

**TOWN OF BEDFORD  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
May 26, 2021  
10 Meetinghouse Road**

**1. ROLL CALL:** A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held on Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 10 Meetinghouse Road. Participating were Dave Gilbert (Chair), Bill Carter, (Vice Chair) and Councilors Sue Thomas, Denise Ricciardi, Bill Duschatko, Lori Radke, and Kelleigh Murphy and. Also present was Town Manager Rick Sawyer.

Chairman Gilbert opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Chairman Gilbert.

Chairman Gilbert was sorry and saddened to say that they lost two great people in Town this week: Bill Ingalls, Town Assessor and State Representative Dave Danielson who was also a former Town Councilor. He asked for a brief moment of silence in remembrance of both of them.

Chairman Gilbert stated that Bill was a 22-year employee and a highly respected and often decorated leader in the assessing industry. Bill went out of his way to meet with the elderly or physically challenged residents at their homes to review necessary forms and applications and was known for having long talks with residents about their assessing issues. Outside of work Bill was the host of Back & Forth, a long running program on WBNH, a superior musician and singer, an excellent cook, and was passionate about history, sports, and knowledgeable about just about everything. Bill will always be remembered for his love of cats where he would often adopt older adult cats that were hard for others to take on.

Dave was a 5-term member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives first elected in 2012. Dave previously served as a Town Councilor from 1994 to 2006 and a Planning Board member from 1988 to 1994. Dave has served as one of our representatives to Southern NH Planning Commission for the last 31 years. Dave was a long serving member on the BCTV-WBNH Board, and also hosted his own show, "The Longview" as well as our election night show, and completed many candidate interviews. Dave was a strong supporter of the NH Fire Academy and was very active in Bedford Rotary and several other organizations. Dave also honorably served 21 years in the NH National Guard.

On behalf of the Council and the entire Bedford community I offer our deepest condolences to both families.

Calling hours for Dave are being held now and until 8 PM at the Lambert Funeral Home in Manchester and a Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated tomorrow, Thursday, May 27th at 11 AM at Saint Elizabeth Seton Church.

Services for Bill will be held on Tuesday, June 1st with the time TBD, at the French & Rising Funeral Home in Goffstown.

I now open the floor to anyone in attendance that would like to share any thoughts or memories about Bill or Dave.

Mr. Sawyer thanked the Councilors for wearing their dark Councilor polo shirts, which was a tremendous support of Bill. Bill's shirt of choice was always a dark colored polo shirt every day year-round no matter what the temperature was outside. He stated that he would miss Bill terribly. Every time he saw Bill, every morning, Bill would say, 'How we doing?' He would do that because he wanted to check in on him and make sure he was doing okay and lift his spirits. He did that for a lot of people especially given the stories he's heard this week. Bill cared for this community deeply and that came through in all his decisions and his actions with the public. He was a tremendous public employee and gave of himself.

Mr. Sawyer thanked Dave Danielson for all his hours of counsel to him on all things planning. With the SNHPC, Dave would always reach out to him about items going on with their agendas. He was an advocate for the Route 101 expansion project and was very concerned about how people would be impacted during the construction of that project with detours in other communities, which is why they had all of those message boards up around that project about detours and time to travel through the construction. It was because Dave cared about how the community would be impacted, otherwise they wouldn't have had those message boards without Dave's interaction and his work at the State House to help the Town get funds for that project. He thanked Dave and his family for the all of the service he provided to the community.

Councilor Murphy stated that when people leave before it's their time it can be very difficult. Since moving to Bedford 11 years ago and serving in her 7<sup>th</sup> year as a Town Councilor, she had the pleasure of working with both Bill and Dave. She didn't know a single person that passed through politics in this Town that Dave didn't offer to mentor or meet with, or show the ropes to. He was so understanding and informative and kind during the time she spent in the Town and she doesn't know what she would have done without the background knowledge he gave her on the Council and the issues as she was running for her first term and later when she ran for State Representative. He always took the time to stop and ask her about her children and how they were doing and he always remembered everybody's name and face all of the time. She was very grateful for the opportunity of being able to work with him and under his guidance. She was also very grateful for the time she spent with Bill who was always enthusiastic about math. He was a joy to work with. She's never seen anyone so passionate about their job, but he got really excited about it and he made other people passionate about it when he explained it. She was touched by the service for these two gentlemen and was grateful for the opportunity of being able to work with them and to see their passion for this Town and the people in it.

Councilor Ricciardi stated that Bill Ingalls was not just the Town Assessor to her; he was a great friend. They met more than 20 years ago when she had some questions about her house. He came right over and brought Wayne Richardson and walked through the whole house and she asked them to stay and have lunch. He was so good to her son. When her son was little he was infatuated with dinosaurs. Bill Ingalls was a wealth of knowledge. He knew everything about any subject that you spoke to him about. He would sit for hours going over dinosaurs with her son. She had so many stories, but she only highlighted a few. He needed a speech in Italian, and so he came over and her husband helped him write the speech and they had a nice dinner. He just went out of his way for everybody. He was one of the most amazing human beings that she had ever had the pleasure to meet. She was first on the Conservation Commission 18 years ago and she had an accident and she was in a wheelchair. She had a baby so her husband had to stay home with the baby. Bill would come to her house and pick her up even in a snowstorm, carry her into the car, get her wheelchair, bring her to the meeting, set the wheelchair up so she didn't have to miss any meetings. She just can't believe that he's not here anymore. He will always be with us and that's what we have to remember. Dave Danielson, another great man who she also had the pleasure to meet and become a friend. She was at a house party many years ago from a mutual friend and he was running and they started talking. He wanted to know if he could put signs in my yard and she told him of course. His service to the Town and the State speaks for itself. She hoped that both of these men, that their memory may be eternal.

Councilor Thomas stated that she didn't know Bill Ingalls, she met him once. She just never had the opportunity to meet him, but she knew who he was. Bill Jennings posted some videos of him and you just watch those and get a sense of who he was. She regrets the fact that she only talked to him once at an event a couple of weeks ago, and they talked for a minute and that was it. She feels really bad about that, because he just seemed like a guy you want to know. She has known Dave Danielson for a long time. She met him when they were both on stage at McKelvie. She was running for School Board and he was running for Town Council back in the mid-90's. They didn't always agree on things, but he was always someone that even if she knew he disagreed with her point of view that was okay. He was still cordial and he still listened. As time went on they belonged to the same church and they saw Dave and Mary quite a bit at mass. He was very active at St. Elizabeth Seton church with his wife Mary. Mary ran CCD for a long time. He was just a nice person who you could disagree with. He had his opinions and that was okay and that's how it should be. You can have opinions about things and still get along. She speaks for her husband Bob and they are thinking of Mary, Adam and the kids and their condolences and prayers go out to them.

Councilor Radke stated that she had the pleasure of knowing both of these gentlemen for almost 20 years. As a Town Clerk she worked in the Town Office for 10 years, and Bill was one of her favorite people. She would go downstairs and they would have a chat about what's on the market and what's selling. He had a wealth of knowledge about everything and it was always a pleasure to go down and speak with him and talk about all the things he enjoyed doing, his cats, his hobbies, and the dinosaurs that were all over his office. Two years ago when she decided to leave and become a Town Administer and

she was put in a position where she had to oversee Assessing, he was her go to. She would call him a lot to ask questions and he always gave her the time to answer. She will truly miss Bill. He was a great friend and colleague. She's know Dave Danielson since she moved to Town, which was around 1999. She met Dave when he was running for Town Council in 2003 and she was also running that same year. There were three spots on the ballot and there were six of them running. She remembered standing at the Transfer Station and he would stand there with his one sign, which was blue and yellow. Being a newbie coming into the political arena, she had signs everywhere. She told him he didn't have many signs in Town and he told her he only had 25. He said the signs don't make a winner. If they don't vote for him then he's not doing his job. That has always resonated with her. That year he beat her; she came in fourth. The following year she ran again and then she had the pleasure of working with him on the Council. They sat right next to each other and he would mentor her throughout the meetings. He would always tease her and say 'You really don't know much, do you.' And he was right, she didn't. He was so nice to be around. He was such a great mentor. One of the things that Dave said that she always remembered being on the Council, he said they were elected for one thing and one thing only, and their job is to present the budget to the Town. They roll up their sleeves and that's when they go to work and the people that come to mind are those who are on fixed incomes and those who live paycheck to paycheck. That's who they have to represent. Those words are still in her mind today. She expressed her condolences to both their families and thanked them for all of their service to the Town and they will always be remembered. They are her heroes.

Councilor Duschatko stated that he's had the pleasure of knowing Dave for almost 27 years. He didn't know him very well in the first part of that period, but got to be very friendly and a colleague of his through the SNHPC where he was a great mentor of everyone who served there, not just from Bedford, but from all the other communities. He thought Dave really made it go and worked extremely well with both the professional staff there as well as the associated agencies throughout the State and then into New England and the United States. He was well recognized as that and served as president of the various associations that encompassed more than just NH. He was very dedicated to the planning stuff and was the first recipient of the highest award from the SNHPC, which was the Raymond Closson award for planning service, which goes to non-professional planners. They discussed politics at the State level a great amount and Dave had an extremely different viewpoint than you see in the press or would hear from most of the candidates. With several exceptions, he was probably the most accessible and knowledgeable person that ever represented Bedford that he was aware of. That includes an awful lot of people over that period of time. He's by far the leader. His biggest disappointment was when he ran for State Senate and was surprisingly defeated. This was a case of more of the fact that he was well-known in the Bedford area, Manchester, and places north, but unfortunately was not particularly well-known to the south and southwest. He continued to serve at the State. He got to know Bill about 15 years ago, but before that when he was in the commercial real estate lending business, they would discuss various developments in Bedford. It was remarkable that he was a total breadth of knowledge and professionalism. Many years ago he was a member of two very prestigious trade associations for the appraisal communities, so they used to have a lot of fun bantering

about the approach between an assessor and an appraiser and most people don't know the difference and there's a world of difference. He thought the assessor's job was much more difficult than the appraiser's. The appraiser is more of an advocate for whichever client they have and trying to get the prices as high as possible. One would think that would be the same for the assessor and what set Bill apart from many people is he was absolutely fair in his attempt to value properties at their fair value no matter who owned it or what the benefits would be toward it. In recent years, they've expanded that discussion to really encompass a number of cases where there were disagreements on overall evaluations and he had to admit that Bill's approach, although he disagreed with some of his conclusions, was probably a lot more valid with one he certainly had. He was a wonderful person to deal with and to live life with. What nobody has mentioned, but came up this afternoon, he was talking to Adam and Mary at Dave's wake, was the fact that one of Dave's proudest memberships was as a Tennessee Squire. He convinced him that he should join that organization and he will always be indebted to him for that. He wished them both an internal peace. He knows they deserve it.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Award of Squad Vehicle Bid**

Mr. Sawyer explained that the request tonight represents a shift in the way they operate in the Fire Department with medical calls and that's to move towards a squad vehicle on certain medical calls. On higher level medical calls and accidents, they send a full-sized engine on those calls. The plan would be to move to the squad vehicle on those calls whenever possible and hopefully extend the life of their larger engines and just being a lower cost solution. The money is available in the Capital Improvements Plan; it's already budgeted. There is no new additional funding required for this project. The request is to award the bid to Specialty Vehicles, Inc. in the total amount not to exceed \$300k. There is a specific amount based on the bid, but they expect some change orders and modifications to the piece of equipment as they go through the final design process. It's a 2022 Ford 550 chassis that this is built on, but it's not just a piece of equipment that just carries tools. It also will have a pumper and a tank and have foam suppression, which is one of the things the change order will be about to make sure the piece could be a tool for all responses.

Chairman Gilbert thought it would be a great thing to have. He's seen firsthand over the last couple of months the EMT's come to his house and his neighbor's next door numerous times and they do a great job and they should support them. Mr. Sawyer applauded the Chief for taking the Department in this direction and looking at alternatives and lower cost operational models. It was a great choice on his part. Chairman Gilbert stated that the personnel that came out were extremely professional and helpful and very knowledgeable and made it very easy on the problems that they had, the people next door and their problems, and the people next door to them; they've had three of them. They do a great job.

**MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council award the squad response vehicle purchase bid to Specialty Vehicles, Inc., at a purchase price of \$294,332 with change orders and equipment not to exceed \$300,000 and authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract. Seconded by Councilor Radke. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

**b. Board appointment**

Chairman Gilbert stated that before their last meeting they interviewed John Nelson as an alternate for the Planning Board.

**MOTION by Councilor Radke that the Bedford Town Council appoint John Nelson as an alternate member of the Planning Board with a term to expire in 2022. Seconded by Councilor Carter. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

**c. Other New Business**

Councilor Murphy thought that in light of the amount of passion that these two individuals, Bill Ingalls and Dave Danielson, brought to this Town and in light of their contributions, she would like to ask her fellow Councilors to give some thought as to what they could do in the future to honor them in the Town. Whether it's naming something after them individually or doing something to give back to the community. She didn't want to rush to a decision, because she thought was one of those things that requires a lot of thought and planning, but as they move forward perhaps with new facilities and things that they are putting together that will inevitably have conference rooms and benches and entryways. She just wanted to plant a seed and say it would be nice to circle back and honor these two individuals who gave so much of their time and energy to this Town. Chairman Gilbert thought it was a good idea and they would think about that and come up with something.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Other Old Business**

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**a. Public Session – May 12, 2021**

**MOTION by Councilor Carter that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the May 12, 2021 Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Thomas. Vote taken – Motion Approved – 7-0.**

**7. TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

- 1) COVID-19 Pandemic – Bedford has seen a decrease in the number of cases with **8 current COVID-19 cases** and over 46% of the State is fully vaccinated.
- 2) Drought conditions in NH have improved significantly over the last two weeks with Bedford and almost all of the state no longer being in the area that is defined as “Moderate Drought”. Approximately half of the state is no longer in any drought condition. Bedford remains in the “Abnormally Dry” classification and we ask Bedford residents to be mindful of their water consumption.
- 3) Please register your dog(s) prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> in order to avoid any late fees for 2021.
- 4) Tax bills have been mailed and payment is due by July 1, 2021.
- 5) Registration for Camp Witzel summer camp and other summer camp programs are now open and information is available through the Recreation page of the Town Website <http://www.bedfordreconline.com/info/activities/default.aspx>
- 6) May 31<sup>st</sup> – Bedford Town Offices, Library, Transfer Station, & BCTV – closed for Memorial Day. There is no parade this year, but look for it returning in the future.
- 7) June 1<sup>st</sup> – Town Office Building will have limited staffing as many employees will be attending memorial services for Bill Ingalls. Motor Vehicles is intending to be open.
- 8) The Bedford Farmers Market opens June 15<sup>th</sup> and continues on Tuesdays from 3-6 PM until October at Primary Plaza parking lot.
- 9) June 19<sup>th</sup> – Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, Highway Garage, 19 Chubbuck Road.
- 10) Bedford Memorial Pool – The pool is scheduled to open on Father’s Day, June 20<sup>th</sup>. Seasonal pool passes are available through the Recreation Department at single \$75, family \$125, and family with baby sitter \$145. Passes are free for those over 60 years of age. Due to COVID protocols, use of the pool will be restricted to those who have signed up in advance through the recreation website.
- 11) Catesby Lane Fire – Thank you to Bedford Fire, mutual aid, Chief Hunter, Sally Kellar, and Soil-Away Cleaning & Restoration Services. Chief Hunter led the charge to help the family out for a recital that was happening the next day and went out of his way to find company, Soil-Away Cleaning & Restoration Services in Hooksett that stepped up to make sure all the articles were clean for the recital and delivered them to the recital. Sally Kellar, Town Clerk, took over the shoes that needed to be cleaned and replaced and did a fantastic job with that.

## 5. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Councilor Carter stated that the Conservation Commission met last night. They had two applications. They acted on one and the second one was put on hold until next month, because the applicant didn’t show up on the Zoom meeting, so they were moved to the June meeting. They had a non-public talking about the opportunity to buy some land. He wished everyone in the Town of Bedford a restful and peaceful Memorial Day weekend.

Councilor Radke wanted to let the Town staff know that she’s thinking of them. To lose someone that’s part of your family is never easy and they’ve had to deal with it at least one other time. She’s just letting the Town staff know that she’s thinking of them and hang in there, especially Rick.

Councilor Murphy stated that a lot of times, especially this week, she's remembered how short and fragile life can be sometimes. She thought it was really important to take a minute and thank the people that serve this time either in a volunteer capacity or as employees of the Town for everything they do on a daily basis that maybe they don't always have the time to stop and notice, but she wanted them to know how appreciated they are for the work that they do and how very grateful they are to have everyone in this community who is active in any way, shape or form to try and make it a better Bedford. She also wanted to honor all of the men and women that died in the service of this country as they celebrate Memorial Day.

Chairman Gilbert stated that they had a Zoning Board meeting last week and approved an application for an above ground pool. He thanked everyone that came out last Saturday to the EFJH where they had their farm stand grand opening. It was great and had a good time. They will also do an event in the fall. He's going to miss Bill and Dave tremendously. Bill could always make him laugh no matter what. Chairman Gilbert stated that he's a squire also like Dave and they've had a good time talking about stuff and doing things together. He's a wealth of knowledge and he's sorry that he's gone. He's going to miss him.

**6. NON-PUBLIC – RSA 91-A:3 II**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION by Councilor Carter to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Thomas. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

The public meeting ended at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford