

MEMORANDUM



To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: November 9, 2018
Re: **Manager's Report**

News & Noteworthy:

- 1) At the 2018 New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters "Granite Mikes Awards" WBNH was honored with five awards including 1st place for play-by-play, and best LP-FM montage. Congratulations to Station Manager Harry Kozlowski, Loren Foxx, Andrew Hansen, and the entire WBNH team for this recognition of their hard work.
- 2) The Tax Rate has been set at \$20.40 up from \$18.91 (+\$1.49 or 7.9%). The Town portion is up to \$4.54 from \$4.13. Tax bills have been mailed with a December 3rd due date.
- 3) We had 11,055 ballots cast which represents 61.8% of our 17,890 registered voters at the November 6, 2018 general election. The Supervisors of the Checklist registered 555 new people at the polls. Over 1,800 absentee ballots were requested and 1,612 were returned. The large number of absentee ballots represents a lot of extra work for our Town Clerk and her team in the weeks leading up to the election. I truly want to thank the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, and Supervisors of the Checklist for all of the long hours they put into this and every election. The parking and traffic issues experienced in the morning hours of the election will be reviewed with the Moderator, Town Clerk, Police Department, and DPW to see what improvements can be made in the future. I appreciate all the efforts that were made on Election Day to make changes on the fly to improve conditions.
- 4) I want to congratulate the Planning Director Rebecca Hebert, her entire planning team, the Think Tank members, and the members of the public who participated in the Master Plan Update Planapalooza events that took place over the first 5 days of November. The information and conversations were all really helpful to completing a plan that I believe the whole community will be proud of. I also want to thank the Bedford Village Inn and Noah's Event Center for the donation of their facilities to this effort.



- 5) The period for citizen petition zoning amendments runs between November 12th and December 12th. Anyone interested submitting a petition is encouraged contact the Planning Department for assistance.
- 6) The Bedford Winter Parking Ban began on November 1st, which requires no parking on public roads between midnight and 8 AM.
- 7) On National Drug Take Back Day – Saturday, October 27th, Bedford diverted 300 pounds of unused medications from falling into the wrong hands and our environment.

Project Updates:

- 1) The Library lower level carpet replacement project is tentatively scheduled to take place December 10-21. The existing carpet is original to the building. Access to the Children's Room and our meeting rooms will be impacted so look for announcements from our Library team as we get closer.
- 2) The document management RFP responses are due back today November 9th.
- 3) 2018 Roads Program – The Cider Mill Road Bridge is tentatively scheduled to open on November 15th, which is one week delayed due to all of the rain we have been receiving. Limited paving along Liberty Hill Road is being completed in the worst sections to allow us to effectively plow the road this winter. Full reconstruction will take place in 2019. The Pulpit Road and the Bedford Three Corners area as well as the Sebbins Pond and Sandy Pond Parkway areas have been paved. The Continental team is now working on the worst portion of Barrington Drive and is expected to be completed for the season by Thanksgiving. Please continue to watch the Roads Program website for timely updates at www.bedfordroads.com

Events:

- November 11th – Veterans Day, Library closed
- November 12th – Veterans Day observed, Town Office, Library, Transfer Station closed
- November 19th – December 17th Santa's Mailbox will be available in the lobby of the Town Office Building, 24 North Amherst Road for Express Mail to the North Pole. Santa's helpers have asked that you be sure to print your name and address clearly on your letter.
- November 17th – Friends of the Library Annual Pie Sale 10:00 AM to Noon. Proceeds go to support the Library's Technology Fund.
- November 17th – Bedford Boomers Lionel Model Railroad Exhibit at the Library 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, again on the 18th from 1:00 to 5:00 PM in celebration of National Model Railroad Month.
- November 22-23 – Thanksgiving Holiday, Town Office, Library, Transfer Station closed. The Library closes at 5 PM on the 21st.

Upcoming Meetings:

- **November 14th - 5:00 PM, Town Council Budget Workshop**

- **November 14th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- November 19th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board (**Ross A. Lurgio School Cafeteria**)
- November 20th – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- November 27th – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- November 27th – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **November 28th - 5:00 PM, Town Council Budget Workshop**
- November 29th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- December 3th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- December 4th – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- December 11th – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- December 11th – 7:00 PM, Parks & Recreation Commission
- **December 12th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- December 13th – 7:45 AM, Water & Sewer Advisory Committee
- December 17th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- December 18th – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- December 27th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- December TBA – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee

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