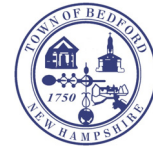


# MEMORANDUM



To: Bedford Town Council  
From: Rick Sawyer, Acting Town Manager  
Date: April 7, 2016  
Re: **Manager's Report**

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## **News & Noteworthy:**

- 1) During the month of March it became known that the water we receive from the Merrimack Village Water District (MVD) had become contaminated with a chemical best known as PFOA. The contamination is widespread in the groundwater in Merrimack and Litchfield and is likely the result of long term use in the manufacturing process formerly used at the Saint Gobain facility on Daniel Webster Highway in Merrimack. We quickly developed a website as a resource for our residents and completed a public forum on March 30<sup>th</sup> with NHDES, NHDHHS, Pennichuck, and MVD officials. I would like to thank all of the organizations and officials who came together very quickly to hold the forum, and our team, especially Bill Jennings for making it happen. NHDES continues to investigate this serious situation while everyone awaits health standards to be set by EPA. More details are available in a separate staff report.
- 2) The Town of Bedford through its Police Department hosted a special event on "Substance Abuse, From the Boarder to Our Corner", on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The program featured the showing of "Chasing the Dragon" and then discussion by an impressive group of panelist. Chief Bryfonski and BCTV are working to develop an airing of the film on BCTV soon and I thank him for continuing to lead the fight against substance abuse in our community.
- 3) On March 28<sup>th</sup> the Planning Board held a special meeting with the Performance Zone Study Committee and New Hampshire Economist Russ Thibeault who completed a review of economic and demographic trends in Bedford, the region, and New Hampshire and how things like our aging population is impacting housing and commercial development. He discussed how the Performance Zone has done historically and what issues we should be considering in the future.
- 4) In early March the NH Retirement System informed us that they would be completing an audit which was initiated with a request for electronic files to be sent on March 21<sup>st</sup>, and continued with an in office review of files and interviews on April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 5) The financial audit for 2015 began with the first three days of in office review March 14-16 and will continue with five more days April 18-22.
- 6) Whole Foods Market has announced that it will be celebrating its grand opening with a breaking of bread on April 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9:45 AM.
- 7) The snow this week resulted in our 14<sup>th</sup> winter event where our DPW crews were called out making this another average season, albeit one with a less than average snow total.

## **Project Updates:**

- 1) Library HVAC/Geothermal – The well drilling contractor has completed the drilling of all 20 wells, each to a depth of 500 feet. Impacts to the interior operations of the Library once the HVAC work begins are being reviewed and planned. We know that the upper level will need to be closed for at least a week this summer. Duck work cleaning will begin in June and will occur overnight when the Library is closed.
- 2) The replacement of the BCTV roof has been completed. The Annex roof replacement is underway and includes structural repairs to correct the problems caused by the decades old fire in the building. The Town Hall Roof will also be replaced this year starting in June by a separate contractor which will include needing to close the building for asbestos remediation.
- 3) Wallace Road reconstruction resumed on March 15<sup>th</sup> in the area between Church Road and North Amherst Road which is expected to last approximately 6 weeks. The South River Road TIF Area improvement have started up again with the removal of the house at the end of Wathen Road and preparations are beginning on the bridge replacement on Eastman Ave. The intention is to complete the project including all final pavement on South River Road by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 4) The online payment project is proceeding with an April 8<sup>th</sup> go live date for motor vehicles and dog licenses. Tax billing as other billing will be brought online later in the spring. The staff and vendor developed public service announcements for TV and radio about the program and I thank the BCTV team for their assistance. The tax and registry windows were closed all day April 6<sup>th</sup> for training on the new programs.
- 5) It has been discovered that 26 properties who receive municipal sewer services have never received a bill in some cases for months and others decades. An initial letter has been sent indicating that a bill for the last quarter should be expected soon. Since the letter several property owners have indicated that there are agreements which indicate they should not receive bills which are not being researched and documented. The situation will be reviewed with the Water and Sewer Committee before any further steps will be taken.
- 6) Joppa Hill Farm Lease – The working group met on March 21<sup>st</sup> and developed the framework for a Lease which was later developed by Chairwoman Murphy and reviewed by all. The Council reviewed the lease in non-public on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and it is scheduled for approval on April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- 7) Work on the new town website continues and the reveal of the preliminary website occurring today to the staff members of the working group.
- 8) Personnel – The Fire Department received 17 applications for our 3 new (July 1) positions and 6 were selected to move on to the next round of testing from which 4 remain for the oral board review. The Police Department has selected 3 candidates for our 4 open positions who will be starting in the next police academy in May. A Swearing In Ceremony has been scheduled for 10:00 AM on April 21<sup>st</sup>, all of which come to us as veterans of the Navy or Army. The Finance Department and DPW are each working towards filling their new positions that became available April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Library has completed it's move of two positions from part time to full time and has a candidate to fill it's vacant clerk position.

**Events:**

- April 7<sup>th</sup> – Public Forum, “Social Media: A Predator’s Playground” presented by the Bedford Police Department and The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force is intended to educate the public on potential risks associated with online activity. 6:30 PM at the Bedford High School Theater.
- April 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday Night Film, 6:30 PM, Bedford Library, “Star Wars, The Force Awakens”.
- April 10<sup>th</sup> – Community Forum on substance abuse, 6:30 PM, presented by Pastor Sawyer of the Bedford Presbyterian Church with support from Chief Bryfonski, Superintendent McGee, and BeBold.
- April 14<sup>th</sup> – Thursday Theater 2-4:30 PM and 6:30-9 PM Bedford Library.
- April 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Matinee Series, 2 PM, Bedford Library, “Nobody’s Fool”.
- April 19<sup>th</sup> – Special Travel Presentation for the proposed March 27-31, 2017 trip to New Orleans. The presentation will be at 4:30 PM at the Bedford Town Hall. For more information about this trip and to RSVP contact Jane O’Brien in the Recreation Department or pick up a brochure in the Town Office Building.
- April 20<sup>th</sup> – Lunch & Learn, “Confident Retirement” – Noon-1 PM, at the Bedford Town Hall. Lunch is free, but please RSVP. More information is available on the Recreation Department website.
- April 21<sup>st</sup> – Police Officer Swearing In Ceremony, 10:00 AM, Public Safety Building.
- April 21<sup>st</sup> – BCTV & WBNH Open House, 4-8 PM.
- April 25<sup>th</sup> – Coffee & Classic Movie, 9:30 AM Bedford Library, “Singing in the Rain (1952)”.
- April 30<sup>th</sup> – Touch-A-Truck, 10 AM – Noon, at the Town Playground/Pool parking lot, 20 County Road. This is a free event.
- April 30<sup>th</sup> – National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, Police Department, 55 Constitution Drive.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- April 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- **April 13<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- April 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee
- April 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, WBNH-LPFM Board of Overseers
- April 19<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- April 25<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- April 26<sup>th</sup> – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- April 26<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **April 27<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- April 28<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission

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