

**TOWN OF BEDFORD  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
September 22, 2021  
10 Meetinghouse Road**

**1. ROLL CALL:** A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 10 Meetinghouse Road. Participating were Dave Gilbert (Chair), Bill Carter, (Vice Chair) and Councilors Sue Thomas, Denise Ricciardi, Bill Duschatko, and Lori Radke. Also present was Town Manager Rick Sawyer.

Councilor Murphy attended by telephone.

Chairman Gilbert opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Chairman Gilbert.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. CIP Update**

Mr. Sawyer explained that to be included in the CIP, the project or piece of equipment needs to be at least \$25k in value and have an extended lifespan of three years or more. Bedford has historically completed a 10-year CIP and includes items that are covered in both the operating and capital budgets. The rankings are the Town Manager's recommendations to the Council and have had no impact on when a project is actually completed. The rankings in the entire CIP remain flexible all the way through the budget process until the Budgetary Town Meeting. The CIP is critical to keeping their stabilized tax rate from year to year. The total CIP for the 10 years is just under \$82m, which is a change from the staff report they received, because he found an error in the calculations. Approximately \$8.5m is included for the 2022 budget with \$4.68m being just debt service for the local roads program. An additional \$1.4m is proposed for local road maintenance in 2022 as part of the operating budget for a total dedicated to local roads of over \$6m. The 3<sup>rd</sup> road bond was sold in early 2020 and completes the bonding authorization for the roads program. The CIP currently recommends the next item to be bonded would be for the first phase of facility improvements in 2023 for the construction of Police and Fire stations. The Plan includes an additional bond for facilities in 2026 as existing road bonds are paid off and after they have moved to their long-term plan of getting local road maintenance in the operating budget to \$2m in 2024, so they will maintaining their roads rather than rebuilding them. The Plan also recommends that the Recreation Improvements Master Plan be completed through annual appropriations of \$125k building on the recent successful reconstruction of Riley Field and Sportsman Field. There is a new account to replace the turf at Sportsman Field in 20 years in 2031, which is estimated at \$800k. Included in the CIP for action in 2022 is shortening the replacement schedule for the Fire engines and ladder truck from 25 years to 20-23 years depending on the

vehicle. It is likely that the final plan will move all of those vehicles to a 20-year replacement cycle. Given the number of calls and experience with the vehicles, they can only expect to rely on them for 20 years. The CIP includes two 6-wheeled dump trucks, a 1-ton dump truck and Town valuation update. One project that has been scheduled for completion in 2022 is the Town-wide security upgrade, which has increased in estimated cost to \$446k. The Police and Fire records management system and dispatch software, which is shown for completion in 2023 may change in the final plan if they need to complete that project sooner. The estimated cost has increased significantly. The expansion of the Library parking lot originally scheduled for 2021 has been moved back to 2024 due to increased costs. Newly requested items include a material screener for Public Works at \$180k to be purchased in 2025 and a cablecast system for BCTV in 2023 at \$31k. The Plan is flexible through Town Meeting and is a part of the overall budget.

**b. Approval of 2022 Town Council Meeting Dates**

**MOTION by Councilor Carter that the Bedford Town Council approve the 2022 Town Council meeting dates. Seconded by Councilor Thomas.**

Councilor Duschatko wanted to know if any of the dates fell on religious holidays and Mr. Sawyer responded no. There is one that falls on a school vacation day, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Murphy stated that she wouldn't be there for the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, because she will be out of town with the kids. She mentioned not to move the meeting on account of her, but she can't make meetings during school vacation weeks. Chairman Gilbert stated that they have the ability to move it around in the near future. Mr. Sawyer suggested they could adopt them tonight, continue to look at them and change them at a future meeting.

**Roll call vote: Thomas-aye, Radke-aye, Carter-aye, Gilbert-aye, Duschatko-aye, Ricciardi-aye, Murphy-aye with the caveat that she hopes they can move the April meeting.**

Councilor Radke stated that because they have their meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>, they won't meet again until April 13<sup>th</sup>, so if they move their meeting up to April 6<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>, they avoid the vacation week. Mr. Sawyer stated that they have done that in some years.

