

# MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council  
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager  
Date: January 22, 2021  
Re: **Manager's Report**

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## News & Noteworthy:

- 1) The registration period for open elected positions is January 20, 2021 through 5 PM January 29, 2021.

### Open Town Elected Positions:

- Three Town Council positions (3-year terms)
- Two Library Trustees (one 3-year term, one 2-year term)
- One Trustee of the Trust Fund (3-year term)
- One Supervisors of the Checklist (5-year term)

### Open School District Positions:

- Two School Board positions (3-year terms)

Any Bedford registered voter wishing to file for Office must do so by contacting Town Clerk Sally Kellar at 472-3550. The clerk will be available during office hours at the Town Office Building, 24 North Amherst Road and until 5 PM on the last day of filing.

As per RSA 669:19 candidates who file on the last day of the filing period shall do so in person before the Town Clerk.

- 2) COVID-19 Pandemic – Bedford unfortunately continues to see a high number of cases with **128 current COVID-19 positive patients**. It is my understanding that **our current cases are a result of significant community spread as well as outbreaks in long term care facilities**. We need to continue to be as cautious as possible when out in the public. I strongly encourage all residents to follow the CDC and State of NH recommendations for protecting yourself including wearing a face covering and washing hands as often as possible. The State's guidelines for traveling out of New England requires quarantining for 10 days when you return. Organizationally we continue to have employees out due to being positive or having family members who are or due to exposures to positive people. We recently had outbreaks in the Fire and Finance Departments that caused us to close the tax and motor vehicle windows however most employees have been able to return and I truly appreciate the efforts of all of our employees who continue to provide services under these challenging staffing issues.
- 3) Bedford Cares – Continues to provide an incredible service to members of our community who are in need of assistance with such things as shopping and picking up of prescriptions. If you need their support or want to help please reach out to them at 792-1319 or on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/bedfordnhcares/>
- 4) The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on 3 proposed zoning amendments on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. This hearing will be conducted virtually and the log in information can be obtain by contacting the Planning Department at [planning@bedfordnh.org](mailto:planning@bedfordnh.org). The amendments can be viewed on the Town Website at: <https://www.bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/View/4919/2021-Zoning-Amendment-Legal-Notice>

5) Drought – Bedford and a much of southeastern NH remains in the condition defined as “Abnormally Dry”. Unfortunately northwestern NH has fallen back to abnormally dry conditions after having been cleared from the drought.

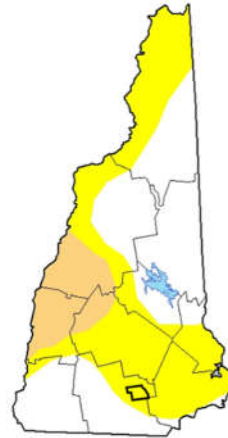
6) PFAS – NHDES and Saint Gobain are testing private wells in southeastern Bedford now that the PFAS standards have been adopted into law. It is unknown how long it will take before we know what solutions will be proposed. If you have received a request for well testing it is critical that you sign the agreement and return the paperwork as soon as possible.

7) The Bedford Winter Parking Ban began on November 1<sup>st</sup>, which requires no parking on public roads between midnight and 8 AM.

8) Family Snowman Challenge – build a snowman in your own yard and submit a picture by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Be sure to challenge your friends and neighbors!

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
New Hampshire**

**January 19, 2021**  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



**Intensity:**  
None  
D0 Abnormally Dry  
D1 Moderate Drought  
D2 Severe Drought  
D3 Extreme Drought  
D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



**Project Updates:**

- 1) Ladder Truck – The RFP for the ladder truck replacement has been issued with a response date of January 22, 2021. It is our hope that we will be able to ask the Council to award the contract at their February 10, 2021 meeting.
- 2) 2020 Financial Audit – The audit has been initiated and the team is expected to begin their work on February 5, 2021.
- 3) Personnel: Library Director Mary Ann Senatroy has announced her intention to retire this spring after 22 years of service to the community. Mary Ann’s level of knowledge and skills as a librarian coupled with her dedication to the community, the visitors to the library, and to her staff is truly unmatched in the industry and serves as a professional model for all of us to strive to achieve. Mary Ann has overseen many physical improvements to the library and always found ways to continue to provide the public with access to materials and needed information. Through her leadership the library has grown into a community center that is so highly valued by our residents. I can’t thank Mary Ann enough for her counsel and support to me as Town Manager.

**Events:**

- **February 2<sup>nd</sup> – School System Deliberative Meeting, 7 PM, Bedford High School.**
- **March 9<sup>th</sup> – Local Election Day, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Bedford High School.**
- **March 10<sup>th</sup> – Budgetary Town Meeting, 7:00 PM, Bedford High School.**

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- January 25<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Planning Board (2<sup>nd</sup> Zoning Amendment Public Hearing)
- ~~January 26<sup>th</sup> – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee~~
- January 26<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **January 27<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Town Council** (2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Public Hearing)
- January 28<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- ~~February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission~~
- **February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7:00 PM, SAU 25 Deliberative Session**
- February 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- February 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission Workshop
- **February 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- February 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:45 AM, Water & Sewer Committee
- February 16<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- February 18<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Committee
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- February 23<sup>rd</sup> – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- **February 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- February 25<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission

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