

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 22, 2023
10 Meetinghouse Road**

1. ROLL CALL: A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 10 Meetinghouse Road. Participating were Bill Carter (Chair), Lori Radke (Vice Chair), and Councilors Phil Greazzo, Chris Bandazian, Sue Thomas, Dave Gilbert, and Kathleen Bemiss. Also present was Town Manager Rick Sawyer.

Chairman Carter opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Girl Scouts Zoey Bourcier, Willow Vought, Katherine Amrock, Anna Enright, and Summer Shipley from Troop 59003.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Sue Labrie, 14 Jefferson Road, stated that Mr. Sawyer helped her with some of her questions, but she was not happy with miscellaneous and wanted to know if there was any way they could break it down. In 2022, there was \$901 for Crown Trophy and thought that could be a separate line. There was \$514 for Citizens Bank for and wanted to know what Citizens Bank was and why they pay them.

Councilor Radke stated that at the Budgetary Town Meeting on March 15th was the best time to ask those questions, because they would be prepared with their books and all of their information, so they can give a good and correct answer. Mr. Labrie stated that she would ask her questions then. Mr. Sawyer stated that she could make another appointment with him to go over those.

The Girls Scouts each had questions for the Council:

Anna wanted to know how many people work here in the Town. Mr. Sawyer stated that the last payroll had 186 people that they paid including the Police, Fire and Public Works. Anna wanted to know if they had any rules that they could get into trouble if they don't follow. Chairman Carter stated that there were many rules that they had to follow, but they don't get into trouble. Councilor Radke stated that they have Rules of Procedure that they follow and when they get a new Council they get voted on every year.

Katherine wanted to know what they did. Chairman Carter stated that they set the budget. They work hard to make sure the budget was proper for the taxpayers. All Councilors were on other committees like Planning and Conservation, so everybody has a responsibility to be on a commission or committee.

Zoey wanted to know if they had more than one job. Councilor Thomas stated that this was not their job. They all have day jobs. They do get a stipend, a small paycheck. They do this because they like Bedford and they want it to keep growing and be a great place for them to grow up in. Councilor Radke stated that it was almost a volunteer position. Without volunteers in the Town, it wouldn't be as special a place as it is now. They rely

on people like themselves and people that sit on boards and commissions to volunteer their time. They bring lots of experiences and thoughts to the Town to make it the wonderful place it is. Chairman Carter stated that it's just like their parents who help with Girl Scouts. They volunteer their time to make sure they have a fun time in Girl Scouts.

Willow wanted to know how long they've been around. Chairman Carter stated that some on the Council had been in Town for 25-30 years. They moved here, because of the great community that it is, great schools and a great place to live. Councilor Thomas explained that when each of them is elected, they serve for three years and then they can run again if they want to. This year, both the Chair and Vice Chair were running for re-election.

Summer wanted to know who could attend the meetings. Chairman Carter stated that anyone in the Town of Bedford could attend these meetings. Councilor Radke added that they were open to the public and wished that more people would come and attend. They can also be watched on BCTV. Summer wanted to know how they got into this job. Councilor Gilbert stated that you register with the Town Clerk to run for Town Council during the filing period, which just ended at the end of January. Your name goes on a ballot and at the election, people vote on who they want to put in as a Town Councilor.

Katherine wanted to know if they have ever feared anyone. The Councilors responded no. Councilor Thomas stated that most people were pretty good to work with.

Anna wanted to know if someone decides they no longer want to do this can they just say that or do they have to wait until the time period ends to do that. Councilor Gilbert stated that people can resign. Tragically, they also had a death last year of a Councilor. Anna thought that was unfortunate. Councilor Thomas explained that Councilor Bandazian was on the Council for one year, because he was filling an opening they had in the middle. Councilor Gilbert stated that Councilor Greazzo was filling a seat for two years, because the person in that seat decided to resign after one year. Anna wanted to know if they had to come there every night or just days they tell them to come. Chairman Carter stated that it's the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every Month. Mr. Sawyer stated that it's twice a month.

Zoey wanted to know if they get to choose what they want to be, which committees they want to be on. Chairman Carter stated that the Chairman works with them and sees where they want to be and then he makes that appointment to move them to that committee.

Chairman Carter thanked Girl Scout Troop 59003 for coming. They fulfilled a part of that merit badge. They could sit there for 10-15 minutes to see what goes on. Any questions can be sent to the Town Manager's email and he will forward them to the Council. They were more than welcome to come on Council nights to see what goes on.

The Girl Scouts took a photo with the Town Council.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Schedule a public hearing in accordance with NH RSA 31:95-b for the acceptance of an unanticipated grant from the InvestNH Housing Opportunity Planning Grant Program in the amount of \$120,526.**

Mr. Sawyer stated that he excused Planning Director Becky Hebert from being there given that she was there last night for a meeting and predicted storm tonight. She will definitely be there for the public hearing. This is to accept the housing opportunity grant. The intent of the grant would be to provide the Planning Board and staff with the resources to study Bedford's Zoning Ordinance and Land Development Control Regulations to ensure that Bedford remains in compliance with State law and that they provide a range of housing opportunities. There would be a series of public input sessions and review of all of the regulations by the Planning Board. The community would have the opportunity to weigh in on all of those decisions as the process goes on. This would be a many month project.

MOTION by Councilor Radke that the Bedford Town Council schedule a public hearing for March 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM in accordance with NH RSA 31:95-b to accept the Housing Opportunity Grant in the amount of \$120,526. Seconded by Councilor Thomas. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

b. Award of bid for (2) six wheel cab & chassis (dump trucks)

Mr. Sawyer stated that these two vehicles would replace vehicles that were purchased in 2013 and 2014. The funding for these would come from the additional NH DOT Highway Block Grant funds that the Council approved for this use back in November.

Councilor Bemiss wanted to know how many bids were received. Mr. Sawyer stated that this was the only bidder. Typically they receive two, but they only received one this time. Councilor Bemiss wanted to know if they had any idea why they only received one.

Chris Anton, Highway Superintendent stated that due to supply chain efforts, the availability of chassis was very limited. When they put the bids out, the only person that was interested that had two chassis to actually bid on that could supply them was Allegiance. No one else was interested, because they couldn't supply the chassis. They can't get parts. Chairman Carter wanted to know if they currently deal with this dealership. Ms. Anton stated that was correct. They are a local dealership, but all of the dealerships were a conglomerate now. Liberty International Trucks has been bought out by Allegiance, so it's a conglomerate of 30 or 40 different dealerships. It didn't really matter if they bid from West Virginia to Pennsylvania to here. It's the same company that's bidding it and they didn't have a chassis to supply them.

Councilor Radke wanted to know how it compared to the State bid as far as price and if they had any of these trucks available. Mr. Anton stated that the State NH was a preferred vendor state. The State of NH DOT had a specific bid sheet of what they like for equipment preferences. The Town of Bedford has their own equipment list, but they are still allowed to piggyback on top of the DOT's allotments. They do that with multiple vendors throughout the State. That was how they were able to ascertain the two units they were able to bid on. They have a large block of trucks that were set aside for 'DOT' usage and they fall within that municipal umbrella. Councilor Radke wanted to know how many trucks that size they had in their fleet. Mr. Anton responded if they had all of them it would be 22. Mr. Sawyer wanted to know if he was indicating the ones that they ordered last year were yet to be put in. Mr. Anton stated that the ones that they authorized purchase from last year have still not been received. The chassis were sold in spring of

2022, so they were down two trucks. Those trucks were promised to be delivered sometime with the 2022 fiscal cycle. Due to supply chain, they didn't get them. They received one chassis in November in 2022. It was currently at the up-fitters being up-fitted. They haven't received the 2nd chassis from the manufacturer yet. They might get the first chassis sometime in the next month and that was one that was allocated from the 2022 purchase. Chairman Carter stated that they were still going to be waiting for these other two chassis to come. Mr. Anton stated that they hadn't even received the ones that they allocated from last year. They were a whole other cycle out. They like to tell them that they'll see it in the 2023 fiscal cycle, but he wouldn't be holding his breath for that.

Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if the ones from the previous year had already been paid for. Mr. Anton responded no, they have been encumbered. Everything is secured from the previous appropriations and the money was in hand. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if the two they were voting on tonight were in existence; they could actually pay for them and receive them. Mr. Anton stated that they were going to receive them, but he couldn't say when they would receive them. They weren't built yet. There was no stock available. It has to be appropriations approved by the municipal agency before it would go into production and he couldn't get a date of when production would even begin.

Chairman Carter thought doing it now put them ahead of anyone waiting until Town Meeting. Mr. Anton stated that those town meetings in March for approvals, so any bids that are out, everything would get lambasted into the systems come March and April. Everything gets overloaded to a backlog system already. They have a small advantage getting it in at least a month or two early compared to their neighboring communities.

MOTION by Councilor Thomas that the Bedford Town Council award Contract #14-2022 to Allegiance Trucks of Manchester, NH in the amount of \$123,295 each, \$246,590 for two and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

c. Appointments to the Facilities Information and Communication Committee

Mr. Sawyer stated that this committee was formed back in October of last year and appointed the first seven individuals to the 9-member team. Since then, they've had two more residents volunteer to be on the committee.

MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council appoint Ray Lessard and Peter Stillman to the Facilities Information and Communication Committee. Seconded by Councilor Thomas. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

a. Other New Business – None

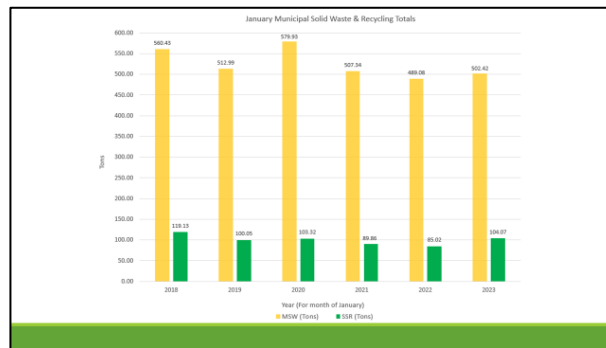
5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Composting and recycling

Mr. Sawyer stated that January of this year had been on par with the past five years or

so with solid waste and recycling. Anything they can do to increase the amount of recycling reduces the amount of cost to the community that they have to pay to have the solid waste shipped out of the community.

Chairman Carter talked to the girl scouts and stated that when they were home to make sure the items that needed to be recycled get recycled such as plastic, cardboard, and glass. He pointed out that the green bar in the chart was the amount of tonnage that goes into recycling. The key to trying to clean up the community and the planet was to recycle.



6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Interview Minutes – January 25, 2023

MOTION by Councilor Thomas that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the January 25, 2023 Interviews. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

b. Public Session – January 25, 2023

MOTION by Councilor Thomas that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the January 25, 2023 Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

c. Special Public Session – February 1, 2023

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the February 1, 2023 Special Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Thomas. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

d. Special Public Session – February 9, 2023

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the February 9, 2023 Special Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Thomas. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

e. Special Non-Public Session – February 9, 2023

MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the February 9, 2023 Special Non-Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Thomas. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

7. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- 1) March 14th – Local Election Day – 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM – Bedford High School
March 15th – Budgetary Town Meeting – 7:00 PM, Bedford High School
Absentee ballot applications for the March 14th Election are available from the Town Clerk or her website: <https://bedfordnh.org/491/Election-Information>. Sample and absentee ballots will not be available until several days after the February 24th Charter Commission filing period.
- 2) The registration period for nine (9) positions on the potential Charter Commission is February 15th through 5 PM February 24th (RSA 49-B:4,I(b)). Per RSA 669:19 candidates who file on the last day of the filing period shall do so in person.
- 3) The Library team is developing a Voter’s Guide the open town and school positions. Copies are available at the Library and Town Office Building or online soon. The Budget Handout is available online at: [2023-Town-Meeting-Handout](#).
- 4) Candidates Forum hosted by the Bedford Men’s Club: On Demand at BCTV. He thanked the Men’s Club who put on those forums every year.
- 5) The last day to register to vote or to make name and address changes prior to the March 14, 2023 Election is Saturday, March 4, 2023. The Supervisors of the Checklist will hold a session at the Town Office Building 10:30-11:00 AM for voter registration and changes only. Residents may also register to vote at the polls on Election Day.
- 6) Reminder – political signs are not permitted in any traffic island or on any Town owned land without approval of the Town Council.
- 7) The Bedford Winter Parking Ban began on November 1st, which requires no parking on public roads between midnight and 8 AM.
- 8) The Town of Bedford currently has employment opportunities for full-time, part-time & seasonal positions. For more information: www.bedfordnh.org/jobs
- 9) The Bedford Recreation Department is sponsoring the “Spread the Love” event February 1-28 where residents are encouraged to drop off jars of peanut butter, jelly, and/or jam at the Recreation Department in the Town Office Building in support of the Bedford Community Food Pantry.
- 10) February 26 – Concert & Cookies Series, 2:30 PM – “Mister Aaron Kids Concert” at the Library. Please register in advance on the [Library website](#).
- 11) Winter Break Programs at the Library – Registration required:
Monday, February 27 – Pajama Storytime – 7PM – Ages 0–12
Tuesday, February 28 – Stories in Action – 10AM – Ages 3-5
Tuesday, February 28 – Zentangle – 3-4PM – Ages 8-12
Wednesday, March 1 – Paper Theater Storytime – 10AM – Ages 4-9
Thursday, March 2 – Snow Stem – 10AM – Ages 3-6; 3PM – Ages 7-9
Friday, March 3 – Music for Babies – 10AM – Ages 0-2
- 12) March 5 – Concert & Cookies Series, 2:30 PM “New England Irish Harp Orchestra” at the Library. Please register in advance on the Library website – Free
- 13) March 9 – Thursday Theater, “The Fabelmans”, 2 PM, Bedford Library. Please register through the Library website – Free
- 14) March 9 – Thursday Theater, “Empire of Light”, 6 PM, Bedford Library. Please register through the Library website – Free

- 15) March 12 – Cinema Sunday, “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind”, 1:30-4:30 PM, Bedford Library. Please register in advance on the Library website – Free
- 16) April 15 – Clean-up Bedford Spring Event, 9 AM - 1 PM.

Mr. Sawyer stated that this was the last official Council meeting for Councilor Bandazian. He thanked Councilor Bandazian for all his support of the staff over the years. He’s been tremendous always in supporting and recognizing staff. His work and dedication to the Energy Commission, the solar project, the Planning Board all of these years, the geothermal at the Library, and a number of things that have been a tremendous benefit to the community. He thanked him for stepping up again and filling this role and thanked him for his support and guidance of himself. It was much appreciated.

8. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Councilor Gilbert stated that the Zoning Board met and they had two applications. One was approved and the other was a very lengthy one and they had 4 out of 5 variance requests approved. They put another one on standby and they were going to be coming back in two months to answer more questions.

Councilor Radke thanked the Girls Scouts for coming. They had very good questions and she enjoyed answering them.

Councilor Greazzo stated the Planning Board met and they had their first two detached accessory dwelling units and both of them were adopted. He thanked Councilor Bandazian for his efforts.

Councilor Bandazian thanked the Council for giving him another occasion to say that this was his last regular Town Council meeting one last time. He appreciated the work that all of them had done. Some things were subject to the will of the voters such as the collective bargaining agreements and the solar project. He thought the Council had done great work and thought they would be able to look back on this year and say it was a year of great accomplishment. An example of that was the grant program that the Executive Council approved where Bedford has a program to rebate PFAS contaminated well treatment at \$6,500 where every other town was doing the State’s \$5,000 program. It gives people the opportunity to choose a reverse osmosis system if they choose to do that and get a little bit more money back. That’s going the extra the mile and that is what they do in Bedford. He thanked Rick for his efforts in getting that done. He know it wasn’t easy pushing through all of the red tape up in Concord. He thanked the Council, Town Manager Rick Sawyer, Dawn for her support, all of the Department Heads, and Town employees who do a fabulous job.

Councilor Thomas stated that tomorrow night was an Energy Commission meeting and they were very excited about the solar warrant. They were looking forward to having Jeanne Walker on board. The Commission will finally have a Town employee representing them, which will help a lot. She enjoyed this year spent sitting next to Chris Bandazian. She’s learned a lot just sitting next to him.

Chairman Carter stated that they hadn’t met since the EFJH Snow Ball, and wanted Councilor Gilbert to give an update. Councilor Gilbert stated that the Educational Farm at

Joppa Hill had their annual Snow Ball at the Manchester Country Club. It started off with the Country Club not having and heat on the coldest weekend of the year. It worked out great and they gave them open bar. They raised a lot of money and had a lot of fun. He thought a lot of people saw firsthand what they do and thought they would get some more support and that it would keep growing. He thanked those who came out. Chairman Carter stated that it was all for charity. An event like that really helps out and it was great to go and participate.

Chairman Carter mentioned the expected snow and suggested if you don't have to travel, allow the Town vehicles to get out there and make sure the roads were safe.

9. NON-PUBLIC – RSA 91-A:3 II

10. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION by Councilor Gilbert to adjourn public session at 7:43 PM.
Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford