

MEMORANDUM



To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, AICP, Town Manager
Date: May 19, 2016
Re: Manager's Report

News & Noteworthy:

- 1) The County Road Traffic Test started on Monday, May 16th, and continues through Friday, May 27th. The intersections of Nashua Road and County Road in front of Bedford High School and Liberty Hill Road and County Road in front of McKelvie School became temporary 4-way stop intersections.

The Bedford Highway Safety Committee has been studying both of these intersections after numerous concerns raised by the community regarding traffic delays and crashes. Engineering studies were recommended for both intersections and after review of the initial traffic data it was determined by staff that a test of one of the potential solutions before school gets out would be important before the final recommendations were made.

The preliminary impressions of the tests are favorable, however there has been a complaint about the delay northbound on Liberty Hill Road during peak school times. Town and School staff will be meeting next week to review the preliminary results and to make a determination about continuing the test through the end of the school year.

- 2) The NH Retirement System Board of Trustees has voted to adopt revised actuarial assumptions based on a five-year experience study reducing the assumed rate of investment return from 7.75 to 7.25 percent. The Board will vote in the fall on new July 1, 2017 employer contribution rates, but preliminary information (see table below) would indicate a financial impact of approximately \$155,000 to the town and \$300,000 to the school system.

Table with 5 columns: Category, Current Rate%, Projected%, Increase, %Increase. Rows include Employees, Teachers, Police, and Fire.

- 3) On May 13, 2016 BCTV was presented with the VFW Loyalty Award from Post 8401 for all of their continued support and coverage of our veterans.
4) All of your favorite programs on WBNH 105.1 are now available online as podcasts.
5) June 6, 7, & 8th the town's basketball and tennis courts will be closed for annual crack sealing maintenance.



6) This week has been designated Police Week in conjunction with May 15th being Peace Officers Memorial Day. Chief Bryfonski and the Department honored all those in law enforcement who have given their lives to protect others with a moment of silence.



7) The last day to make party affiliation changes prior to the September Primary is May 31, 2016. If you are currently registered as one party or the other you will need to vote in that party's primary unless you make a change before May 31st.

8) Those interested in running for the NH House of Representatives need to file between June 1st thru 10th, 2016.

9) Please register your dog(s) prior to June 1st in order to avoid any late fees. Civil forfeiture letters and fines will be issued in June.

10) Registration for Camp Witzel, our 7 week Summer Day Camp for children 6-13 years old is open. Camp will be located at Riddle Brook School this year, June 20 – August 5. Many other programs are also available during the summer including, Let Go Your Mind – LEGO and Robotics Camp, and Wicked Cool For Kids Summer Camps.

11) The Bedford Pool is tentatively scheduled to open June 19th (Father's Day) and single \$75, family \$125, and family with baby sitter passes are available.

12) The summer hours for the Library start in June and will be closed on Sundays.

Project Updates:

1) We continue to monitor and work on the PFOA water contamination issue which has now expanded to a third area of concern in Bedford. On May 19th the US EPA set their long term health advisory for exposure of PFOA at 70 ppt. Please see the separate memo on this subject for more information.

2) Library HVAC/Geothermal – It is anticipated starting May 31st that the upstairs will be closed for approximately 3 weeks.

3) The Town Hall Roof replacement is underway and continues with chimney rebuilding May 16-27, roof shingle abatement the week of June 1st, and new shingles starting the week of June 6th. We expect the building to be closed the first two weeks of June, and during the day for several weeks in June.

4) Staff training on use of the new town website took place over a three day period May 10-12. Final design changes on the aesthetics and function of the page have been requested and a mid to late June publication is anticipated. Work on the associated mobile application has been initiated.

- 5) Wallace Road reconstruction between North Amherst Road and New Boston Road has been completed to a point where it is now open to traffic. The Wallace Road south portion is now underway and is closed to traffic between Beals Road and the Merrimack town line. The South River Road TIF Area improvements continue with the intention to complete the TIF project including all final pavement on South River Road by June 1st, however we are reviewing a possible need to delay the portion between Kilton Road and Meetinghouse Road.
- 6) BCTV station upgrade is progressing well and by keeping up with technology we will have the highest quality broadcast available to our TV and streaming viewers.
- 7) Work and testing on the online payments system for tax and sewer bills is ongoing in anticipation of the July tax bill. The system has been working very well for motor vehicles and dog registrations with the number of people choosing to use credit cards over automated clearing house (direct bank transfer) being higher than expected.
- 8) Personnel – The Fire Department and Police Department have each made conditional offers on their remaining open positions. The Finance Department had a resignation recently of one of the front window clerks which we are quickly trying to fill along with the new accountant position approved in the budget this year and the clerk position that has been vacant since the start of the year. A great deal of thanks goes to Lee Boissonneault for working the window a significant amount of the time by himself and for Melanie Wallace returning to the front help Lee whenever possible. The vacant Assistant Planning Director position has been posted and applications are starting to come in.

Events:

- May 20th – 77th Annual Bedford Firemen’s Ball, 6:00 PM Social, 7:00 PM Dinner.
- May 21st - Bedford Rotary Road Race, various AM start times, Bedford High School. Please expect traffic delays and road closures.
- May 23rd – Coffee & Classic Movie, 9:30 AM Bedford Library, “State Fair (1945)”.
- May 24th – Bedford Police Association Fundraiser, 5-10 PM, at Carrabba’s.
- May 29th – 5th Annual Bicycle Rodeo supported by the Bedford Police Department, 10:00- Noon, at the Upper Parking Lot of Bedford High School.
- May 29th – Memorial Day Parade, 1:00 PM followed by a MIA Medial Award Ceremony and a NH National Guard Alumni Band Concert at 2 PM in the McKelvie School Cafeteria.
- May 29th – Bedford Library Closed for Memorial Day.
- May 30th – Bedford Town Offices, Library, Transfer Station, & BCTV Closed for Memorial Day.
- June 1st – Police Department Citizen Academy Class of 2016 Graduation, 6:30 PM, Bedford Safety Complex.
- June 11th – Bedford High Scholl Class of 2016 Graduation, 10 AM.

Upcoming Meetings:

- May 24th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- May 24th – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- May 24th – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **May 25th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- May 26th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- June 7th – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- **June 8th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- June 9th – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee
- June 13th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- June 14th – 7:00 PM, Parks & Recreation Commission
- June 20th – 7:00 PM, WBNH-LPFM Board of Overseers
- June 21st – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- June 23rd – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- June 27th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- June 28th – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- June 28th – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **June 29th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**

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