

**TOWN OF BEDFORD  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 11, 2011  
BEDFORD MEETING ROOM**

Present were: Sue Thomas (alt), Michelle Casale (Chairman), Norman Longval (TC Rep), Dennis Tokac and Ken Peterson (TC alt)

Not present: Diane Phelps, Robert Angelini (alt) and Shaun Oparowski (alt)

Chairman Casale opened the meeting at 7 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS – Road Race Policy** (TABLED – Sept 13, 2011)

Chairman Casale said this was tabled from last month there were some questions raised about Police Detail specifically and we have Lt. Mike Bernard from the PD and Jim Stanford from Public Works as well. The commission had received the road race policy and Jane sent it out again with one of the changes we had requested which was adding in under Application Process that “Dogs must be on a leash” if someone would choose to bring a dog to a road race. There were questions regarding the requirement to have a Police Detail on the road races brought up by one of our commission members and he is absent this evening, but we would still like to address his concerns and so we would love to hear your thoughts and then we can discuss the policy again as a commission and take a vote on it.

Lt. Bernard stated that he understood there were issues and questions regarding the police detail and hiring the detail. I am here to represent the Police Department and say that I advocate for a police detail at all the intersections or where ever they are needed. We do three races in Town right now the annual Bedford Rotary Race, Lurgio Middle School Race and the Animal Rescue League race. We have been doing the Rotary Race for a number of years and there has never been an issue. If there ever was an issue our patrolmen can handle any situation without a hitch. The suggestion of going out and hiring traffic company or another outside agency or the suggestion of hiring another police department for the race, that can’t be done. This has to be handled through the Bedford Police Department. It is a safety issue and liability issue for the Town.

Ms. Sue Thomas asked about the Rotary Race exactly how many patrolmen are on and how do you divide everyone up? Lt. Bernard said it depends on the size of the race, they have a 12K and a 5K and it depends on the number of intersections they are going through. The 12K goes down County Road and Patten Road and we try to put an officer at every intersection just in case a car sneaks by the barricade we can control the vehicle so it doesn’t hit a runner. What we do, when the 5K starts we shift all those officers to new posts so we use them twice. It is a 4 hour detail, because that is when the race gets

done. For the Rotary Race it depends between 8-10. Ms. Sue Thomas asked is that the biggest of the three races? Lt. Bernard said yes. Ms. Sue Thomas said that is a registered race. Lt. Bernard said yes it is licensed and part of the circuit. We do have an officer at each post and we do have the motorcycle officer who is ahead of the lead runner and then we have another vehicle that is behind the last runner to keep them safe. Ms. Sue Thomas said there are a couple hundred runners in that race and there has never been an issue. We have been doing the Rotary Race for quite a while now? Lt. Bernard said correct and I have been part of the Department for 13 years and I have been doing this race for 10 years and we have not had a major issue.

Mr. Tokac asked again how many police officers for the Rotary Race? Lt. Bernard said I cannot speak for the other races; it depends on how long the race is. For the 12K there are usually between 8-10 officers.

Chairman Casale asked do you know of any other traffic service like the one the other commission member mentioned which would be an outside service to manage traffic. Lt. Bernard said I have never heard of any. The Rotary Race has some volunteers who assist the officers but for the most part it is a police detail.

Councilor Longval replied that I have in my notes that a variety of equipment including medical aid if necessary and I am just curious has there ever been a fatality or an incident where someone was injured? Lt. Bernard said not because of not paying attention to intersections, we have had runners who have fallen or have passed out with heat exhaustion when we have humid conditions. If the officer is there they radio in and the ambulance goes right to the scene, so that is another positive. We have the ability to talk on the radio and God forbid a runner goes down and we can get on the radio and have emergency services right then and there. All the officers are CPR certified and trained. Councilor Longval said they are more than certified to take care of that if an incident happens.

Mr. Tokac said in regards to the officers you choose for the detail, is it chosen or is it whoever is available, is it officers who have done races before? How do you decide who is going to be doing the detail? Lt. Bernard said on Monday morning we have what is called a “Detailed Card List” and the officer will put their name in. If there is detail it goes by seniority, so the officers with the most seniority signs up. We have some officers with 18 years on who have done the Road Races numerous times and then it funnels down to the newer officers. I am in charge of the Rotary Race by putting certain officers at the intersections and being in charge for the last 5 years, I make sure if there is a lesser experienced officer, I put him with a more experienced officer or he is given directions on how to do it or given the assignment of a lesser busy intersection so he gets the experience and gets more and more responsibility as he goes. A lot of time before the Gault Road intersection was built we always had two officers there. If I had an officer with lesser experience and someone with 18 years on, he would be there with that officer. It goes by seniority.

Mr. Tokac asked how many races we are thinking about per year. Chairman Casale said we have three right now. Ms. Sue Thomas replied three consistent ones. Mr. Tokac said we are looking to pretty much keep it within the Town of Bedford and not have outside organizations it probably will not increase significantly if other organizations say they want to have a race. Ms. Sue Thomas said I was thinking about that and what we can do is go with the policy as it is written and if we suddenly get a lot of Bedford organizations that want to do road races we can revisit it and limit the number per year. We could say no more than 5 road races a year. I am not sure we want the roads closed down for 4 hours at a time more than 5 times a year. Usually the road races are during the nicer weather. If more groups want it, then there will be a waiting list. If one group stops doing it for whatever reason, Jane would have a list and let the next one come in if need be.

Lt. Bernard commented we do not primarily shut roads down for long periods of time. We allow the runners to go and once there is a break in the runners we allow traffic to flow. There are certain areas where we shut it down for a half hour, but we do allow traffic to flow once the major portion of the runners goes through. We will allow traffic to go one way and we will tell them we have runners in the road. Ms. Sue Thomas said that is another good reason to have the officers there for those stragglers that come by and we need to make sure that they are safe.

Chairman Casale replied I like your suggestion Sue leaving it the way it is and if it becomes an issue we will revisit it. Ms. Sue Thomas said Jane comes back and says we have 10 Bedford organizations that want to do road races; I don't think we should run 10 races. Chairman Casale said we can revisit it at that point. Ms. Sue Thomas said limiting it to Bedford is self-limiting as it is.

Chairman Casale asked any other questions on the policy.

Councilor Peterson said I want to ask a question about two minor grammar points. Chairman Casale asked are you an English major in college. Councilor Peterson said no an engineer, but unfortunately this stuff jumps out at me.

On page 2 under Police Department it says "The police detail will be charged" and I think it would be more appropriate if it says "The applicant will be charged" as it says under Public Works.

On page 1, I think it is a little more proper instead of saying "a permit from the Parks & Recreation Department which will be signed off by the Police Department" should read "which will be approved by the Police Department" would be more appropriate.

Chairman Casale said I am missing you? Councilor Peterson said on page 1 under Application Process paragraph 1, line 3 "which will be signed off by" would be more appropriate to say "be approved by". Chairman Casale said I don't have a problem with those changes.

Ms. Sue Thomas said I was not at the last meeting, but I did read the minutes, but were there issues from Public Works standpoint? Chairman Casale said the minor question that someone had was to charge the hourly rate and the question about what that was. I believe Jane said it varied.

Mr. Jim Stanford (Public Works Director) stated it will vary depending on what employees are available. Essentially we have one person on-call each week and it ranges. We have guys with 20 years experience down to 5 years and whoever is on call, if that person is available, and then they would be working. Chairman Casale said that is why a dollar amount cannot be put in there. Ms. Sue Thomas said it is just luck of the draw who is on-call that weekend and that would be the rate of pay. Mr. Stanford said correct.

Chairman Casale said thank you for clarifying that. Ms. Sue Thomas said applicants will know that we cannot pinpoint that cost down it will be what it will be.

Chairman Casale said those are good changes, any other comments, questions can we have a motion.

**MOTION made by Ms. Sue Thomas to accept the policy on road races as amended. Seconded by Mr. Tokac. Vote taken – all in favor. Motion passes.**

**OLD BUSINESS – Bedford Village Common Impact Fee Request (TABLED-Sept 13, 2011)**

Chairman Casale said this was tabled from last month as there was some question about the impact fee amount. The question was the exact amount in the Impact Fee Fund and the exact amount is \$67,953 balance from Finance Director, Crystal Dionne. The Bedford Village Common did a full presentation at the last meeting about how they were proposing to spend the next level of funding and their projects and now they have updated information.

Bev Thomas (Chairman BVCDC) & Deb Sklar (Member) presented for BVC.

Ms. Bev Thomas said there was some confusion at the last meeting and now we are all in agreement that it is \$67,953. I sent a letter in to Chairman Casale explaining what we are hoping to use the funds for. As you can see this letter states \$44K which is not the complete project, I had estimated about \$70K to complete the whole park excluding the skate hut. What we did, we pulled things that we felt were important to have in the park in order to make it safe when we open the park. Some of the items we have put on hold. (Holding up her line item sheet) the items in pink are the items we have put on hold and we can wait if we do not get the full \$70K. The items on the letter we feel are important when the park opens.

Chairman Casale asked will these funds be matched. Ms. Bev Thomas said yes we are asking for \$35K and we will match with \$35K. Chairman Casale said your letter totals \$44K. Ms. Bev Thomas said yes this is \$44K, but we are asking for \$35K. We need at

least \$44K total to open the park, we plan to match the \$35K, so hopefully we will have \$70K and we can complete everything.

Ms. Sklar said it gets confusing, but if you look at Bev's list it is \$70K required to complete the park going with everything included on this list except for the warming hut and that is \$40K. If you want to fully complete the park and that would include some bird houses and the full amount of benches and a bicycle rack that would be the \$70K. What Bev did is she came to \$44K by the absolute minimum essential stuff that would be needed to safely open the park. Ms. Bev Thomas said we do not want to open the park if it is not safe.

Chairman Casale asked so \$44K is essential and now what is \$35K? Ms. Bev Thomas said \$35K is what we are asking for in impact fees.

Ms. Sue Thomas said if all the impact fees are matched. Ms. Bev Thomas replied we will have \$70K which would be enough. Ms. Sue Thomas said \$22K would be enough to get to the \$44K and \$35K would get you to the \$70K. Ms. Bev Thomas said yes. Ms. Sue Thomas commented because you have to match.

Chairman Casale said in the past you have matched a combination of in-kind and cash, is that what the Town Council has asked? Ms. Bev Thomas said yes, but it has to be specific in-kind and that is on the list. It cannot be someone donates \$50K to put something in the park that was not on our original plan. It has to be something that has a line item. Chairman Casale said it is not required to be cash only it can be cash in-kind? Ms. Bev Thomas said yes that is true.

Chairman Casale replied so \$44K essential and \$35K is the asking. We can have a discussion and procedurally we have another request and discussion for impact fees from M.O.L.D. (Members of the Outdoor Leagues Discussion Group) and that is something that has been on our 5-year plan so we want to hear from them as well before we vote. Ms. Bev Thomas said so that is tonight. Chairman Casale said yes right after you. We wanted to hear from you and then also hear what they are proposing because they have been in the plan for the 5-year plan and then we will have a full discussion and then come to a recommendation to bring to Town Council so you understand where we are going.

Chairman Casale asked any specific discussion from the commission on this? Mr. Tokac asked to see the document where you have the pink color scheme. Ms. Bev Thomas said the green is everything on the letter list essential.

Mr. Tokac commented bird houses, bird house posts, sign, lighting, band stand retaining planter walls and some additional trees and shrubs. Ms. Bev Thomas said actually that was a mistake and the band stand should really be on the letter list that was an oversight so really the letter should read \$48K. Chairman Casale said the pink was the non-essential? Ms. Bev Thomas said right, but the band stand is essential so that was an oversight and it should have been on the letter list. Mr. Tokac said so it should be

another \$4K on the list for the band stand. Chairman Casale said so that would bring you up to \$48K.

Ms. Sue Thomas asked why is the pond fountain an essential item which is \$3K. Ms. Bev Thomas said it is probably not an essential item, but since we are working on the pond and the equipment is in there it makes sense to do it now, but to hold off on that we could. Ms. Sue Thomas said the \$44K we are being told is essential in order to open the park. Chairman Casale said we could argue all day.

Ms. Sue Thomas replied there is a limited amount of impact fees. Impact fees are limited so \$4K is a big amount of money when you are talking about \$67K of fees together.

Chairman Casale said you could argue \$4,800 for granite benches maybe not critical and we can go on and on. Ms. Bev Thomas commented that you need to have some benches in the park. Actually if you look at the list we have a total of 8 to put in and we only put 4 on the list to start for the opening. Ms. Sklar commented that there are some members of the committee who feel we need more benches around the skating ring so people will have a place to sit down and put their skates on. Chairman Casale asked have you offered the benches as sponsorships. Ms. Bev Thomas said yes and we have some. Ms. Sklar said if anyone is watching it is \$3K per bench. Ms. Bev Thomas said we have two donated so far.

Chairman Casale said we are okay with questions right now and there may be more when we hear everything in totality. So it is \$44K essential, plus the band stand another \$4K. Does anyone else have questions at the moment? Please stick around.

#### **NEW BUSINESS – M.O.L.D. Impact Fee Recommendation (Dave Costa)**

Chairman Casale said M.O.L.D. is the Members of the Outdoor League Discussion Group and you missed it Sue because last meeting the suggestion was to change the name. Ms. Sue Thomas said we also have discussed changing the name, but we kind of like it. Mr. Costa said he didn't know what it meant. Ms. Sue Thomas said I am not surprised. Councilor Peterson said he has had several people ask why you would want to name a group M.O.L.D. Ms. Sue Thomas said it is very odd when you tell people I have a M.O.L.D. meeting to go to. Chairman Casale said that was right at the Town Council meeting. While we are waiting for the power point to come up we have a 5-year Master Plan and in that plan are some funding priorities and there were various fields and courts to be lighted over the 5-year plan. The plan was created in 2010 and that is why Dave is here to discuss where we are with these priorities, potential funding and potential use of impact fees.

Dave Costa (Babe Ruth, President) thank you Parks & Recreation for allowing me to present here tonight and this is our recommendation on what to do with that \$67K worth of impact fees. Again like Michelle said we put together a 5-year plan back in 2010 and it was approved by Town Council in January 2011. I apologize for having all these options up there, but unfortunately at this time of the year the outdoor leagues boards

change and the 2011 boards have changed and as a result you cannot get consensus because the boards are influx right now, so that is why we decided to put together a range of proposals and in the next month or so we will come up with a definitive option that we will come forward with.

## **M.O.L.D. recommendations for Bedford Impact Fees**

**Per the Bedford Parks and Recreation 5 year Master Plan approved by the town council 1/26/2011**

- **Lighting of Swenson Fields(3 options)**
  - **Lighting of South Field (baseball diamond) or North Field (skin infield, multi-purpose, softball, baseball, AAU)**
    - Approximate costs: \$92K each lights, electrical, and installation
  - **Lighting of Rectangular Field**
    - Approximate costs: \$100K lights, conduit, electrical, and installation
  - **Lighting of all 3 fields at Swenson Field Complex**
    - Approximate costs: \$354K lights, conduit, electrical, and installation if done at same time
- **Lighting of Selvoski Field (Softball Diamond)**
  - Approximate costs: \$85K lights, conduit, electrical, and installation
- **Lighting of Bedford Little League Complex (2-60' baseball diamonds)**
  - Lighting of South Field only, approximate costs: \$95K lights, conduit, electrical, installation with above ground foundations

**M.O.L.D. would like to ask the Bedford Parks and Recreation Committee to reserve \$67K in impact fees for one of the above 3 options**

*Slide (2)*

**M.O.L.D. recommendations for Bedford Impact Fees continued**

**The 3 recommendations, lighting of Swenson, Selvoski, and/or the Little League South Field would allow the following:**

- **Expand capacity for multi-sport usage for spring, summer, and fall seasons, (soccer, lacrosse, football, softball, and baseball)**
- **Give Parks and Recreation the ability to 'rest' fields that are being overused, extending the life of the town fields and lowering maintenance costs**
- **Meet the growing needs of the outdoor leagues into the future without building of new fields**
- **Enable leagues to bid on state and regional tournaments, which bring revenue into Bedford restaurants and hotels**

- **Meet one of the objectives of the 5 year Master Plan without affecting capital expenditures**

**M.O.L.D. has a track record of helping outdoor leagues meet their fundraising goals as well as being a trusted advisor and advocate for Bedford Parks and Recreation**

**Examples below:**

- **Sodding of the SAU Field, joint effort between football, soccer, softball, baseball, and lacrosse**
- **Helping Bedford Babe Ruth pay off the SAU light note, joint effort between football, soccer, softball, baseball, and lacrosse.**
- **Joppa Hill irrigation, joint effort between soccer, lacrosse, and football leagues**
- **3 Members of M.O.L.D. with town council, DPW director, and Parks and Recreation members formed the Ad Hoc Committee which recommended ways to share cost and labor burdens between town and outdoor leagues as well as establishing a long term committee to with the School District to come up with ways to save time and money. (See Ad Hoc Committee Bedford Parks and Recreation Report, January 26, 2011)**

**Negative impact of M.O.L.D. recommendations:**

- **Increased light usage (could be offset by increase in league or usage fees)**

Mr. Costa commented once the boards have their initial meetings and get finalize the M.O.L.D. Group will get back together either late October or early November and determine what is the best plan of attack whether it is one of the fields at Swenson's, whether it is Little League complex or Selvoski and then they will come back to this board and say we need X dollars in fees. I put \$67K in there because that is what I thought you guys had and I wanted to go for all of it. If we look at the costs here let's just assume the highest cost is \$100K for the rectangular field that would be \$50K in impact fees. If we take South Field that \$92K so that is \$46K in impact fees, if we go with the Little League complex that is \$48K in fees. We don't need the \$67K we are looking between \$45K-\$50K is what we would be looking for as a group to get one of these options done. Those are the costs.

Mr. Costa said it would enable leagues to bid on Regional Tournaments, State Tournaments which brings revenue into the Town. Goffstown every year they run Districts or State Tournaments in their Town because they have two lighted fields and they generate a ton of revenue by being able to do that. We would love to be able to do that in Bedford. We are always on the road for State Tournaments because we cannot host them. This gives us the ability to host some of these Regional and State Tournaments and even National Tournaments like Gill Stadium does and it does bring people into the Town, into the restaurants and into the hotels. When these teams from

out-of-state come into the Town these are 12 year olds, they are bringing their parents and it generate a lot of buzz and it is a good relationship for the Town to have.

Mr. Costa said it meets one of objectives of the 5-year Master Plan without affecting any capital. Those are the high points.

I want to get into a little bit about M.O.L.D. We have a pretty good track record of late of helping outdoor leagues meet their fundraising goals as well as being a trusted advisor and advocate for Parks & Rec. When the School District built the SAU field Babe Ruth started “Finish the Field Fun”. Football, soccer and lacrosse came in and raised \$42K to sod those fields so we could get on them 8 months earlier than we should have if we had to plant seed. All the outdoor leagues are helping Babe Ruth pay off the SAU light note which Babe Ruth took out in 2008 to pay for those lights. Joppa irrigation again another joint effort between the outdoor leagues. Three members of M.O.L.D. including myself, Jay Joseph and Steve Beals with the Town Council, DPW and P&R were on the Ad Hoc Committee which again recommended ways to share costs and labor burdens between Towns and outdoor leagues. Again there is another Ad Hoc Committee with Parks & Rec, the School District and again some M.O.L.D. members to basically come up with a new MOU between the Town and the School District that helps everybody not just one group or the other.

The one negative impact about the recommendation is obviously lighting another field there is increased light usage. Again we talked about this last year and that could be offset by usage fees, which again any usage fee that Parks & Rec puts on the outdoor leagues goes right down to the end client so all of us who have kids in the outdoor leagues will end up paying that usage fee, but that is a way to mitigate that negative. This is our thought from the M.O.L.D. group on what we want to do and we are asking the Parks & Rec Commission here to consider this.

Chairman Casale said I have one quick question, what is your proposed timing if you do receive some impact fees and what is the confidence level that the leagues have the money to match? Mr. Costa said I am the only one here tonight and I really cannot say for every league what they want to do. I have talked to everybody. I think they would want to do it sooner than later, whether it is spring 2012 or fall of 2012 that is probably the timeframe. From a fundraising perspective based on what we do, if it is a Little League project they have a pretty good cash flow. This is something that the entire M.O.L.D. group would get together and fundraise. Our ability to fundraise is pretty good. I believe we could have the \$50K in a snap, again because we are going to pull from the two football leagues, soccer, lacrosse, Babe Ruth baseball, Little league, Girls softball, so we have a pretty big pool of leagues to help us fund this. Again they become multipurpose fields, so it is not just a baseball field anymore. This is why I can get buy in from the other leagues to help with the fundraising. I do not believe money is an issue.

Ms. Sue Thomas said at the last M.O.L.D. meeting and as Dave said boards are turning over right now there was a good group. I believe Girls Softball and Little League missed the meeting, but the big issue was whatever is done first do something that would impact

the most number of leagues. If the most number of leagues are impacted they all did buy in. I remember years ago we did something up at Joppa and every league came up with a proportional amount of money and every league came up with what they could give to the project. I was on the softball board at that time and we donated \$5K and softball will never use it, but that is how the outdoor leagues worked together.

Mr. Costa said it is figuring out which is going to get the biggest bang for a buck. Chairman Casale said if our half is \$45-\$50K this is like splitting hairs.

Mr. Tokac asked Dave which Swenson field is the bigger one, is it South or North? Mr. Costa said they are the same size, but the North field is the one with the skinned infield. Ms. Sue Thomas said it is skinned and doesn't have a permanent mound it can be used for Girls Softball and Women's Softball because it has a pretty good size outfield. Mr. Costa said 225 feet. Ms. Sue Thomas said Women's softball can move from Chubbuck.

Mr. Costa said we made it that way as well so we can play 70 foot base path for AAU. Ms. Sue Thomas said middle aged kids could use it and it has a big outfield and in the fall the rectangular leagues could use it. Chairman Casale said North? Ms. Sue Thomas said yes North has the skinned infield. Mr. Costa said North would be the most multipurpose field. Chairman Casale said the M.O.L.D. group has to decide.

Ms. Sue Thomas said it is North field at Swenson's Field, even though it is not called North Field at the Little Complex anymore that is "Hosang Field".

Mr. Tokac said the outfield which is the grass area for both are the same size? Mr. Costa said they are exactly the same they are 225 feet on both north and south field. Ms. Sue Thomas said that is deeper than the Little League fields.

Councilor Longval said of the three fields up there, the Swenson fields, if you were to have lighting provided which one would you prefer to have the South field? Mr. Costa said the North field because like we said it has the skinned and it allows women's softball, girls' softball, AAU as well as Little League. Where as if we did the South field it is a grass infield and it limits us to just Little League activities in the spring and then football and soccer in the fall. Councilor Longval said so North field would be the better field. Mr. Costa said yes.

Mr. Tokac said the rectangular field would get a lot of usage to with lacrosse, football, soccer etc. Is there a way to split out the costs to establish conduit to the rectangular field and then down the road. Ms. Sue Thomas said it is all conduit? Mr. Costa said not the rectangular field. Ms. Sue Thomas said put lights on one and run the conduit to the rectangular field down the line. Mr. Tokac said yes so that down the road when we get more impact fees we can revisit putting lights up. At least if conduit is there that is one cost area that is addressed and you don't have to go back? Mr. Costa asked Dennis are you volunteering. Mr. Tokac said to lay the conduit? Chairman Casale said the conduit is on the two baseball fields there, not the rectangular field.

Mr. Costa said conduits it costs \$32K to run the conduit on North and South field, but the biggest costs is it is 700 ft down that road and the rectangular field would be less and it would probably costs \$10K to put conduit in that, that is assuming the labor is free. Mr. Costa said Dennis I would help you. I have experience. Again it would be easier as well because it is rectangular verses the baseball field which has curves in it. That is something we can do prior to that. At the last M.O.L.D. meeting I said we have that big electrical box on the street so we are set to go.

Chairman Casale said I would like to hear from Jane on the scheduling because this is why we are considering this because of scheduling issues. Jane what doesn't get scheduled or what gets off the list or what has to double up so we understand the true need and what is going on at your need. Ms. O'Brien said lighting another field would really help with Women's softball alone up at Chubbuck with the three adult leagues and the other youth sports that are on the field before the adults. With the number of rain outs and the number of groups on the fields, this will allow us to ease up some field space for other groups or even for field rest. Putting lights would lighten up both spring and fall schedule. I have Bedford Athletic Club coming in tomorrow to talk to me about how they have increased enrollment. Chairman Casale asked does anyone get denied field space or low on the totem pole because of overcrowding. Ms. O'Brien said they don't get denied, but they don't get exactly what they want. They may get one day a week practice even if they have requested a two day a week practice.

Mr. Costa said for example Babe Ruth has not been able to have a fall ball league in 4-5 years because I lose the field to football in the fall so we cannot play real fall ball on Riley Field or the SAU Field. This would give us the opportunity to have fall ball. Football starts in August and as far as I am concerned that is still baseball season. We lose all of August and then the fall when we could be playing.

Ms. O'Brien said this interrupts the Adult leagues when football starts in August. Mr. Costa said it is the youth sports and the adult sports so it is 5-6 leagues that miss out because of that.

Ms. Sue Thomas commented another lit field in the fall, for instance you saw tonight it was dark at 6:15 p.m. and soccer and football are still going strong. There is always an issue as to who gets the lit fields. Every year there is a compromise you had them last year and I get them this year. We work together, but it becomes an issue this time of year where practices are over before they have begun because of the darkness.

Mr. Costa said in Little League we do have a fall ball league and we have been practicing from 5:30-7 p.m. and I cancelled practiced tonight because at 6:15 p.m. it is dark so a practice from 5:30-6:15 p.m. just doesn't cut it.

Chairman Casale said we have before us two recommendations or suggestions on how to use impact fees that we currently have; \$35K is the ask from the Common and \$45-50K for the M.O.L.D. and various fields for lighting. I will entertain any discussion on this, your thoughts.

Councilor Longval said we don't have the money to do both we know that. I think what we need to do is carve up the turkey on this and I think the fields have the priority in this area for the lighting and there may be some money left over that we can give to the Common and that is my suggestion that we carve it up.

Chairman Casale said we talked last month about spreading the impact fees around and the fields are on our 5-year plan so I do feel there was a feeling to fund some of both.

Ms. Sue Thomas said there is \$67K in the fund right now, so if we went \$45K and \$22K that gets the Park to their \$44K and can light one field. Chairman Casale said yes, \$22K and \$46 comes up to the \$68K rounding up. If we do something like this, Town Councilors, how do you think the Town Council will feel about clearing out the Impact Fee Fund, is that okay with you, knowing it will be replenished in the near future. We have it, I feel like we should spend it verses just keeping it.

Councilor Longval said my personal feeling I would like to leave something in there rather than leaving it dry. It may be a long time before we get impact fees.

Councilor Peterson said impact fees have been going down precipitously over the last 3-4 years because of lack of building. Some impact fees will be increasing due to the improvements to the commercial grade down on DW Highway, but I would agree with Norm to drain it dry would not be completely appropriate. I would want to leave a little bit in there.

Ms. Sue Thomas said if they are for Parks & Rec expansion and we are looking to expand now and we have the need now, what is keeping a couple grand in the account going to gain us, I am just wondering? Councilor Longval said to answer your question it will not gain us a whole lot. I would just hate to see it dry and see nothing in there.

Chairman Casale said I feel like we have it and I would like to spend it. That is my opinion on it because we do want to expand and new money will come in and these are the two active projects that we have in Town off of our 5-year plan. I do not see M.O.L.D. coming back any time in the near future for more impact fees.

Ms. Sue Thomas commented that the whole idea of the impact fees is there are more fields to be lit and the Bedford Center Park has more things to do, but at some point we have to say there are no more impact fees, if you want a field lit you raise all the money. You can come and ask and they can get turned down.

Chairman Casale said if you can get some fees and raise money and do one you will be good for a bit.

Mr. Costa said the last time he got impact fees from the Town was in 2003 when we lit Riley Field. Ms. Sue Thomas said that is a good point.

Chairman Casale said I will remind the commission that what we decide today is a recommendation to the Council so let's say the majority feeling perhaps is spend the money and if it goes to Council and you feel strongly that you want to keep some you can adjust. This is correct, I assume? Councilor Longval said that is correct.

Chairman Casale said then I will entertain a motion.

**MOTION made by Ms. Sue Thomas to recommend to the Town Council that \$22K of the impact fees be allocated to the Bedford Village Common and \$46K of the impact fees be allocated to a field once M.O.L.D. Group decides which field to be lit and that would drain the impact fees, however leaving some money in the impact fees would mean one of these two groups would not be getting half of what they need to go forward and admitting for the Bedford Village Common it is the lowest amount they are asking for.**

Mr. Costa asked if spreading these impact fees over time that would help out. Ms. Sue Thomas said the money is not coming out of the account tomorrow it is just being pledged, so there could be more money in before all of the money goes out.

Mr. Costa said we may not start construction until September of 2012. Chairman Casale said yes and at that point there may be more money coming in. We did hear that there is some construction going on and I know Deb Sklar said from the Planning Board meeting there are things that are active. We know they are slow, but that is a good point that they wouldn't be drawn tomorrow and we wouldn't have a zero balance immediately. We have a motion on the floor can I have a second.

**Seconded by Councilor Longval. Vote taken – all in favor. Motion passes unanimously (4-0)**

Chairman Casale said so \$22K for the Common and \$46K held aside for M.O.L.D.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 13, 2011**

**MOTION made by Councilor Norm Longval to approve the minutes from September 13, 2011. Seconded by . Vote taken – all in favor. Minutes approved (2 abstained Sue Thomas & Ken Peterson)**

Next Meeting date is, Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Meeting Adjourned 7:50 PM.

Submitted by Jane O'Brien