

MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager
Date: January 7, 2021
Re: **Manager's Report**



News & Noteworthy:

- 1) The registration period for open elected positions is January 20, 2021 through 5 PM January 29, 2021.

Open Town Elected Positions:

- Three Town Council positions (3-year terms)
- Two Library Trustees (one 3-year term, one 2-year term)
- One Trustee of the Trust Fund (3-year term)
- One Supervisors of the Checklist (5-year term)

Open School District Positions:

- Two School Board positions (3-year terms)

Any Bedford registered voter wishing to file for Office must do so by contacting Town Clerk Sally Kellar at 472-3550. The clerk will be available during office hours at the Town Office Building, 24 North Amherst Road and until 5 PM on the last day of filing.

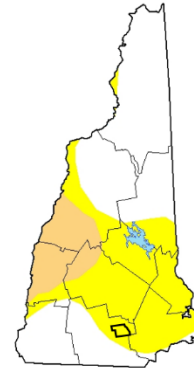
As per RSA 669:19 candidates who file on the last day of the filing period shall do so in person before the Town Clerk.

- 2) COVID-19 Pandemic – Bedford unfortunately continues to see an increase in the number cases with **174 current COVID-19 positive patients**. It is my understanding that **our current cases are a result of significant community spread as well as outbreaks in long term care facilities**. We need to continue to be as cautious as possible when out in the public. I strongly encourage all residents to follow the CDC and State of NH recommendations for protecting yourself including wearing a face covering and washing hands as often as possible. The State's guidelines for traveling out of New England requires quarantining for 10 days when you return. Organizationally we continue to have employees out due to being positive or having family members who are or due to exposures to positive people. We are also working collectively to assist those with students at home or in hybrid situations. Our policies continue to be modified as the situation changes including with the sunseting of the federal programs on 12/31/2020. Over the past two weeks our first responders who have agreed to be vaccinated have received their first dose.
- 3) Bedford Cares – Continues to provide an incredible service to members of our community who are in need of assistance with such things as shopping and picking up of prescriptions. If you need their support or want to help please reach out to them at 792-1319 or on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/bedfordnhcares/>

4) Drought – There is significant good news on the drought front as we are no longer in a “Moderate Drought” as a result of the recent snow and rain events. Bedford and a much of southern NH has been reduced one level but remains in the condition defined as “Abnormally Dry”. Much of NH no longer has any drought conditions.

**U.S. Drought Monitor
New Hampshire**

January 5, 2021
(Released Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:
None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
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National Drought Mitigation Center



5) PFAS – NHDES and Saint Gobain are testing private wells in southeastern Bedford now that the PFAS standards have been adopted into law. It is unknown how long it will take before we know what solutions will be proposed. If you have received a request for well testing it is critical that you sign the agreement and return the paperwork as soon as possible.

6) The Planning Board will hold public hearings on 3 proposed zoning amendments on January 11th and January 25th at 7 PM. These hearings will be conducted virtually and the log in information can be obtained by contacting the Planning Department at planning@bedfordnh.org. The amendments can be viewed on the Town Website at: <https://www.bedfordnh.org/DocumentCenter/View/4919/2021-Zoning-Amendment-Legal-Notice>

7) The Planning Board will be considering a request for approval of a 125,000 square-foot manufacturing facility for Wire Belt Company of America at 308 South River Road. If approved the company plans to move and expand its operation from Londonderry and hopes to build a completely net zero facility. The company is often listed as a top employer in the State for which to work and would be a great addition to our community.

8) The Bedford Winter Parking Ban began on November 1st, which requires no parking on public roads between midnight and 8 AM.

9) Family Snowman Challenge – build a snowman in your own yard and submit a picture by January 31st. Be sure to challenge your friends and neighbors!

10) Santa’s Mailbox at the Town Office Building saw 168 letters make their way to and from the North Pole. A big thank-you goes out to the elves in the Recreation Department for completing this work each year.



Project Updates:

- 1) Sportsman Field reconstruction has continued longer than anticipated and light poles should be placed by the end of the week which will complete their work for their work for the winter.
- 2) The Hazard Mitigation Plan update continues to be worked on and the Emergency Operations Plan will be presented to the Council at the January 13, 2021 meeting for adoption.

- 3) Ladder Truck – The RFP for the ladder truck replacement has been issued with a response date of January 22, 2021. It is our hope that we will be able to ask the Council to award the contract at their February 10, 2021 meeting.
- 4) 2020 Financial Audit – The audit has been initiated and the team is expected to begin their work on February 5, 2021.
- 5) Personnel: Police Department, Lt. Michael Griswold has announced his retirement for this month after 27 dedicated years of service. Edna Gerrans our Prosecutor’s Secretary has retired after 20 years of service. Sergeant Cory Egan has been promoted to Lieutenant to replace the vacancy opened by Lt. Bernard’s retirement. SRO Danielle Nightingale has been promoted to Sergeant. The selection process has been initiated for a new SRO. Offers are pending for the open patrol and communications positions. Our open IT position has been filled with the employee starting in two weeks. Fire Department, Firefighter Jonathan Strong has announced his retirement this month after 24 dedicated years of service. Health Officer Gary Pariseau has resigned to take a similar position with the State after 15 years of service. Captain Thatcher Plante have announced his intension to resign in order to move out of state after 7 years of service. Four grant funded firefighters started this week and we have a special posting for paramedics as we have not been successful in attracting them recently and it is impacting our operations. We have one opening in the Library for a part time clerk. Lastly Karin Elmer a critical member of our Planning team has announced her intention to retire this spring.

Events:

- January 9th – The Educational Farm at Joppa Hill & the Bedford Fire Department host a traditional Christmas tree burn and skating party 4-8 PM at the Farm on Joppa Hill Road.
- January 18th - The Town Office Building, Library, and Transfer Station will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Day.

Upcoming Meetings:

- ~~January 7th – 7:00 PM, BCTV-WBNH Board of Overseers~~
- January 11th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board (1st Zoning Amendment Public Hearing)
- **January 13th – 7:00 PM, Town Council** (1st Budget Public Hearing)
- ~~January 14th – 7:45 AM, Water & Sewer Committee~~
- January 19th – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- January 21st – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Committee
- January 25th – 7:00 PM, Planning Board (2nd Zoning Amendment Public Hearing)
- January 26th – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- January 26th – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- **January 27th – 7:00 PM, Town Council** (2nd Budget Public Hearing)
- January 28th – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission

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