

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
BCTV BOARD OF OVERSEERS
MEETING MINUTES
March 31, 2016
BEDFORD MEETING ROOM**

In Attendance: Dick Rawlings (Chairman), Bill Greiner (Vice-Chair), Pete Macdonald, Mike Sills, Dave Watson, Melissa Stevens (Town Council Liaison), Chris Bandazian (Town Council Alternate), Bill Foote (School Board Liaison), Bill Jennings (BCTV Station Manager), Coleen Richardson (Assistant Station Manager).

Absent: Bob Thomas

Public Input:

Chairman Dick Rawlings called the meeting to order. Seeing as there was no public input, the board moved onto the Election of Officers.

Election of Officers:

Motion made by Bill Greiner to nominate Dick Rawlings for Chariman; Seconded by Dave Watson. Vote taken – all in favor with one abstention. The motion passed.

Motion made by Mike Sills to nominate Bill Greiner for Vice-Chariman; Seconded by Bill Foote. Vote taken – all in favor with one abstention. The motion passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Chairman Rawlings asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of from the January 7, 2016 meeting of the Board of Overseers.

Motion made by Mike Sills to approve the minutes as presented; Seconded by Bill Foote. Vote taken – all in favor with two abstentions; Bill Greiner and Melissa Stevens. The motion passed.

Joint Open House:

Coleen Richardson informed the Board that there is a joint public open house scheduled for BCTV and WBNH on April 21st from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Ms. Richardson explained that WBNH has planned some special events and BCTV will also host some special events. Tours will be given of the facilities and people will be available to answer questions about volunteering.

In order to promote the event, there will be public service announcements on both the WBNH radio station and on BCTV, press releases are planned to be published in both the Bedford Bulletin and the Bedford Journal. Beginning on April 8th, a free-standing sign will be posted on the sidewalk outside the studio. Information will also be posted on both the BCTV Facebook page and the Town's Facebook page.

Ms. Richardson asked that everyone please email her if they are available to volunteer for any part of the event, for planning purposes.

Television Station Manager's Report by Bill Jennings:

Bill Jennings reminded everyone that the programming schedule is available on the website, but explained that they can no longer generate an in-depth schedule due to their current setup style.

Bill explained that BCTV staff has been focused on political programming lately, including everything from Candidate's Corner to budget committee hearings, to live coverage of the elections. They were even able to have Mrs. Christie, presidential candidate family member, in for an event, which was BCTV's first ever event of this type.

BCTV also hosted a show to support Town Council as they tried to get information out to residents about potentially removing the residency requirement from the Town charter for the Town Manager's position. Bill feels that media coverage of this information successfully helped support the vote for the change.

Recently BCTV has been working closely with the schools, the Bedford Police Department, and an organization called Be Bold, to educate people on the opiate crisis that we are dealing with in NH. BCTV recently covered an event on this topic, which was held at McKelvie Intermediate School. The event had many speakers and drew in more than 300 attendees from Bedford and the surrounding communities, including Kelly Ayotte and members from both State and Federal organizations.

In conjunction with the ongoing mission to have great content distribution, and in continued support of BCTV's strive to educate people, BCTV will be airing a documentary produced by the FBI, called Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opiate Addict. Since the documentary includes rough language and profanity, it can only be broadcast after 10 pm per BCTV's current policies. Chief Bryfonski will work with BCTV to create an introduction and a closing, perhaps even an intermission, in which the Police Chief will be able to share some of his comments. There are plans to include disclaimers to inform people that viewer discretion is advised.

WBNH also ran a live audio version of the event from McKelvie, which was the first time Bedford was able to offer live coverage from the school venue. This event, and the coverage of this event, has shown the Town's dedication to support public education in a great light.

The sports programming has expanded recently, since the addition of WBNH radio. Staff was able to use the video feed from Mike Currier at Castle Hill Sports, as well as the WBNH radio feeds, to maintain event coverage from additional venues, including St. Anselm College and the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester. It is important to note that BCTV gets a copy of what Castle Hill Sports is streams for use in later broadcasts, which is another great way to stretch resources.

One thing that is coming up is the annual budget process, which begins in June. As part of the preparing for the budget process, Town Council recently asked department heads to refresh everyone's memory on their current goals. Some of the current BCTV goals that are in progress include: The STI upgrade, the last phase of the efficient LED lighting program, establish a board of overseers for the radio station - which is up and running on their own, as well as continue to improve the BCTV and WBNH websites. The Town is in the process of improving the Town's website, which will include the BCTV and WBNH web pages, and is scheduled to launch in July. Coleen is part of that process as a member of the website redesign committee.

Bill Pointed out that right now BCTV does not have the capability to do wireless transmissions from the Town's emergency operations center. One of the 2017 goals was to look into equipment that will

make that a reality via radio transmissions, so that there can be direct contact between the Safety Complex and the station. The equipment is not as expensive as Bill originally anticipated, so this goal may be able to fit into 2016 instead.

Peter MacDonald asked if there are any CIP plans to improve the lighting in the Bedford High School theatre for the annual meeting, which is hosted there. Bill Jennings explained that the people up on stage can be seen well, but when the residents get up to ask questions, they are positioned too far back to be seen clearly. The only option currently is to open the camera iris as much as possible or move the area in which residents are directed to stand while addressing the room. This will have to be left as it is at this point, unless the school chooses to make a change, since BCTV has already spent a significant sum of money to add lighting to this facility when it first opened.

There was some discussion about the next meeting date and emails were to be sent out to confirm a date. *Update: Next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 7 p.m.*

Motion made by Bill Greiner to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Dave Watson. Vote taken – motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Submitted by Danielle Basora