**c. Other New Business**

Chairman Gilbert stated that other new business is a PFAS budget transfer. Mr. Sawyer explained that this week they were able to come to terms with one of the residents. They have a contractor with time in their schedules to be able to complete the work for one of the residents that is significantly impacted by the PFOS firefighting foam that the Town is potentially responsible for. They believe there are available funds in the health insurance line that they are requesting be transferred to the Town Manager Professional Services line to complete that work.

**MOTION by Councilor Duschatko that the Bedford Town Council authorize the transfer of \$15,000 from Health Insurance (10010336-52210) to Town Manager Professional Services (10010204-53130) in order to complete the water line connection at 7 Meetinghouse Road. Seconded by Councilor Radke.**

**Roll call vote: Thomas-aye, Radke-aye, Carter-aye, Gilbert-aye, Duschatko-aye, Ricciardi-aye, Murphy-aye.**

**5. OLD BUSINESS – None**

**a. Other Old Business**

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**a. Public Session – September 8, 2021**

**MOTION by Councilor Carter that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the September 8, 2021 Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Radke.**

**Roll call vote: Thomas-aye, Radke-aye, Carter-aye, Gilbert-aye, Duschatko-aye, Ricciardi-aye, Murphy-aye.**

**b. Non-Public Session – September 8, 2021**

**MOTION by Councilor Radke that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the September 8, 2021 Non-Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Carter.**

**Roll call vote: Thomas-aye, Radke-aye, Carter-aye, Gilbert-aye, Duschatko-aye, Ricciardi-aye, Murphy-aye.**

**7. TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

- 1) COVID-19 Pandemic – Bedford currently has 54 current COVID-19 positive cases and has had a total of 2,301 cases. 56% of NH residents are vaccinated with Bedford having 58.2% vaccinated. He strongly encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.
- 2) September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Fire & Police Department combined Open House, Safety Complex, 55 Constitution Drive, 5-7 PM.
- 3) October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Family Trail Run, Educational Farm at Joppa Hill, 10 AM. (Registration required)
- 4) October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Fall Fair, Educational Farm at Joppa Hill, Noon - 4 PM.
- 5) October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Library Concerts & Cookies Series, Eloise & Co-Celtic music & Gritty French groove tunes, 2:30-4:00 PM. Limited to 50 participants, please register through the Library website.

- 6) October 9<sup>th</sup> – Hawkins Field Dedication @ Noon.
- 7) October 10<sup>th</sup> – Cinema Sunday at the Library with discussion and viewing of The Shining, 1:30-4:30 PM, please register through the Library website.
- 8) October 16<sup>th</sup> – CUB Clean Up Bedford Fall Event, 9 AM – 3 PM. Councilor Carter did a PSA on the event.

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

Councilor Radke stated that the Historic District Commission had one applicant. She mentioned that the Historic District Commission had no alternates and encouraged those interested to apply. Call her or email her and she will tell you all about the Commission.

Councilor Carter mentioned CUB day, 10/16, 9-3. He mentioned that Maggie Wachs, Chairman of the Conservation Commission has stepped aside due to family and work restraints. He thanked her for all of her service to the Conservation Commission. He hoped that once things got a little better for her that she would be able to come back.

Councilor Duschatko stated that the Planning Board met last week and approved a change of use at the old Walmart site that will allow the new owners to develop it as a light industrial use facility. Right now there are no specific tenants or plans. They also approved some requests for extensions of permits that had been issued in the past couple of years, but were delayed because of COVID-related situations.

Councilor Ricciardi stated that Bedford Cares is still active, so if anyone has non-emergency needs, errands run, grocery shopping, don't hesitate to reach out. They've got an army of volunteers that have ramped back up.

Councilor Murphy congratulated Officer Ryan Wobrock on receiving Officer of the Quarter for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021 for exhibiting bravery, calmness, and awareness in the face of chaos and danger and outstanding dedication on duty for the Town of Bedford.

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

**MOTION by Councilor Carter to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Consideration of pending litigation. Seconded by Councilor Radke.**

**Roll Call Vote: Thomas-aye, Ricciardi-aye, Duschatko-aye, Gilbert-aye, Carter-aye, Radke-aye, Murphy-aye.**

The public meeting ended at 7:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford