

MEMORANDUM



To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, AICP, Town Manager
Date: July 17, 2016
Re: **Manager's Report**

News & Noteworthy:

- 1) The Assessing Department is investigating the potential for having to complete our revaluation/update in 2017 rather than 2018 as planned due to our ratio continuing to decline as a result of properties selling for higher than assessed values. As you will recall our last revaluation was completed using data from the recession years as required, but that has put us very far behind current sale prices, especially in the residential market.
- 2) A memory wall celebrating the 20 year history of the Library building has been installed on the lower level. A very special thanks to the Library Trustees for planning and implementing this beautiful project.
- 3) The Police Department has noted an increase of daytime residential break-ins which was unfortunately highlighted on Friday with one on Meadow Road where a mother and young daughter at home. An extensive search for the suspects was conducted with help from the State Police and Merrimack without success. The Chief has instituted additional patrols including routes taken by command staff.
- 4) Our Police Partners Program (P3) has been able to place six people with substance abuse support since its introduction in June.
- 5) The Market & Main project (redevelopment of Macy's) has been submitted to the Planning Board for final approval. All of the departments and VHB are reviewing the plans in anticipation of hearings by the Board in August.



Project Updates:

- 1) We continue to monitor and work on the PFC water contamination issue and a full staff report is available on SharePoint. On July 15th Chairwoman Murphy, Councilor Bandazian, the Town Engineer and I attended meeting with DES and Pennichuck to discuss the preliminary options for extending water to the Saint-Gobain private well study area. Water samples from the Bedford landfill monitoring wells have been taken and we are still waiting for the results which are past due at this point.

- 2) The Library HVAC/Geothermal project is operational and all portions of the Library repaired and put back in service on or ahead of schedule. Thank-you to the public for their patience, to the staff for being so flexible and positive, and to Peter Barbuto for his excellent project management.
- 3) Website - The final design changes on the aesthetics and function of the new town website have been approved and we expect to be live soon but this project is now a few weeks behind schedule.
- 4) The South River Road TIF Area wearing course has been completed with the exception of the portion between Kilton Road and Meetinghouse Road due to the Market and Main (former Macy's) project. An "open house" with DES and the Rivers Council has been scheduled for July 29th at 10:00 AM on site to celebrate the daylighting of the brook and overall improvements.
- 5) Time, Attendance & Scheduling – A team made up of representatives of many departments and lead by the Finance Director have been meeting to develop the RFP for a system to efficiently track and schedule hours worked for all of our employees to better ensure that all labor and contract requirements are being met. The installation of this system will likely take 12 months to complete and will be a significant change for many employees.
- 6) Personnel – The Assistant Planning Director position has been filled by Mark Connors who comes to us after several years of experience in the region at Nashua Regional Planning Commission and also experience in Massachusetts. Mark will start in early August. The new accountant position remains unfilled as a result of the lack of applicants. Officer Storti has announced his retirement for the end of July which leaves two open patrol positions. The Fire Department has had one of their new members resign.

Events:

- July 19th – Public Information Meeting to discuss the process to test people's blood for exposure to PFC's and to provide an update on the investigation and long term solutions. 7:00 PM at the Campbell High School, 1 Highlander Court, Litchfield, NH.
- July 21st – Concerts in the Park continue at 6 PM at the Bedford Village Common. Concerts continue on Thursday nights through August 11th.
- July 26th – Tuesday Family Cultural Series completes its season at 6:00 PM with Ben Rudnick & Friends.
- July 29th - "Open House" with DES and the Rivers Council at 10:00 AM on site (Wathen Road) to celebrate the daylighting of the brook and overall TIF improvements.
- August 2nd – National Night Out at 6 PM, Slevoski Field with a softball game between Bedford Fire and Police Departments.
- August 3rd - **Public Hearing** on the setting of the NH standard of 70 ppt of PFOA, PFOS, or a combination of the two. 6:00 PM at the Campbell High School, 1 Highlander Court, Litchfield, NH.

Upcoming Meetings:

- ~~July 18th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board~~
- July 19th – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- **July 20th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- ~~July 21st – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee~~
- July 26th – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- July 26th – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- July 28th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- August 2nd – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- August 8th – 7:00 PM, WBNH Radio Board
- ~~August 11th – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee~~
- August 15th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- August 16th – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- August 23rd – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- August 23rd – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **August 24th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- August 25th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission

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