

# MEMORANDUM

To: Bedford Town Council  
From: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager  
Date: December 9, 2021  
Re: **Manager's Report**

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## News & Noteworthy:

- 1) COVID-19 Pandemic – **Bedford currently has 108 COVID-19 positive patients with significant spread occurring in the community.** Bedford has had a total of 3,072 cases. 55.2% of NH residents are currently vaccinated with Bedford having 59% fully vaccinated residents and 64.5% with one dose. The State currently has the highest number of cases it has had at any point in the pandemic and hospitals are again at maximum capacity. Vaccines are good at keeping someone from contracting the virus and if there is a breakthrough then it generally keeps the patient from being extremely ill where hospitalization is required. I strongly encourage anyone who can be vaccinated or who is eligible to receive a booster to do so. Our organization continues to adjust as needed and assist employees who test positive, become ill, or have exposures.
- 2) Santa's Mailbox – Time is running out to get letters to Santa in time for Christmas. Our direct mailbox to Santa remains available until Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> in the Town Office Building Lobby. Santa's helpers have asked that you be sure to print your name and address clearly on your letter.
- 3) I would like to thank the Bedford Garden Club for again supplying our public buildings with beautiful holiday wreaths. The Club also provides and cares for flowers at the Town Office Building the rest of the year which truly improves the experience for visitors and employees.
- 4) The Bedford Winter Parking Ban began on November 1<sup>st</sup>, which requires no parking on public roads between midnight and 8 AM.
- 5) PFAS Contamination – On November 18, 2021 NHDES issued a Letter of Deficiency to Saint-Gobain for installing a bypass stack to the required thermal oxidizer that was required to eliminate the further release of PFAS. I certainly hope that NHDES and Saint-Gobain have taken every step necessary to bring the site into compliance in the days since that letter was issued.
- 6) PFAS Contamination – As a results of at least 73 properties outside of the Saint-Gobain consent decree area and generally north of Route 101 that have PFAS readings above regulated limits a grant was submitted to NHDES this week to provide reimbursements to those property owners who install point of entry treatment systems or connect to public water should the grant be approved. Currently there is no identified responsible party for



these impacted property owners. It is my understanding that anyone living in Bedford outside of the consent decree area can request that their well water be tested by submitting an application through the NHDES website at: [https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-pfas-investigation/?page\\_id=307](https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-pfas-investigation/?page_id=307)

- 7) PFAS Contamination – NHDES and Saint Gobain are testing a large number of private wells in southeastern Bedford but unfortunately they have not announced any remediation steps yet while they wait for more data. If you have received a request for well testing from Golder Associates it is critical that you sign the agreement and return the paperwork as soon as possible.
- 8) Recently a number of our Public Works employees completed training through the UNH Technology Transfer Center and received the following awards: Kevin Hodgdon, Master Roads Scholar II, Brad Hatfield, Senior Roads Scholar, Master Roads Scholar, & Safety Champion, David Lavalley, Roads Scholar 1, Chris Audet, Roads Scholar 1, Ian Rollins, Safety Champion.
- 9) Property owners have been very responsive with on time payment of taxes that were due on December 1<sup>st</sup> with a response rate of approximately 97%. The Tax Rate has been set at \$17.14 down from \$20.02 (-\$2.88 or -14.39%) for 2021.

#### **Project Updates:**

- 1) 2021 Roads Program – The program has essentially ended for the year with the paving of Meadow Lane.
- 2) Personnel – There are currently 5 openings in the Highway Department including the Head Mechanic position and 1 other is out on extended leave. The Police Department has 2 patrol, 1 Captain, and the Animal Control Officer position open and have 2 pending appointments and 8 non-certified candidates being tested. The Fire Department is fully staffed, except two members are out on extended leave. A Library clerk position is open with interviews ongoing. The Deputy Town Clerk position is vacant which can only be filled by Bedford residents. Those interested should contact the Town Clerk for more information.

#### **Events:**

- December 12 – Cinema Sunday, "It's a Wonderful Life", 1:30-4:30 PM, Bedford Library. Please register in advance on the Library website.
- December 13 – Last day for "Toys for Tots" drop-offs sponsored by the Bedford Police Department, 8 AM – 4 PM at the Public Safety Complex.
- December 16 – The Town Office Building will be closing at 3 PM in order for employees to attend our holiday celebration.
- December 23 – Transfer Station extended hours 8:30 AM – 8 PM.
- December 23 – Library closing at 5 PM.
- December 24 & 25 – The Town Office Building, Library, and Transfer Station will be closed.

- December 28 – Transfer Station extended hours 6 AM – 6 PM.
- December 31 – Transfer Station closing at 1 PM (open 8:30 AM – 1 PM).
- December 31 – The Town Office Building & Library Closed.
- January 1 - The Town Office Building, Library, and Transfer Station will be closed.
- January 9 – Cinema Sunday, “Blade Runner”, 1:30-4:30 PM, Bedford Library. Please register in advance on the Library website.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- ~~December 9 – 7:45 AM, Water & Sewer Advisory Committee~~
- ~~December 9 – 9:00 AM, Poles and Wires Committee~~
- ~~December 14 – 7:00 PM, Parks & Recreation Commission~~
- **December 15 – 7:00 PM, Town Council**
- December 16 – 7:00 PM, Energy Commission
- December 17 – 11:30 AM, Telecommunications Subcommittee
- December 20 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- December 21 – 7:00 PM, Zoning Board
- December 28 – 7:15 AM, Highway Safety Committee
- December 28 – 7:00 PM, Conservation Commission
- January 4 – 7:00 PM, Historic District Commission
- January 10 – 7:00 PM, Planning Board
- **January 12 – 7:00 PM, Town Council**

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