

**TOWN OF BEDFORD  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
April 27, 2016  
BEDFORD MEETING ROOM  
10 MEETINGHOUSE ROAD**

**1. ROLL CALL:** A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road. Present were Kelleigh Murphy (Chairwoman), Councilors John Schneller, Bill Duschatko, Chris Bandazian, Melissa Stevens, and David Gilbert. Also present was Town Manager Rick Sawyer.

Councilor Aguiar was on a long-planned vacation.

Chairwoman Murphy opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Duschatko.

Chairwoman Murphy moved the approval of the minutes to the end of the meeting.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Request for property tax interest write-off, 9 Gleneagle Road**

Councilor Bandazian recused himself, because they worked every day together 20 years ago.

Mr. Sawyer explained that the Salvatore's purchased the property in October of last year. When the December tax bill was mailed on October 31, the ownership records still showed the previous owner of the property. The Salvatore's paid the taxes due once they were notified that they hadn't been paid, but are asking that the interest on the taxes be waived. They submitted their request in a letter to the Council.

Barbara and Robert Salvatore came forward. Ms. Salvatore explained that they received a text from their realtor in April saying that a lien was going to be put on their property for unpaid taxes. The tax bill went to the prior owner at his new address so they never saw the bill. They believe that the absence of a bill was why they never paid the owed taxes. They didn't realize they owed taxes because there was no bill.

Chairwoman Murphy wanted to know if they received a tax bill on their other property in Town. Ms. Salvatore stated they did and they paid it. Chairwoman Murphy asked if when they got that bill didn't they think they should pay both at the same time. Ms. Salvatore responded no, she was waiting for the bill. She gave a history of the different

departments at the Town Office she notified about her address change. She stated that almost every department knew that they had moved except for whatever system sends the tax bills. She gave some solutions she thought would avoid that: 1) Tax bills mailed to the mailing address of current property owner 'at'; 2) Emails as a backup system to notify people that the tax bills had been sent out, 3) Inexpensive internet services that check addresses, 4) Have Town Assessor verify before he goes out who the tax bill was sent to, 5) Use volunteers to help reconcile those that moved to make sure the proper property owner's name was on the tax bill. Ms. Salvatore and her husband didn't feel they did anything wrong. They felt it was unfair and unjust for them to receive a penalty for something that they did not know about. It was not done intentionally in any way.

Councilor Gilbert wanted to know when they became the owners of the property and Ms. Salvatore responded on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Gilbert wanted to know through the sale if all of the taxes were paid up until that point and Ms. Salvatore responded yes.

Councilor Duschatko wanted to know when they didn't receive the tax bill why they didn't call the Town. Ms. Salvatore stated that they didn't realize they didn't get a bill. Councilor Duschatko pointed out that they got one for their other property. Ms. Salvatore explained that they were away for the month of December and had stacks of mail to go through when they returned and it never occurred to them in the confusion of moving that they were missing a tax bill. It was pointed out that the bill and Barrington notice were sent to the previous owner at the 9 Gleneagle address, but were forwarded by the Post Office to the previous owner at his address.

Chairwoman Murphy wanted to know whatever decision is made if that set precedence for similar applications or is it a case by case basis. Mr. Sawyer could see more and more people coming before the Council to ask although he didn't know of another situation like this one. Because it's such a major portion of the closing and the title company's work and the realtor's work at those closings with the attorneys of who is responsible and when it's due and who's holding the money if there is an escrow that he thinks 99.9% of the time it's always been addressed by everybody who transfers property.

**MOTION by Councilor Schneller that the Bedford Town Council waive the interest due. Seconded by Chairwoman Murphy. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 5-0.**

#### **b. Award of Fire Engine Bid**

Mr. Sawyer explained that the purchase of the fire truck was included in the 2016 budget and included funds from the Capital Improvements Plan and remaining funds in 2015 as well as the final funds in 2016. It replaces a fire engine from 1990 and would become a first response engine.

Councilor Bandazian wanted to know what they budgeted in 2016. Mr. Sawyer explained that it's slightly over the line that they saw during the budget process, but the

Chief has the money within his lines to account for it. The CIP number and the budget number was \$500k and the price is \$504k. Chairwoman Murphy stated that there was \$307k in the CIP reserves and \$143k from 2015 year end transfers, which gets them to \$450k. Mr. Sawyer explained that they had \$50k as a direct line and the other \$4k the Chief would have to make up from his other lines in the budget.

Chief Wiggin explained that there were 7 requests for RFP's and only 1 came back and it was the same company where they purchased engine 4 a couple of years ago.

**MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council award the bid for a 2016 HME Initial Attack Fire Engine to Lakes Region Fire Apparatus, Inc., of Tamworth, NH in the amount of \$504,280 and authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract to complete the purchase. Seconded by Councilor Stevens. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

### **c. National Prescription Drug Take Back Day & Substance Abuse Update**

Chief Bryfonski came forward with a presentation. He stated that the next National Drug Take Back Day is on Saturday, April 30 2016, 10:00am – 2:00pm, at the Bedford Safety Complex. He reminded everyone that the Bedford Police Department had a drug disposal box that is available in their lobby 24/7/365. He talked about substance abuse and how 4 out of 5 new heroin users begin by using prescription drugs. He gave some statistics for fatal drug overdoses in the US and in NH. He also gave some facts: NH rates 3<sup>rd</sup> in US for per capita fatal drug overdoses and the State of NH rates 18<sup>th</sup> overall in US for fatal and non-fatal drug overdoses. Bedford has had 7 overdoses so far this year; none were fatal. He talked about the Youth Behavior Risk Survey results: 1) The number in percentage of students who have ever used methamphetamine and heroin in Bedford exceeded both the region and NH percentages; 2) The number in percentage of students who are offered, sold, or were given drugs on school property is at 12%; the number in percentage of students who don't talk about the dangers of substance misuse with parents in Bedford is at 45%; the number in percentage of students who drive when drinking alcohol in Bedford is up at 7.8%. The alcohol use trend in Bedford is going up; the opposite direction of the rest of the country; youth methamphetamine and heroin use by percentage in Bedford is higher than the region and the state and only a little over half the parents in Bedford are talking to their children about substance misuse.

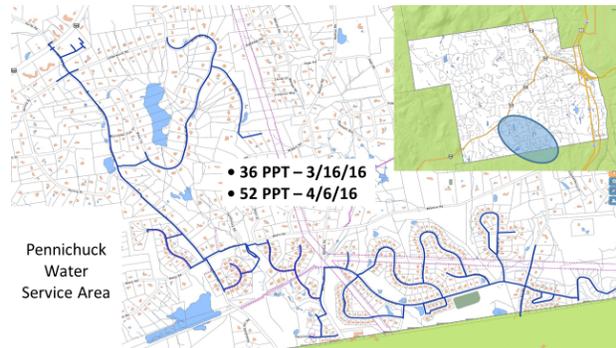
Councilor Bandazian asked about prescription drug labels that contain personal information once it's deposited in the box. Chief Bryfonski explained that all of the material that is dropped in the drop off box is handled in the same manner as drug evidence. They have a standard operating procedure that covers the chain of custody of the material; it's kept in evidence until there is an order to destroy. At drug take back, all of the prescription drugs are provided to DEA. DEA agents take custody of the material and it is properly incinerated by an approved facility.

Councilor Duschatko wanted to know if gels would be accepted and Chief Bryfonski believed that gels would be acceptable.

Chairwoman Murphy wanted to know the solution as far as drinking and drugs in the Bedford schools. Chief Bryfonski explained that they are in discussions with the School superintendent about drug deterrents. The School Board just recently approved the drug detection canine program, so they are preparing to initiate that program soon. It's a multifaceted solution and response. Drug deterrents both in terms of drug education at school and especially at home is highly effective. He talked about the coordination among different people and entities to the substance abuse and misuse effort that will help parents and those who are suffering from addiction and moving forward in making sure the populous knows that even one experimentation could lead to a tragedy and a lifetime of misuse.

**d. PFOA Water Contamination Update**

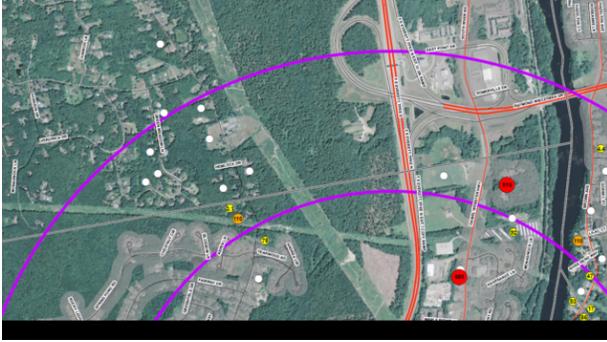
Mr. Sawyer went through a Powerpoint presentation.



**PFOA Sampling Results for Merrimack Village District Water Works**

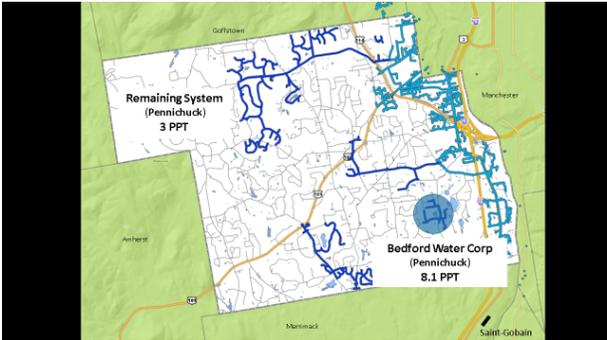
Well Name:	MVD-2	MVD-3	MVD-4 (offline)	MVD-5	MVD-7	MVD-8
4/21/16	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending
4/14/16	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending	Results Pending
4/7/16	28	Not Available - Scheduled Maintenance	94	52	28	8.6
3/31/16	27	Not Available - Scheduled Maintenance	90	56	26	8.5 (9.7 duplicate)
3/9/16	17	Not Available - Scheduled Maintenance	90	54 (52 duplicate)	Not Available - Scheduled Maintenance	Not Available - Scheduled Maintenance





**Next Steps:**

- Continued Water Testing
- Soil Testing
- Consider Treatment Options (Short & Long Term)
- Implement Short Term Solutions
- Await US EPA Health Advisory
- NH Set Enforceable Standard
- Implement Long Term Solutions
- Treat Groundwater – “Public Trust” = Drinking Water Standard



**NHDES Hotline:**  
(603) 271-9461

**NHDES Website:**  
<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pfoa.htm>

Mr. Sawyer mentioned manager weekly conference calls with DES and monthly meetings with managers and representatives of the governing bodies of the impacted communities. He talked about drinking water standards and long-term treatments.

Councilor Bandazian stated that as of last night DES had 403 samples taken and has only received 180 back. He mentioned that a number of people have been contacted, but there are still 80 households that have not responded to DES to have their wells tested.

Mr. Sawyer mentioned that all of the information concerning this is on the Town website and on the DES website and urged residents to check the information on the DES website daily for new information.

Councilor Bandazian mentioned that there was a high degree of cooperation and engagement of the various state agencies that are involved and also our federal representatives are engaged as well, so people should feel reassured that this is getting a great deal of coordinated, efficient attention.

Chairwoman Murphy thanked Rick and Chris for their work on this and their constant attention to it on behalf of the Council and the taxpayers and residents of Bedford.

**e. Appointment of Board and Commission Members**

**MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council appoint Doug Pearson to the BCTV Board of Overseers with a term to expire in March of 2019 and to hold a second appointment until**

**they can speak directly to the applicant. Seconded by Councilor Duschatko. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

**f. Other New Business – None.**

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Other Old Business – None.**

## **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**a. Public Session – April 13, 2016**

**MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the Public Session of April 13, 2016. Seconded by Councilor Duschatko. Vote taken –Motion Passed –6-0.**

## **7. TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

- 1) The Knights of Columbus has donated signage for the Safety Complex, 55 Constitution Drive that will identify it as a “Baby Safe Haven”. In accordance with state law parents can relinquish custody of unharmed newborn infants without fear of prosecution.
- 2) The last day to make party affiliation changes prior to the September Primary is May 31, 2016.
- 3) Library HVAC/Geothermal – The wells tops have been cut and interconnections completed. When the work is finalized it likely will not be obvious that any work was performed as it will all be below grade. It is anticipated starting June 1<sup>st</sup> that the upstairs will be closed for approximately 3 weeks.
- 4) The Annex roof replacement is underway and includes extensive structural repairs to correct the problems caused by the decades old fire in the building. The Town Hall Roof will also be replaced this year starting in June by a separate contractor which will include needing to close the building for asbestos remediation during the first two weeks of June.
- 5) Wallace Road reconstruction continues and the area between Church Road and North Amherst Road is expected to be paved in next few days. The road will remain closed to traffic for approximately two more weeks. The South River Road TIF Area improvements continue and significant progress has been made on the Eastman Ave bridge installation. The intention is to complete the TIF project including all final pavement on South River Road by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Work in the area of Old Bedford Road has resumed and next week the contractor is scheduled to reclaim and pave Galloway Lane, Curtis Lane, and Curtis Court, as well as installing the rest of the curbing along Old Bedford Road including in front of Memorial School (during school vacation).

Councilor Duschatko wanted to know if there would be different speed enforcements on the southern portion of Wallace Road, because it seems like the traffic is going faster. Mr. Sawyer explained that typically when new roads are paved the Police put the trailer unit out.

- 6) The online payment & credit card project went live April 8<sup>th</sup> for motor vehicles & dog licenses. Tax billing as well as other billing will be brought online later in the spring.
- 7) Work on the new town website continues and the reveal of the preliminary website has completed with the staff members of the working group who are now making their recommended changes.
- 8) Personnel – The Fire Department has made offers to 2 individuals for our 3 new (July 1) positions. The Police Department completed a Swearing In Ceremony for our 3 new officers, leaving 1 vacancy.
- 9) They've been studying the traffic on County Road at Nashua Road and Liberty Hill in conjunction with the school department. They received the results back from the consultant and they will be meeting with the school superintendent tomorrow.

**Events:**

1. April 30<sup>th</sup> – Touch-A-Truck, 10 AM – Noon, at the Town Playground/Pool parking lot, 20 County Road. This is a free event.
2. May 7<sup>th</sup> – Household Hazardous Waste Day, 9 AM – 1 PM, at the Town Highway Garage, 19 Chubbuck Road. May 8<sup>th</sup> – Bedford Library closed for Mother's Day.
3. May 29<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day Parade, 1:00 PM followed by the NH National Guard Alumni Band Concert at 2 PM in the McKelvie School Cafeteria.
4. May 29<sup>th</sup> – Bedford Library Closed for Memorial Day
5. May 30<sup>th</sup> – Bedford Town Offices, Library, Transfer Station, & BCTV Closed for Memorial Day.

**8. COUNCILOR COMMENTS**

Councilor Stevens encouraged people to keep their speeds down on the roads. She mentioned getting discounted museum passes from the Library. Go Celtics!

**9. NON-PUBLIC – RSA 91-A:3 II (if necessary)**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION by Councilor Gilbert to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Schneller. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.**

The public meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford