

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
TOWN COUNCIL RETREAT MINUTES
April 1, 2023
BEDFORD SAFETY COMPLEX
55 CONSTITUTION DRIVE**

ROLL CALL: The Bedford Town Council held a retreat on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at the Bedford Safety Complex, 55 Constitution Drive. Present were Councilors: Bill Carter (Chairman), Lori Radke (Vice Chair), Kathleen Bemiss, David Gilbert, Michael Strand, and Sue Thomas (virtually). Also present was Town Manager Rick Sawyer.

Chairman Carter opened the retreat at 8:04 AM.

Discussion initiated with a review of the 2022 established Town Council goals and priorities which were:

- Facilities Master Plan implementation.
- PFAS education & advocacy.
- Support Clean Up Bedford (CUB) Program.
- Consideration of a Town Forest designation at Chubbuck Road property.
- Private organization lease updates.
- Telecommunications Committee - review next steps/possible sunset.
- Town Website Refresh.
- Public Outreach – Create Board/Commission videos.
- Identification of Town Charter revisions and process.
- Consideration of a fee for non-transport medical calls.
- Crime prevention program at overnight lodging locations.
- Activate public portal of document management materials.
- Employee appreciation.
- Volunteer appreciation breakfast.

Discussion continued to review possible short term and long term goals for the Town and current and future projects including the following:

- How to use American Rescue Plan funds (\$1.3M)
- The former Fire Station PFAS project
- The Bedford Center Road waterline project
- The Professional Fire and Police Officers Association status update

- Public outreach options - How to educate the community about town wide services and future goals
- Volunteer recruitment and appreciation options
- Update on conservation/open spaces acquisition priorities
- The Fire Department call volume as compared to last year
- Telecommunications and new funding availability
- Digital file storage needs and access by the public
- Swap Shop hours of operation
- The need to compile a report on the previous and proposed repairs for the Town Hall
- Consideration of community power (aggregation)
- The Historic District size and location
- Employee longevity options
- Veteran exemption amount considerations

Established Goals / Priorities:

1. Facilities Master Plan implementation. (Gilbert, Thomas)
2. PFAS education & advocacy. (Carter, Greazzo, PFAS Commission Members)
3. Support Clean Up Bedford (CUB) Program. (Carter)
4. Consideration of a Town Forest designation at Chubbuck Road property. (Bemiss)
5. Private organization lease updates. (Gilbert)
6. Town website refresh. (Radke, Thomas)
7. Public outreach regarding boards, available services, and future community goals. (Bemiss, Strand, BCTV)
8. Employee appreciation. (Carter, Gilbert)
9. Volunteer appreciation and recruitment. (Radke)

Chairman Carter adjourned the retreat at 12:31 PM.

These minutes were compiled by notes taken and respectively submitted by Town Manager Rick Sawyer.