

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2020
BEDFORD MEETING ROOM
10 MEETINGHOUSE ROAD**

1. ROLL CALL: A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Rd. Present were Bill Duschatko (Chair), Melissa Stevens (Vice Chair) and Councilors Denise Ricciardi, , Dave Gilbert, Chris Bandazian, and Catherine Rombeau. Also present was Town Manager Rick Sawyer. Councilor Phil Greazzo was absent.

Chairman Duschatko opened the meeting at 7:01 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Councilor Rombeau.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

Chairman Duschatko mentioned a boy scout, Logan, who was in the audience working on a merit badge. He was working on his 'Citizenship in the Community' merit badge.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Award of Bid, New Ambulance

Mr. Sawyer stated that the funds were available for this purchase through the capital reserve. This replaces the 2005 ambulance. There were four bids and this was the 2nd lowest bid as the lowest bid was disqualified. He thanked the Ambulance Purchase Committee, led by Capt. Ben Selleck, for all of their work in developing the specifications that work within the budget while still providing the top quality services the community needs with its ambulances.

Chairman Duschatko wanted to know if there was anything special on this ambulance. Capt. Selleck stated that they are asking for a new device that would load patients for them, so they don't have to lift patients into the ambulance, which reduces back injuries. Capt. Selleck stated that they don't have level ground at every call and they don't always have the lightest patients, so it's safety for them and also safety for the patients, so they don't drop patients. Mr. Sawyer stated that it helps avoid Worker's Comp claims and missed time. Councilor Rombeau wanted to know if they would need fewer personnel on the vehicle. Capt. Selleck stated that there were a lot of different facets that go into prevention, because back injury is the biggest injury in their workforce. Chairman Duschatko wanted to know if this would be a feature they would put on new ambulances from now on. Capt. Selleck responded yes; this was definitely becoming the standard. Councilor Bandazian added that from his professional experience, he's had many EMS clients who have been injured loading patients into ambulances and also has a client that

is a patient who was badly injured being loaded into an ambulance. He thought was a very reasonable expenditure to avoid those kinds of incidents.

Capt. Selleck thanked Mr. Sawyer for understanding how much time the committee put into this. He was very proud of the committee. They have two newer members and two senior members and two of them are also residents in Town, so not only do they understand the safety factor, but also as residents in Town they understand the tax base.

Councilor Rombeau wanted to know if they had any previous experience working with Sugarloaf. Capt. Selleck responded no, this was the first time working with them, but they did reference checks; he called 17 different departments. It came down to service. They want to see the service after the sale.

Councilor Gilbert thanked Capt. Selleck and the Department. They have come to his house a number of times over the years and the EMT's are fantastic and do a great job. He has seen what they have to do and this is a very good thing.

Capt. Selleck invited the Council to the station to do ride-alongs. He's proud how they've changed their hiring practices to look more at the ethics and morals of the individual. His standard is he wants to make sure that person is someone that he's comfortable taking care of his family member. It's very often that their residents that are firefighters do that.

Chairman Duschatko echoed the comments. He had a meeting with the Bedford Rotary and one of the members asked him to congratulate the Fire Department and thank them for wonderful job they did over the weekend.

Councilor Bandazian added that this enables them to retire a 15-year old ambulance.

MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council award the ambulance purchase bid to Sugarloaf Ambulance/Rescue Vehicles, in the amount of \$260,000 and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract. Seconded by Councilor Rombeau. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.

b. Award of Bid 2-2020 Six Wheel Cab & Chassis (Dump Truck) and Bid 4-2020 Ten Wheel Cab & Chassis (Dump Truck)

Mr. Sawyer mentioned that on December 11th, the Council authorized the use of \$268,300 from 2019 funds. Together with those funds and existing capital reserve funds for the sidewalk tractor, the next three contracts spend that money as anticipated. The first request is to award the six-wheeled and ten-wheeled cab and chassis to the lowest qualified bidder of the four bids that were received in a total amount of \$202,718.88 to Freightliner of Londonderry.

c. Award of Bid 3-2020 Six Wheeler Dump Body, Plow, & Sander and Bid 5-2020 Ten Wheeler Dump Body, Plow, & Sander

Mr. Sawyer explained that this would be awarded to the lowest qualified bidder in a total amount of \$172,219 to Tenco Industries of Barre, VT. He pointed out that the staff report had a transposed figure; contract #05 should read \$89,980.

Councilor Stevens wanted to know if these were the same companies they worked with last year. Mr. Foote responded yes, this was the 4th year in a row.

Mr. Sawyer mentioned that the six-wheeled dump truck bid was lower than the bid they awarded last year. Chairman Duschatko mentioned that the body and plow has gone up a little bit. Mr. Foote explained that the cost of steel has gone up and there is a significant amount of steel in the plow/sander/wing and the body of the truck. That is why the greatest increase was on the apparatus and not the actual cab and chassis. Mr. Sawyer stated that the contracts came in a little bit over the total amount they had available to do this and Mr. Foote negotiated with the lowest qualified bidder to come into the budget number.

MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council award revised contract #02-2020 in the amount of \$88,317.60 for a six-wheeled cab and chassis truck and award revised contract #04-2020 in the amount \$114,401.28 for a ten-wheeled cab and chassis truck to Freightliner, Inc. of Londonderry, NH and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contracts. Seconded by Councilor Rombeau. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.

MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council award revised contract #03-2020 in the amount of \$82,239.00 for a six-wheeled dump body/plow/sander and award a revised contract #05-2020 in the amount \$89,980.00 for a ten-wheeled dump body/plow/sander to Tenco Industries, Inc. of Barre, VT and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contracts. Seconded by Councilor Stevens. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.

d. Award of Bid 6-2020 Sidewalk Tractor

Mr. Sawyer stated that this was recommended to be awarded to the only bidder. Chairman Duschatko wanted to know why there was only one bidder. Mr. Foote explained that the piece of equipment they are using is consistent with the other pieces that are already in the fleet and apparently they are the only vendor or have the franchise for this area. They could have advertised it nationally, but he wasn't sure the franchise aspect of it allows it. They looked at various sidewalk tractors and both the head mechanic and superintendent of highways agreed that the piece of equipment they have today works very well and serves the Town well and this would augment that nicely.

Councilor Rombeau wanted to know if it was a different piece of equipment that is complimenting what they have already. Mr. Foote clarified that it's almost the identical piece of equipment they have today. They did something different with the snow blower aspect or has been upgraded since they purchased the last one, but they are very similar.

Chairman Duschatko wanted to know if they were high maintenance pieces of equipment. Mr. Foote stated that anything that has a lot of moving parts he tends to say yes.

Councilor Stevens wanted to know how old their other equipment was. Mr. Foote explained that this piece of equipment is new to the fleet. The one they have is 2013.

Councilor Gilbert mentioned that they have a 2013 model with a 13-year replacement schedule and they are buying a 2020 model with a 10-year replacement schedule. Mr. Foote stated that they were going to start putting in additional monies next year. Mr. Sawyer stated that they will be putting away \$27,600 in each of the following years. Mr. Foote explained that they had a pot of money, about \$93k, in the capital reserve and then the Council funded the remaining portion with unspent allocations from 2019, which is what made him go back and see if they would reduce the price, because the books were closed and it would have been a finance gymnastic feat to undo that. Councilor Gilbert pointed out that the end of life is 13 years on the older one and 10 on the newer one. Mr. Sawyer stated that they were extending the life of the older one.

Councilor Stevens stated that they do a great job plowing and she thanked them for that. She mentioned that people had commented that their mailboxes get hit and she knows that the drivers aren't out there playing whack-a-mole. Sometimes it's the snow that gets thrown that hits the mailboxes. She also heard that when they call and express their concern that the Department is wonderful to work with and really responsive. She thanked him for that. She didn't understand the plowing of sidewalks and wanted to know how they schedule the sidewalk cleanup. Mr. Foote thanked Councilor Stevens for her comments. They do a fine job and they are lucky to have them. As far as sidewalks, he explained that once all of the roads are clear, they assign people to either South River Road, or the high school/middle school area to clear the sidewalks. Mr. Sawyer mentioned that he's seen on social media about the Route 101 sidewalks not being cleared. He explained that those sidewalks hadn't been turned over to the Town, so they aren't responsible for them yet, so they can't maintain them. Next winter the project will be done and the sidewalks will be turned over from the contractor to the State who will remind the Town that they have taken on the responsibility to remove the snow.

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council award Contract #06-2020 to H. P. Fairfield of Hopkinton, NH in the amount of \$149,398.00 and authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.

Mr. Foote thanked the Council for their support.

e. Other New Business

Mr. Sawyer mentioned that the Council considered moving their next meeting on February 26th to March 4th, to accommodate the school vacation week. The Councilors present

stated that they were able to attend a March 4th meeting, except for Councilor Stevens who is unable to make it. She stated that it was Councilor Rombeau's last meeting and she should have her last meeting, so she agreed that the meeting should be moved.

5. OLD BUSINESS – None.

a. Other Old Business

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Session – January 22, 2020

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the January 22, 2020 public session. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 6-0.

7. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

1) 2020 NH Primary – Bedford Update (Unofficial)

- 8,156 ballots cast, which represents 45% of our 18,303 registered voters.
- The Supervisors of the Checklist registered 492 new people at the polls.
- Over 1,085 absentee ballots were requested and 848 were returned.

He thanked the Moderator, Supervisors of the Checklist, Town Clerk's office and all of the poll workers as well as DPW, Police Department and the CERT team for the work all of them put in to making yesterday a great day. Starting today voters can go to the Town Office building to the Town Clerk's office to change their party affiliation. They need to do that before the next primary election. The State requires that Towns close the changing of parties about 6 weeks prior to the next primary election.

2) March 10th – Local Election Day, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Bedford High School.

3) March 11th – Budgetary Town Meeting, 7:00 PM, Bedford High School.

4) The last day to register to vote or to make name and address changes prior to the March 10th Election is Saturday, February 29, 2020, 11 AM – Noon at the Town Office Building. This is only for the purpose of voter registration and changes. The Bedford Men's Club will hold a forum for the Town Council race on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 7 PM. The debate is held at BCTV and also broadcast live. A listing of all those running for office can be found on the Town Clerk's website.

5) As a reminder political signs are not permitted in any traffic island or on any town owned land without approval of the Town Council.

6) 2020 Road Bond Sale – Bedford again achieved Aaa status and remains the only NH municipality to obtain Moody's highest rating which is a true testament to the strong financial policies established by the Council including having a healthy fund balance and a well-developed and funded 10-year CIP, as well as the commitment of all of the staff to our goal of delivering the best possible service while being mindful of cost. Because of that, on February 4th, we sold the \$10M bond for an excellent rate of 0.9959%. He thanked the Council Chairman for helping them on the bond sales as

well as the Town Treasurer. So much credit goes to Finance Director Tammy Penny for all the work she has put in. The final bond documents will be posted on the website.

- 7) Online survey for internet access. Visit: bit.ly/BedfordConnects. This can be reached through the Town website under 'News' and also on the Town Facebook page.
- 8) Bedford Citizen's Police Academy is accepting applications for this year's class which runs for 10 weeks on Tuesday evenings 6:30 – 9:30 PM starting March 24th. Applications are available on the Police website.
- 9) The Family Snowman Challenge was won by Gwen!
- 10) Registration for Camp Witzel summer camp and other summer camp programs are now open and information is available on the Recreation page of the Town Website.
- 11) February 13th – Thursday Theater Movie Matinee 2 PM "Judy" at the Library.
- 12) February 13th – Thursday Theater Movie Night 6 PM "Harriet" at the Library.
- 13) February 16th – Adult & Senior Movie Matinee 2 PM "All the President's Men" - Library.
- 14) February 17th – The Town Office Building, Library, and Transfer Station will be closed for Presidents Day.
- 15) February 23rd – Concert & Cookies Series, 2:30 PM "Mr. Aaron" at the Library. A fun and interactive children's sing along. RSVP is required.
- 16) March 5th – Conversation with a Councilor, up to 3 Town Councilors will hold office hours for anyone interested in speaking with them, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM, Bedford Town Office Building, 24 North Amherst Road.

8. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Councilor Bandazian stated that the Energy Commission was looking to schedule a visit to New Boston to look at their recycling program. Because there will be a quorum, it will be noticed. Any budding Eagle Scouts are welcome to attend. It will most likely be on a Thursday. New Boston does the complete opposite of single stream. Their facility separates and sells everything. As they evaluate what's going to happen over the next couple of years when the current contracts expire that will provide some good additional information on what the alternates are for what they continue to do. The prices continue to be quite high for perpetuating single stream. There will be public notice and minutes. The NHDES made a decision on the thermal oxidizer at Saint Gobain and it will go forward as proposed and will be implemented within the next 12 months. It's a device that incinerates the smoke stack gases and all of the gases from all of the various industrial processes in the plant will be ducted to the thermal oxidizer. He didn't believe a scrubber was part of that. They will wait and see if it is needed rather than do it ahead of time. Unfortunately, the NHDES OneStop site has been down for over a month. He recognized all of the people that were recognized for the election. It went flawlessly. They had their counts completed within an hour of the polls closing. They showed the rest of the country how an election ought to be run.

Councilor Stevens stated that at the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting they discussed the naming policy. They are waiting to hear back from Jane who was going to clean up some of the items they discussed. This will be her last meeting before the election, because she won't be there for the March meeting. She wanted to thank Catherine and Chris. Chris is running for reelection, so they don't know what will happen

with his spot, but should they not find themselves again at this table together, she appreciates their input and friendships. She has learned so much from both of them. Even though their ideologies might not be in line, she appreciates the thoughtfulness especially with Chris and what he brings to the table as far as just the historical knowledge and input that he can give them. She appreciated Catherine's political and legal background and she was an asset to the Council.

Councilor Gilbert thanked Mr. Sawyer for talking at the Bedford Men's Club. It was very well received. He also thanked Mr. Foote and Chief Hunter who had also come recently. He thanked everyone who attended the EFJH's annual Snow Ball. It was a fantastic success and appreciated them coming and supporting the farm.

Councilor Rombeau thanked Councilor Stevens for her comments. She felt that Melissa was a good example to her that they can disagree on many things and still maintain their friendship and their relationship and push each other forward in terms of Councilor's work. She highly recommended the Citizens Academy for anyone who was interested. It was a fantastic experience. It is incredibly fun and they learn so much. She appreciated it from the community aspect. She learned so much about what the Police are doing in the community are doing day to day and the challenges that they face and she hoped it helped her be a better resident and a better Councilor. She met people in the community that she may not have met. She thanked everyone who worked at the Election. She felt it was a great privilege for Councilors to help supervise at the Election. She felt a strong sense of community.

Chairman Duschatko appreciated his colleagues who took the time and trouble to spend the day at the election when they were able to. He appreciated all of the new volunteers and ballot clerks to assist the Supervisors of the Checklist. He encouraged everyone to do the survey. It would be a great help to them and to the community. They won't go forward until they have enough responses to make it meaningful. They don't take your names or addresses unless they volunteer it. They are just trying to get an idea of the community's receptiveness to the idea and won't go forward without that feedback.

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Public Session ended at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford