

MEMORANDUM



To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, AICP, Town Manager
Date: August 11, 2016
Re: **Manager's Report**

News & Noteworthy:

1) The town wide property revaluation is nearing completion with new values having been sent to all property owners and hearings on any concerns continuing through next week. The Town Assessor will be updating the Council and Community on the findings so far at the August Council meeting. Generally the overall assessment went up approximately 15% before any changes are made as a result of the hearing process. The PFOA impacted portion of town will be one of the adjustments made as a result of municipal water not yet having been extended to those homes.

2) The Library Summer Reading Program has had another great year with over 950 children participating and recently held a touch-a-truck event which was very well attended. Thanks go out to our Library, DPW, Police, and Fire Department personnel for their efforts for this event.



3) This month marks one year since the devastating period on our roadways where we had a number of fatal accidents in a very short period of time. As a result of those accidents and continued observations of aggressive driving, distracted driving, speeding, and running of red lights, Chief Bryfonski implemented an intensive enforcement program and included the notion that, "we are not out there to ruin your day; we are out there to save your life." In July 303 motor vehicle violations summonses were issued which represented an increase of 91% over July 2016. 635 warnings were also issued versus 412 last July. While we continue to see all kinds of issues on our roads I believe the program has led to a greater visible police presence overall and safer community.



4) Cyanobacteria advisory has been issued for Sebbins Pond where the bluish-green globs (as they are described) have been seen at this time of year in the past and that have been seen occasionally this year. Our Health Officer continues to monitor the situation with DES and additional testing is being completed.

5) The NH Department of Health and Human Services has issued a Health Alert for the detection of two positive tests for West Nile Virus in Manchester. More information is available on our website at <https://www.bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/View/2247>

- 6) Our Police and Fire Departments participated in an Annual National Night Out softball game on August 1st which is intended to foster police-community relationships (the FD won for the time in several years). WZID also held a neighborhood block party at the same time at the pool complex area which was very well attended by local vendors and residents.
- 7) The Summer Concert Series will conclude on August 16th for the year after holding 10 events at the Bedford Village Common.



Project Updates:

- 1) We continue to monitor and work on the PFC water contamination issue and a meeting with Saint-Gobain, NHDES, and Pennichuck has been scheduled for August 15th at which point we hope to hear what the engineering studies have shown for bringing municipal water to the impacted area.
- 2) 2016 CIP & Budget – The Department Heads have submitted their department goals, CIP, and staffing requests, and budget requests are due next week. The CIP has been reviewed by the Planning Director, Finance Director, and Manager and a draft will be provided to the Planning Board and Council in September.
- 3) Paving recreation parking lot & student parking program – Grading was finally able to be started this week and it is hopeful that it will be paved today or Monday at the latest. The HS closes their parking request period on August 18th at which point we will be provided with the list of students who did not get spaces on campus who will have the first opportunity for spaces within the town lots. Any student with a license will be eligible to obtain a permit within the town lots at any point in the school year if a space is available. The permit hangtags are color coded to the color that has been assigned to the lot by the recent ordinance adoption.
- 4) Roads Program – Work is underway on the Gault Road, Maple Drive, and Patten Road project and Gault Road is now back open and Patten Road is closed through mid-August but may be paved today or Monday. The side roads abutting Wallace Road and Wallace Road have been paved and crews will be finishing up roadside gravels soon. It is anticipated that the Worthy Road and abutting streets reconstruction will restart during the last week of August, but residents may see tree clearing begin as soon as the week of the 14th. Design work on Pulpit Road, Liberty Hill Road, and North Amherst/Campbell Road are all underway. Please continue to watch the Roads Program website for timely updates at www.bedfordroads.com



5) Personnel: Officer Frank is scheduled to graduate the Police Academy on August 25th. We have had one police officer resign to accept a similar position in Londonderry leaving us with three open positions. Officer Nightingale has accepted the second School Resource Officer position and will be starting her new role over the coming days. Our open Communications Specialist position has been filled by a person with previous experience from Merrimack. We have advertised the Town Engineer and our new equipment operator positions in DPW. Our open firefighter position has been filled by a Bedford resident who recently moved here from Laconia where he was a firefighter. Deputy Chief Klose will be completing his duties with Bedford over the next two weeks prior to starting his new job as Chief of the Rochester Fire Department.

Meetings with the Police and Fire unions are ongoing. A first meeting with the DPW union is still pending confirmation but will not occur until after Labor Day. A draft of the public works non-union employee salary and benefit study has been received

Events:

- August 16th – Route 101 Open House, meet the contractor and management team, Bedford Public Library, 4:30-6 PM.
- August 16th – Summer Concert Series, “The Funky Divas”, Bedford Village Common, 6 PM.
- August 17th – Outdoor Movie Night, “Toy Story”, Sportsman Field, activities start at 7 PM.
- **September 4th – Town Office, Library & Transfer Station closed in honor of Labor Day.**
- September 4th – Last day for the Town Pool, Noon-5 PM.
- September 23rd – Olde Towne Day, 10 AM – 3 PM.
- September 24th – The Educational Farm at Joppa Hill, Fall Fair, 1-5 PM.
- October 7th – Household Hazardous Waste Day, Highway Garage, 19 Chubbuck Road, 9 AM – 1 PM.
- October 10th – The Bedford Fire Department Open House, 5-8 PM at the Safety Complex, 55 Constitution Drive.



Upcoming Meetings:

- August 14th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- August 15th – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- **August 16th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- August 22nd – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- August 22nd – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- August 24th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- September 5th – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission

- September 11th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- September 12th – 7:00 PM, Parks & Recreation Commission
- **September 13th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- September 14th – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee
- September 19th – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- September 25th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board (workshop)
- September 26th – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- September 26th – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **September 27th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- September 28th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission

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