

MEMORANDUM



To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: February 16, 2017
Re: **Manager's Report**

News & Noteworthy:

- 1) Due to a State of NH Division of Motor Vehicles software update we will **NOT be able to register any vehicle** starting on Friday, February 17, 2017 through Tuesday, February 21, 2017. This is a statewide event where no vehicles can be registered during that time.
- 2) The last day to register to vote or to make name and address changes prior to the March 14th Election is Wednesday, March 8, 2017. The Town Office Building will be open extra hours on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 from 6:30-7:30 PM only for the purpose of voter registration and changes. Residents may also register to vote at the polls on Election Day.
- 3) 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 21st. Applications are available on the Police website.
- 4) Ambulance 1 suffered a mechanical failure taking it out of service for an extended period of time. We believe all of the repairs will be covered under warranty but have no timetable for its return. The necessary medical equipment has been transferred to our backup ambulance keeping two ambulances in service for calls.
- 5) Zoning Amendments – The Planning Board has moved 8 zoning amendments to the March ballot including the citizen's petition zoning amendment to rezone 3 parcels on Old Bedford Road will be on the ballot or not which was not withdrawn as had been anticipated due to the primary petitioner not being able obtain support of all of the original signers by Tuesday, February 7th.
- 6) Personnel – Doug Irvine our Assistant Assessor has obtained certification as a State of NH Assessor Supervisor which is the highest of 4 levels recognized in the State. This allows Doug to oversee all aspects of the valuation process, including the responsibility of setting of values. Having two assessors of this rank provides a high level of experience and competence for the property owners of Bedford and backup in a very important area.

Project Updates:

- 1) 2017 Road Bond Sale – In preparation of the sale of \$11M in bonds for improvements to our roads, which has been scheduled for March 22, 2017, the Finance Department is spearheading the collection of data necessary in advance of a Moody's Rating Agency visit and review on February 21st. Finance, Assessing, Planning, and I are working hard to prepare the information into a polished presentation and to coordinate a tour of the development projects throughout town as requested. Our new bond rate will be set on March 13th and we

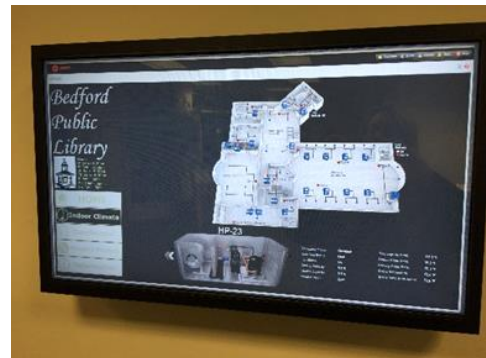
believe we are in an excellent position to retain our Aaa rating, however we understand current and future economic development will play a vital role in the final rate.

- 2) 2017 Roads Program – The Department of Public Works will be holding an Open House on Saturday, March 4, 2017, 11:30AM- 1:30PM at the Bedford Town Hall to hear any existing roadway concerns such storm water drainage, intersection sight distance, etc. in the area of 1st through 4th Streets, Wilkins Street, Hilltop Drive, Plymouth Street, and Worthly Road. They will also be discussing the potential for connecting 2nd Street with and Hilltop Drive, and vehicle turn-arounds at the ends of Plymouth Street and First Street. To view the preliminary design plans. Please visit <http://www.bedfordnhroads.com/> then click "Projects".

- 3) Library Geothermal – Our geothermal project received very exciting national recognition in the latest issue of **Library Journal**, February 1, 2017, "Keeping Up Budgets & Funding" under the heading, "The Art of the Ask".

<http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2017/02/budgets-funding/keeping-up-budgets-funding/>

I am also very happy to announce that Geothermal HVAC Project monitor display is up and running on the lower level of the library near the McAllaster Room. The touch screen system highlights the project for the public to learn about geothermal energy, see a working diagram of the system and the current room temperatures in real time, plus a time line of photos of the project from start to finish.



- 4) The Warrant and Budgetary Town Meeting handout have been completed and have been posted on the Town Website for the public's review.

<https://www.bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/1914>



- 5) Legislation - The Staff, Councilors, and I have been busy preparing and providing written and verbal testimony on numerous pieces of legislation over the last several weeks and many additional hearings are scheduled over the coming weeks. A separate legislative tracking document has been provided.

- 6) PFC water contamination - We continue to monitor and work on the PFC water contamination issue and a full staff report has been provided. On January 27th I was informed that two homes on South River Road between Commerce Drive and Iron Horse Drive that are still on wells have come back with PFC readings in excess of the 70 ppt threshold and would be supplied with bottled water. As a result of this latest finding DES will be again expanding their study area to the north of the existing areas. I have also been notified that Saint-Gobain has requested a proposal from Pennichuck to provide public water to the original 64 properties utilizing MVD water.

Events:

- February 20th – The Town Office Building, Library, and Transfer Station will be closed for Presidents Day.
- March 4th – Roads Program Open House, Town Hall, 11:30 AM -1:30 PM.
- **March 14th – Local Election Day, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Bedford High School.**
- **March 15th – Budgetary Town Meeting, 7:00 PM, Bedford High School.**

Upcoming Meetings:

- February 21st – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- **February 22nd – 7:00 PM Public, Town Council**
- February 23rd – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- February 27th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- February 28th – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- **March 6th– 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission (Previously February 28th)**
- March 7st – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- **March 8th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- March 9th – 7:45 AM Water & Sewer Committee
- March 13th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- **March 15th – 7:00 PM, Budgetary Town Meeting**
- **March 16th – 6:30 PM, Town Council Volunteer Interviews**
- **March 20th – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- March 21st – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- March 27th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
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