

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2019
BEDFORD MEETING ROOM
10 MEETINGHOUSE ROAD**

ROLL CALL: A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Rd. Present were Bill Duschatko (Chairman), Melissa Stevens (Vice Chair) and Councilors Phil Greazzo, Dave Gilbert, Kelleigh Murphy, Chris Bandazian, and Catherine Rombeau. Also present was Town Manager Rick Sawyer.

Chairman Duschatko opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Councilor Murphy.
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.
- 3. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Acceptance of a Memorial Park Bench from Norma Asbury Simpson**

Mr. Sawyer explained that any gift of personal property is required to be excepted by the Council per RSA 31:95-e. The bench would place at the Bedford Village Common and would be professionally installed and no cost to the Town. The bench will match all the other benches that are already there.

MOTION by Councilor Greazzo that the Bedford Town Council accept the donation from Norma Asbury Simpson in memory of her mother Edna Asbury for a memorial bench to be placed at the Bedford Village Common Park. Seconded by Councilor Murphy. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

- 2. Approval of Employee Compensation Wage Ranges for 2019**

Mr. Sawyer explained that this was the annual update for non-union positions, which takes place every year following the release of the CPI-W Index, which comes out mid-February. This year the index increased 3.5%. He clarified that the union ranges are set by their contracts. This would change the ranges for the positions by 3.5% on the low end and high end, but it does not mean that an employee would be receiving a 3.5% increase. That would still be based on merit review by the Department Heads.

Chairman Duschatko wanted to know if these impacts were already included in the upcoming budget. Mr. Sawyer explained that the budget includes merit lump sums in each department of 3%, so in theory someone could get 3.5% if they were already

maxed. It really comes into play if someone is maxed. A 20 year employee at the top of the range could only get an increase every year of what the CPI has been.

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council approve the “2019 Bedford Employee Compensation Plan Non-Union Wage Schedule” effective January 1, 2019. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

3. Award of Solid Waste Disposal Contract

Mr. Sawyer explained that this went out to bid in 2014 and Covanta was awarded the contract. The contract had options at the Town’s discretion for five annual extensions. The increases are based on the CPI-U Index with a minimum being a 1% increase and a maximum being a 3% increase. It’s a very favorable contract for the community. If they had to put it out to bid it would be many dollars more than what’s proposed.

Mr. Foote, Public Works Director, explained that it was a 3-year contract in 2014 and the first renewal was last year. This is the 2nd year of the 1-year extensions allowed in the contract. This year the incremental amount was based in CPI Boston. Last year it exceeded 3% and the contract went up 3%. In 2019, the contract maximum CPI allowed is 3%. The contract is for \$546k. The amount of waste that they took in and processed at the Transfer Station in 2018 was a little over 7,500 tons x the new rate of \$72.83/ton equals the \$546k. It includes the trailer rentals, hauling and tipping fees.

Mr. Foote stated that he attended a Northeast Resource Recovery Association meeting there is a concern about the available landfill space and for incineration at plants. He spoke to Mike Dufour, an expert in this field, who confirmed that Massachusetts was currently sending waste to Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia. They talked about what Bedford was paying and what the proposed 2019 is and Mr. Dufour stated that Bedford was getting a great deal. Mr. Foote stated that he got a call from Mr. Dufour five minutes later and asked if the price included hauling and trailer rentals and when Mr. Foote responded yes, Mr. Dufour stated that the Town was getting a GREAT deal.

Councilor Gilbert wanted to know what the Town does in three years. Mr. Foote stated that this can’t continue; something has to give. There is limited space. It’s something that every community in NH and New England is dealing with. Mr. Foote stated that composting is 20-30% of the mass in municipal solid waste. They are trying to develop a program to introduce composting. He thought there could be a real savings if they somehow implement a composting program in Town. In the next month he’s going to come back with a proposal and a plan to educate people on composting. Councilor Rombeau volunteered to help to work with the schools and the Town.

Councilor Stevens wanted to know if the Town paid for the School’s waste and Mr. Foote stated that they have their own contract. Councilor Stevens thought the composting was a great idea. Mr. Foote stated that if they can reduce the amount of waste in the stream they could save money and possibly re-use the material in Town.

He's trying to coordinate with the BCTV station manager to visit the Covanta facility, the MRF in Billerica, the Turn-key and come up with a short PSA to help people understand when they see the mountain of trash that is being produced every day.

Councilor Greazzo wanted to know how they envision a composting area. Mr. Foote stated that they would have a bin similar to what they are doing with glass and empty it with a loader a couple of times a day. If they could take 5% out, that's 400 tons/year. They would take it out and mix it with the leaves.

MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council extend contract #11-14 to haul and dispose of municipal solid waste for one year with Covanta Haverhill Associates in accordance with the terms and fees of the contract and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the extension. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

4. Award of Bid 2-2019 Six Wheel Dump Truck (x2)

Mr. Foote stated that four vendors submitted bids for the 3rd year in a row and Freightliner of NH was the lowest bidder with a total bid of \$184,894. They would be using a portion of the \$348k from the 2018 surplus appropriations approved at the December 12, 2018 Town Council meeting.

MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council award Contract #02-2019 to Freightliner of NH, Inc. of Londonderry, NH, in the amount of \$184,894.00 and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract. Seconded by Councilor Stevens. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

5. Award of Bid 1-2019 Dump Body, Plow, & Sander (x2)

Mr. Foote explained that this would outfit the two six-wheel dump trucks just awarded with a plow, sander, and dump body for a cost of \$148,634 and they would be using a portion of the \$348k from the 2018 surplus appropriations approved at the December 12, 2018 Town Council meeting. The grand total for the two cab and chassis six-wheelers with plows, sander and dump body is \$333,528, which is \$14,212 under the bid estimate.

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian that the Bedford Town Council award Contract #01-2019 to Tenco Industries of Barre, Vt., in the amount of \$148,634.00 and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

6. Other New Business – None

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Other Old Business** – None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. **Public Session – February 13, 2019**

MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the February 28, 2019 Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Bandazian. Vote taken – Motion Passed –7-0.

- b. **Non-Public Session – February 13, 2019**

MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the March 6, 2019 Non-Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Stevens. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

6. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- 1) March 12th – Local Election Day, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Bedford High School.
- 2) March 13th – Budgetary Town Meeting, 7:00 PM, Bedford High School.
- 3) Two protest petitions were received for zoning amendments #6 & #7. If the petitions are found to be valid and they don't do the work to understand if they are valid or not until after the Election, it would raise the requirement percentage to pass those two amendments from 50% to 2/3 or 66.7%. Amendment #6 deals with reducing the maximum building size in the commercial zone and #7 deals with rezoning a portion of 209 Route 101 and 137 Bedford Center Rd. The reason they don't do any analysis on the petitions themselves until after the Election is if they only gather 49%, the petition doesn't matter, the amendment fails. If they receive 70 or 75% or greater of the vote then the petition doesn't fail, because it clearly exceeds the 2/3 requirement. They only come into play if the vote tally is between 50% & 2/3%.
- 4) 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 19th. Applications are available on the Police website.
- 5) The last public hearing on the PFAS related drinking water standards is set for March 12, 2019, 5:30 PM; NHDES Pease Field Office, Room A, 222 International Drive, Suite 175, Portsmouth. Last day to file written comments: Friday, April 12th (4:00PM). The State released a memo last week indicating that they may be considering a lowering of the PFOA standard based on some additional science that has come out of Minnesota, but at this time, the PFOA standard still stands at 38/ppt.
- 6) NHDES & DHHS have announce a PFAS Health Fair to be held at the Merrimack High School, April 3, 2019, 5-8 PM.
- 7) Registration for Camp Witzel and other summer camp programs are now open and information is available through the Recreation page of the Town website.
- 8) Job openings for camp and pool and Library.
- 9) March 10th – Sunday Library Concert Series, "NEIHO – Traditional Irish Harp", 2:30-4 PM, Bedford Library.

- 10) March 14th – Thursday Theater Movie Matinee 2 PM “Green Book” at the Library.
- 11) March 14th – Thursday Theater Movie Night PM “A Star is Born” at the Library.
- 16) March 17th – Adult & Senior Movie Matinee 2 PM “Late Bloomers” at the Library.

Mr. Sawyer thanked Councilor Murphy on behalf of all of the employees for all of her support. The Police Department and Fire Department wanted to make sure he sent their thank-yous for all of her support as a budget liaison over the years.

7. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Councilor Greazzo thanked Councilor Murphy for serving.

Council Gilbert thanked Councilor Murphy for serving and it’s sad to see her go, but he enjoyed his time with her on the Board.

Councilor Rombeau encouraged residents to sign up for the Citizen’s Police Academy. She has signed up. She thanked Councilor Murphy for her encouragement and support to other people on the Council. They don’t always agree on everything, but she was very grateful for what a resource she’s been during her time on the Council so far as she was learning.

Councilor Bandazian thanked Councilor Murphy’s kids for letting him work with their mom. He couldn’t imagine or hope for a better colleague for the last six years.

Councilor Stevens stated that Councilor Murphy was the one who got her there on the Council after she had run for State rep and encouraged her to get involved in the Town and explained what she got out of the process and what a great community it was to work in. She thanked Councilor Murphy. Everyone appreciates her institutional knowledge and her enthusiasm for the Town and the meeting itself. She doesn’t know what they are going to do next month without Councilor Murphy there telling them how to make motions.

Chairman Duschatko gave his thanks and appreciation for the help that Councilor Murphy had been to him over the past year. He has made some procedural errors, which she nicely and politely corrected him on and helped him through and other types of advice outside of the Council, which he has taken to heart and appreciates. They don’t always agree on things, but thought they worked very collegially and have an idea where they are coming from. It’s been a wonderful experience working with her and he wished her luck and success in her future endeavors.

Councilor Murphy thanked all of the Councilors for being so great to work with. Chris is the Mayor of Bedford and he’s been a joy to serve with and she’s learned so much from him and she continues to learn. It has truly been a pleasure. She has loved serving with Melissa and it’s been fantastic. She stated that Catherine, Bill, Dave and Phil have been fantastic to work with. She also thanked John Schneller, Jim Scanlon, Bill Dermody, Bill Jean, and Jim Aguiar who she had the pleasure of serving with on the Council. It was

an honor to serve with and learn from all of them. She told Mr. Sawyer that being Town Manager was a thankless job and he's great at it and he does it with a lot of finesse. She told him to never doubt himself; he's got great instincts, lean into them. She thanked Dawn Boufford for putting up with her. She's the most patient person on earth to manage all of the people and personalities that she does. She's constantly following up with everybody and keep all of the plates moving and balls rolling and she appreciates her. Councilor Murphy thanked Jeff and the Public Works Department; she's going to miss Jeff's dry wit. She thanked the Fire Department, Chief Wiggin, Deputy Chief Hunter, Captain Selleck and Plante; it has been an honor to work with them as the budget liaison and she's learned a lot. She loves the Police Department the most. She stated that Chief Bryfonski had been a mentor and a friend and have given her the greatest advice in life, on the Council and her career choices. She could not do it without him. She thanked Deputy Chief Dan Doudi, Captain Plumer, all of the Police Academy volunteers, the entire Detectives unit, but mostly Matt Fleming for his sarcasm and Bill Thornton for being such a great mentor. She loves them all and is really going to miss them. She thanked Assessing, Library, Planning, Becky (Hebert) is one of her most favorite people in the whole world and Mark too, Tammy in Finance, Wayne in Building, the Town Clerk's office, she misses Lori dearly, Elections, BCTV, WBNH, Parks and all of you throughout the Town. She thanked the voters and everyone who supported her and all who came to a meeting to tell her that they were doing it wrong, because it meant that they care. People that care are few and far between in this world and it is so refreshing to see people get involved and come out to meetings. That's why she's so excited to see Denise (Ricciardi) running, because she has always been involved in the Town and you can tell she cares so much about it. She's loved serving the Town with every fiber of her being. She thought there was no greater service that you can perform than public service. She thanked everyone for the opportunity and the memories and she will not forget the last 6 years.

7. NON-PUBLIC – RSA 91-A:3 II (e)

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e) – Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against or by this board or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Seconded by Councilor Murphy.

Roll Call Vote: Greazzo-aye, Gilbert-aye, Murphy-aye, Duschatko-aye, Stevens-aye, Bandazian-aye, Rombeau-aye.

The public meeting ended at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford