Age, style of home
 - Physical condition
 - Finished area not previously known
- The market simply shows that one type of property or another just needs to be adjusted more or less than others



Mr. Ingalls stated that after the 2017 revaluation, the actual amounts of the senior exemptions were increased: 80 and over is \$142k, 65-74 is in the mid to high \$80's and the 75-80 is about \$96k. The income requirement is in the mid \$40k's for a single person and the mid \$60k's for a married couple and are the highest income limits in NH. The asset limit of \$150k is in the top 10 of total amount of assets in the State. Mr. Sawyer wanted clarification that the asset limit is beyond one's existing single family home. Mr. Ingalls clarified that the assets do not include your hours and up to two acres of land. It does include 2nd homes minus whatever the mortgage is and land over two acres.

Councilor Bandazian wanted Mr. Ingalls to explain what happens at the State level when the strata reaches those ratios. Mr. Ingalls explained that if the ratios get too low and/or are too far apart, the Department of Revenue could come in and order the Town to complete reassessment. They would start by suggesting and hopefully the Town does it, but if the Town doesn't comply, the Department of Revenue would issue an order to do so and will step in and select who they want to perform the work. Councilor Gilbert wanted to know the threshold to be too low. Mr. Ingalls stated that they don't want to go much below 90 and explained the process if the ratio was in the mid 80's.

Kathleen Bemiss, 37 Magazine Street, had questions that residents had asked her to raise. She wanted to know when they went from going every five years to every two years. Mr. Ingalls replied that this was the first one. Ms. Bemiss wanted to know when the public was notified that they were switching to every two years. Mr. Ingalls stated that he mentioned it at one or two other Town Council meetings. Ms. Bemiss stated that in general the public didn't know. Ms. Bemiss wanted to if the terms update and reassessment were being used synonymously. Mr. Ingalls explained that they are doing what's called a statistical update. A total revaluation would probably include measuring and listing all of the buildings in Town. They are doing statistical updates based on the sales of properties throughout the entire Town. Ms. Bemiss mentioned market value versus assessed value and thought that because the market was high right now, the Town was going to raise everyone's valuation, but when her property was low, they don't do it reversely. Mr. Ingalls stated that they lowered valued throughout the entire Town in 2013, because the market in 2011 and 2012 was depressed. If the market tells them they have to lower them, they will. It is not a one direction only process and it never has been. Ms. Bemiss stated that from 2000 to 2000 and whatever year that was, market value was considered to be completely different by his department. Mr. Ingalls explained that the Town did a revaluation in 1987 and then the next one was 2004, so they went 17 years without one. Since then, they've done one in 2004, 2008, 2013 and 2017. Ms. Bemiss wanted to know if this would get funneled into the Vision Appraisal website and it gets updated that way. Mr. Ingalls stated that was correct. Ms. Bemiss wanted to know if there was a cost associated with Vision Appraisal managing all of the information that his department is funneling in. Mr. Ingalls stated that Vision is performing the update for the Town and the total cost over a 2-year period is about \$38k to do all the work as opposed to several hundred thousand to do a whole revaluation.

Mr. Sawyer stated that the 2-year change was also discussed throughout the budget process and was on the Town Meeting handout information and available on the public hearing handouts as well. It was something that the department raised last year and seeing how the market was going. He clarified that it wasn't five years for the last update, it was only four years for the last update. Ms. Bemiss mentioned that other folks at mentioned that sometimes when they are doing the agenda, the Powerpoint presentation is attached prior and she thought that might be helpful for the public to see in advance to know whether or not they want to come to a meeting.

Councilor Rombeau stated that the Powerpoint was very helpful, so having it shared ahead of time so people could see would be helpful and she was happy she could share it with people now. She wanted to know how the change to every two years would impact the workload in his office. Mr. Ingalls stated that it increases the workload in his office a little bit, but it's not unmanageable.

Councilor Ricciardi wanted it clarified that this doesn't necessarily mean that their taxes would be going up. Mr. Ingalls explained that when they raise the value of a community, if the spending in the community stays exactly the same, the tax rate would go down by the equivalent increase in valuation. However, there are situations where the budget between the School and Town may go up some during a particular year. Even if they

lower values, their taxes could still go up if the budget spending is more than anticipated. If spending is up for one reason or another that is what is going to cause an increase in your taxes regardless of whether his office raises or lowers everything.

Mr. Sawyer stated that it's not just assessed value, it could also be revenues from motor vehicles or from State sources, which could impact the tax rate.

Councilor Bandazian mentioned the reduced assessed values on homes with PFOA who have now been connected and wanted to know if that adjustment had been reversed. Mr. Ingalls stated that he sent out notices to all the individuals whose property was reduced since the middle of 2017 that their properties would be going up. They did it on the first half of the tax bill to spread that impact out over two bills. The notices also explained that they would be doing a reassessment update as well. He added that those properties had been selling for their full market value since it was first announced in the middle of 2017 that public water was coming. Councilor Bandazian mentioned public utility property assessment and that the Legislature continues tinker with that and Mr. Ingalls stated that they were not done. Councilor Bandazian thought it was very difficult to follow what the impact was going to be on the Town and Mr. Ingalls believed that Bedford was going to benefit from it.

Susan Labrie, Jefferson Road, wanted to know she could get a list of exempt properties. Mr. Ingalls replied yes. The Town and the State have a fair amount of property that are exempt and others would be educational such as the schools, churches and charitable organizations. His office could put a list together.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Field Use Policy and MOU between Town and School

Mr. Sawyer explained that the last time the Field Use Policy was updated was 2009. The changes are very minor in nature and just clarifying some things.

Councilor Gilbert stated that there was a lot of clerical updating to define Town fields versus School fields. They added 'The position and use of alcoholic beverages and drugs is prohibited on Town fields.' They also needed to add that pets were not allowed on athletic fields and that's a Town ordinance. There was a lot of boiler plate updating.

Councilor Bandazian stated that one of the things mentioned was the upkeep of the concession stands, dugouts and so forth. There are some of those structures that are in bad shape and wanted to know if that was going to get addressed. Councilor Gilbert stated that that was a separate issue. It was part of the discussion about field upgrades that did not pass on the last election. Councilor Bandazian wanted to know if it would be a Town responsibility and Councilor Gilbert responded no, it says that bleachers and buildings (concession stands and dugouts) are the sole responsibility of the leagues. Everyone agreed to that. It is nothing different than what has been there. Councilor Bandazian didn't see why it had to wait for a bond or a league to do something.

Councilor Gilbert stated that the league doesn't have to do anything. The Town was trying to address that in the bond to upgrade all of the facilities, so now they are at a point where if they have issues they should do them separately.

Councilor Ricciardi mentioned that updating the policy was at no cost to the Town.

Councilor Rombeau mentioned the 'no pets allowed on Town fields' has always been the Town ordinance. Councilor Gilbert responded yes, but it was never in the policy before. Councilor Rombeau wanted to know if that was marked on the fields; is that something that will need to be addressed more directly by leagues. Councilor Gilbert thought that would fall on the Town, because it's a Town ordinance. Councilor Bandazian thought there was plenty of signage that gets ignored.

Councilor Stevens mentioned that on page 8 in the sentence, 'Repairs to league owned and maintained equipment...' there needs to be another parenthesis and Councilor Gilbert agreed. Mr. Sawyer stated that the parentheses (i.e. concession stands, dugouts) was a sub i.e. of buildings.

Chairman Duschatko stated that the policy mentions that individuals or private groups wishing to use the fields have to get permission. If someone wants to go out in the afternoon an unused field they would have to go to Recreation and get permission and he didn't think that was intended to prohibit, but that's the way it reads. Councilor Rombeau didn't read that sentence as saying you have to request it to use it for individual use. If you are reserving it, then you have to follow the procedures. Mr. Sawyer stated that individuals are always welcome to use the fields if nobody else has already reserved them. Chairman Duschatko wanted to add that statement.

Councilor Stevens mentioned the maintenance in the policy and wanted to know if there was a mechanism to allow leagues to do their own work to the fields and then it gets approved by the Recreation Department. Councilor Gilbert stated that if a league wants to make a change or a repair they need to go through the Recreation Department to get it approved before they do it. He stated that the Department is Jane O'Brien. Mr. Sawyer stated that the Department of Public Works would have to improve physical improvements. Councilor Gilbert stated that in the definition of what the Department is, it means Town of Bedford Parks & Recreation Department, which is Jane O'Brien and then she would get with Public Works. Councilor Stevens wanted to know if they have a formal way of going about doing that or was it just done haphazardly. Mr. Sawyer stated that they would contact Jane O'Brien. Councilor Stevens wanted to know if there was some form that somebody could fill out to say they want to take over and have the field sprayed for ticks. Mr. Sawyer stated that that would not be a maintenance type thing that a league would take on responsibility, but if they felt it needed additional spraying they would contact either Public Works or Recreation and work it out that either they would be doing it or the Town would be doing it. The leagues do general maintenance without approval like raking the base pads, striping the lines for soccer or baseball, those kinds of regular maintenance things that the leagues already do, do not need approval. If they want to regrade a ball field or change it from a skin softball field to a

little league field that has grass in the infield that would need approval by the Town. Councilor Rombeau thought that since there was standing approval for certain maintenance pursuant to the guidelines, she wanted to if there was going to be some lack of clarity about a project that falls within that standing approval versus a project that others might feel the Town needs to approve. Mr. Sawyer stated that he was not aware that any of the leagues raised that as an issue throughout any of the process of amending this document. Councilor Gilbert gave examples of when leagues asked for things and contacted Recreation and it was approved or done. Councilor Rombeau was concerned that the leagues wouldn't know to ask. Councilor Gilbert stated that the leagues know they have to ask.

Councilor Stevens thought the leagues asking if they could repair their dugouts shows that there is a misunderstanding, because based on the policy, the leagues should be able to repair their dugouts without any say by the Town, because they are the leagues' responsibility. Councilor Gilbert stated that they communicate. If it was the wrong thing to do they would talk about it and work it out. Councilor Rombeau didn't think there was a conflict between saying the leagues are responsible for it and have to take care of it, but also seeking approval of the Town to make sure it's consistent with other things. Councilor Stevens wanted to clarify that they are responsible for it, but in order to take care of it they need to ask the Town first. Mr. Sawyer stated that it's great to coordinate. One of the repairs that took place this year, the league's came on the field with heavy equipment before the field should have had anything on it and put ruts in the field. Having those communications and coordination are the things they are looking for. In that particular case with the dugouts, it was the School that was asking the Town if the Town would fund it and do it and they Town didn't have the funds to do it, because the bond didn't pass, so the School ended up doing the construction and paying for the dugouts at the softball field, because it's the field that the high school varsity team uses. Councilor Stevens thought it was very confusing, because the Town essentially paid for it through the school, but then in other instances it could be the leagues who are paying for the repair of their dugouts. Councilor Rombeau stated that the leagues can ask if the School or the Town want to or able to fund improvements and if not, then leagues are responsible for it if it needs to be done.

Councilor Stevens wanted to know if a league wanted to make a change to the policy, if they could. Mr. Sawyers stated that they would have to come before the Council, it's the Council's policy, not league policy. Councilor Gilbert added that they would have to go through Park & Rec then to the Council. He asked the leagues if they had an issues and anything they wanted to change, and not one of them changed anything. If they want to in the future, that's fine. They'll talk about it and start over again.

Ms. Bemiss, 37 Magazine Street, mentioned that her husband used to play on the over 30 softball league and they only played on one field and that team would do everything on that field. The management of that league changes, so she thought it might be helpful for the Council, for the Town and for Jane O'Brien, to have a list of common maintenance items that would take place at every field. There needs to be some historical perspective on how they are spending their money, which leagues are

responsible for which fields, so that if something does need to be taken care of they have someone to go to and they have some ownership of it. Mr. Sawyer stated that the Town is responsible for the maintenance of the fields. The leagues prepare the fields for their games or practices by raking or striping, but the Town is responsible for the physical ground and the mowing, fertilizing, and spraying. The leagues are responsible for the structures that they built and maintain on those fields. The Town has never maintained the actual structures. Councilor Gilbert agreed.

MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council accept the Field/Facility Use Policy amendments as recommended by the Parks & Recreation Commission on June 11, 2019 with the one change pointed out by Councilor Stevens and the other clarification that individuals are welcome to utilize the fields to the extent they are not previously reserved at a given time. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian.

Councilor Bandazian stated that under the Use Guidelines, there is already a sentence that states, 'Individuals desiring to use Town fields/facilities may do so at their leisure, providing that another party has not previously scheduled the fields.' That seems to cover that subject. Mr. Sawyer stated that they can strike that part of the motion. Councilor Gilbert stated that the only thing to add would be the parenthesis issue.

MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council accept the Field/Facility Use Policy amendments as recommended by the Parks & Recreation Commission on June 11, 2019 with the addition of the parenthesis issue pointed out by Councilor Stevens. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian.

Councilor Bandazian accepted the modification of the motion.

Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

Councilor Gilbert stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town and the School District was last updated in 2007. He and Jane O'Brien have been reviewing it with Corey Parker, the athletic director at the high school, Bill Foote, the School Board member involved, and Mike Fournier, the superintendent and they clarified some things. Councilor Gilbert went over the changes. There was a lot of coordination between what was Parks & Recreation and the Town and what was the School. Mr. Sawyer stated that the School Board would also need to approve it.

MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council accept the amendments to the MOU between the Town of Bedford and the Bedford School District as presented. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

b. Change of November Town Council Meeting Date

Chairman Duschatko will be on vacation and requested that the November meeting be moved to the 6th so he can attend.

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council move the November 13, 2019 Town Council meeting to Wednesday, November 6, 2019. Seconded by Councilor Rombeau. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

c. Other New Business

Councilor Stevens received an email from a constituent asking about a Special Election and whether or not it would be on the agenda. She didn't know if the Councilors had any feelings about whether or not they should put that on the agenda for a future meeting.

Councilor Bandazian thought it should be on the agenda for people to weigh in as well as members of the Council to weigh in. It is a right to vote that residents have. He's concerned about diluting the strength of the Town's representation at the Legislature especially since it looks like they may be operating under a continuing resolution rather than having a budget. The second year of the biennium, last biennium, there were over 900 new bills. You put your faith in who runs and it's a roll of the dice, especially in a Special Election when it may not be well attended, but he had some grave concerns about sitting there by inaction depriving some people of the right to vote and also being underrepresented at the Legislature when he thought it was potentially a critical time to be represented based on past history. He would like to have it on the agenda.

Councilor Rombeau stated that she heard Councilor Bandazian's concerns and there is more information they are still waiting to get about it would entail hosting a Special Election, so she thought it would be worthwhile information to have.

Chairman Duschatko agreed with Councilor Bandazian on the fact that everybody has a right to vote and they do need representation, but at the same time, he believed that Bedford had adequate representation through the next biennium primarily because they are only looking at maybe a six month to nine month term. Preliminarily having gone through the cost of the election to elect one representative seems to put a huge burden on the taxpayers, and that probably isn't keeping with the type of representation that they get. He hasn't seen Bedford as a group influencing much legislation for the benefit of Bedford. They've almost come out and become a target and many pieces of legislation Bedford is used as an example of why they shouldn't do it.

Councilor Ricciardi agreed that the public had a right to their opinion and to vote, but because of the cost to the taxpayers and the fact that the representatives take off for the summer, it leaves such a short window that it would make her question the cost involved to the taxpayer, but she thought it should be on the agenda and thought that the public should come forward with their opinions.

Councilor Greazzo stated that he was under the impression after the last meeting that it would be on the agenda for this week, so he's not opposed to having it on the agenda.

Councilor Gilbert was not opposed to having it on the agenda, but he agreed that it was very costly and they have representation right now and it's six to nine months and would it be worth it, and how many representatives do they need up there. Councilor Greazzo stated apparently one more. Councilor Gilbert stated that it was all about the cost.

Councilor Ricciardi added that it was an issue with the school too, because they have to stay in session and it's going to be an issue with parking and shuttling the teachers. Mr. Sawyer stated that the Town Clerk put together some information on the process and the timelines that would need to take place if they were to vote tonight or at a future meeting and when that would mean the election would have to take place. There would also have to be a primary if there was more than one candidate from each party were to file. If there is only one from each party, then the primary can become the election and they can save half the money. The numbers that were put together put it at about \$8,200 per election. That is without the shuttle bus. The School District is willing to let the Town do the election at the high school.

Chairman Duschatko thought the consensus was they should probably have a public meeting at their next meeting. He thought they should do that so they could get some true feedback from the public. He has heard nothing from anybody officially on this. He's heard some rumblings of gossip and that's about it, but nobody has come forward to request it. Councilor Bandazian thought it was truly not well known that there was a vacancy or why. Councilor Gilbert stated that it was in the Union Leader the other day and it's been all over the internet.

Councilor Stevens wanted to know if they had items for the agenda in July. Mr. Sawyer stated that currently they have two minor ones and potentially the appointment of a department head. Councilor Stevens wanted to know if everyone could be there in July and the Councilors all stated that they would be there. Councilor Stevens wanted to know if they wanted to schedule it for August or leave it for July. Chairman Duschatko stated that he was open to scheduling it for August.

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council schedule a public hearing on the issue of whether to conduct a special election for the vacant State Representative position. The public hearing to be held at the Town Council meeting on July 17, 2019.

Chairman Duschatko wanted to know if they should add that even if they approve it that it's still up to the Governor and Executive Council to approve and set the date of the election. Mr. Sawyer didn't think they needed that in the motion, but it is important information for the public. The Governor and Executive Council both need to do it. If they approve it, then the election has to be held within 110-124 days of that vote, which

would put the election around the end of November, first week of December and the primary in October.

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

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. **Other Old Business** – None.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. **Public Session – June 12, 2019**

MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the June 12, 2019 Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Stevens. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0

8. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- 1) Tax bill have been issued and need to be paid by July 1st to avoid any interest.
- 2) Route 101 – It is my understanding that all traffic will be shifted to the new eastbound lanes in the area of the intersection of Bedford Center Road soon which will prevent anyone from making the illegal left hand turn onto Route 101 from Bedford Center Road.
- 3) The Bedford Pool and Splash Pad are now open for the season with open swim between 11 AM-7 PM on week days and noon to 5 PM on weekends and holidays.
- 4) June 27th – “Manchester Community Music School” kicks off of our Concerts in the Park Series at 6 PM at the Bedford Village Common.
- 5) June 29th – Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, Highway Garage, 19 Chubbuck Road.
- 6) July 4th – Bedford Town Offices, Library, Transfer Station, & BCTV Closed for Independence Day.
- 7) July 10th – “Tremolo Brothers” Concert in the Park, 6 PM at the Bedford Village Common.
- 8) July 11th - Thursday Theater, “They Shall Not Grow Old” 2:00 PM and “Captain Marvel” at 6:30 PM
- 9) July 17th – “2KeyLa” (Jazz guitar duet) Concert in the Park, 6 PM at the Bedford Village Common.
- 10) Chief Scott Wiggin’s retirement celebration will be held on August 1, 2019 at the Manchester Country Club, 5-8pm. Tickets are \$25.
- 11) Checklist Supervisor Ellen Bostwick resigned and they appointed Beverly Yuksel.
- 12) PFAS standards will be released on Friday...decision making in July
- 13) New Boston Road will be paved by the State by August 1st.

9. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Councilor Rombeau thanked the lifeguards at the Town pool. They are doing a great job of being respectful of families, but sticking to some rules to keep everybody safe.

Councilor Bandazian recognized the responsiveness of the DOT to the concern that they had at the last Town Council meeting. They acted promptly and it is not 100% effective, but he appreciates the responsiveness of what they did. Joanne Fraser is retiring soon and he recognized her for her long service.

Councilor Stevens recognized the Police Department for their service this week. There are a lot of folks in Town that are nervous, but she felt very comfortable and they all should, because they have such a great department and they are true professionals. She has so much trust in the Chief and all of the folks working there and we appreciate their service to the Town.

Councilor Ricciardi stated that the Conservation Commission met last night and the Pulpit Rock Conservation Area modifications are ongoing. They are on Phase 2 of improvements. They are extending the drainage and the crushed stone another 800 feet. The improvements are covered under the existing grant. They are also GPS mapping the trails and they will GPS map Joppa Hill Farm next. She mentioned the banners on Town Hall and BCTV and she wished everyone a happy and safe 4th of July. She stated that the banners were a great attempt to remember what a great community they live in and its Town pride.

Councilor Gilbert stated that he walked the trails at Joppa Hill and it's a nice trail. He cautioned people that there have been a number of bear sightings near Pulpit Road.

Chairman Duschatko expressed his appreciation for the Police Department for the fine job they did the other day and continues to do throughout a period where it's somewhat understaffed. He mentioned that Councilor Ricciardi was behind the push to restore some pride in Bedford and behind the decorations going on the buildings and thanked her for that effort. He mentioned that one year ago they had the pleasure of awarding the Boston Post Cane to Herk Streitburger when he was 99 years old and he has just celebrated his 100th birthday and sent his best wishes. He's a great guy.

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting ended at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford