

THE BEDFORD TAXPAYER

Bedford Taxpayers Association P.O. Box 10473 Bedford, NH 03110-0473

Volume 33, No. 1

Special Edition for March 8, 2022 Elections

March 2022

VOTE March 8!

Continuing a practice begun in 1990, BEDFORD TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION (BTA) offers its suggestions on HOW TO VOTE on candidates and warrant articles on March 8.

SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Article I: ELECTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICERS - SCHOOL BOARD

BTA endorses JOHN SCHNELLER School Board. After first serving on Town council for 3 years, and serving the last 3 years on the School Board, John has become a seasoned town servant. He is dedicated to keeping our taxes low. **Vote SCHNELLER (X)**

Article II: SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLE, HVAC IMPROVEMENTS BOND

This \$4,078,200 Bond is a logical appropriation for updating and upgrading mechanical and HVAC systems at our 4 Intermediate Schools. These are needs, not wants. **Vote Yes (X)**

Article III: SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLE SPRINKLERS and ALARMS BOND.

This Bond for \$1,776,400 combines wants and needs. We have opposed it in the past, because data proves there has been no student death in a school fire in North America for 60 years, so insurance companies do not reduce costs for sprinklers. However, other alarm systems are part of this proposal, which may be beneficial. **BTA takes no position.**

Article IV: NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT - PROFESSIONAL STAFF

This funds the agreement with the BEA for Professional Staff for 3 years. **Vote YES (X)**

Article V: CONDITIONAL ARTICLE A waste of money. **Vote NO (X)**

Article VI: OPERATING BUDGET Projected cost is **\$81,887,004**, which is **\$2,457,702** over this year's Operating budget. The Default Budget is **\$80,896,658**, which is only \$990,346 less than the Proposed Operating Budget and much higher than our current one of **\$79,429,302**. But the number of students has been dropping steadily since 2016 and will be **500** less by 2024. Defeating the Operating Budget, and living with the Default Budget will not cause any education program cuts. All staff salaries and raises are included in the Default Budget as well as special education costs. There is no possibility that the Default Budget will be inadequate even for unexpected costs. **Vote NO (X)**

With COVID, inflation, and massive job losses, this is not the time for tax increases. We may be taxing many of our Citizens out of their homes.

TOWN:

Article 1: ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICES

TOWN COUNCIL: BTA endorses Kathleen Bemiss and Dave Gilbert for 3 years, and Phil Greazzo for 2 years for Town Council. Dave and Phil have served on the Council before, and Kathleen has served on The Conservation Commission as far back as 2005/07 plus other boards from 2018 to now. All 3 have been excellent watchdogs for the citizens of Bedford. All 3 have track records that speak for themselves. **Vote Bemiss, Gilbert, and Greazzo (X)**

LIBRARY TRUSTEE: BTA endorses Craig Stevens, who will work to support the mission of our Library, to ensure it continues as a cornerstone of the community. **Vote Stevens (X)**

Article 2: ZONING AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE PLANNING BOARD

AMENDMENT 1. This will update and expand the use of Solar Energy Systems. **Vote Yes (X)**

AMENDMENT 2. This will define and allow the use of Accessory Detached Apartments in the Residential and Agricultural District. **Vote Yes (X)**

Article 2: ZONING AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY CITIZEN PETITION

AMENDMENT 3. This will limit Medical Clinics and Office Buildings in the Performance Zone to 2 stories and 20,000 sq.ft., which is consistent with others in Bedford. Those wishing to apply for a variance may do so, but that will not include any tax exemption. The express purpose of creating the Performance Zone was to generate revenue for the Town, so residents pay less property tax themselves. Changes to local Zoning Regulations are not dangerous or arbitrary. They are designed to limit abuses, and citizens must approve them. There is no lack of access to Healthcare Providers in Bedford now, and all of them pay their fair share of property taxes. Hillsborough County is in the top 5 counties in the US for access to healthcare. Bedford citizens are not forced to go anywhere. But we will be forced to pay much higher property taxes, if large, non-local, medical conglomerates are allowed to bully us into letting them build in our community, without carrying their fair share of the tax burden. **Please make sure Zoning Amendment 3 passes for all of Bedford. It is essential if you want to keep your property taxes from skyrocketing.** **Vote Yes (X)**

Articles 3 & 4 will be voted on at the Budgetary Town Meeting, March 9th.

If you are concerned, attend the meeting in the High School Theater at 7pm.

Article 3: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND - PROJECTS AND EQUIPMENT

The total appropriation for 2022 will be \$1,394,808 from taxes and other sources.

Article 4: The TOWN OPERATING BUDGET (including Capital Reserves)

The total for the Operating Budget is \$38,248,599, an increase of \$1,771,002 from 2021.

M.E.T.E.R.

**Match Expenditures To Estimated Revenue =
NO TAX RATE INCREASE**

LESS Spending = LOWER Taxes!

Join (or rejoin) BEDFORD TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION (BTA)

For the four years 1986 - 1989, Bedford's property tax rate skyrocketed by \$9.31, nearly 53%! Beginning in 1990, the year after BTA was formed, for the next 15 years, the tax rate increases averaged only 57¢ a year, an average of just 2.3% per year, well below the cost of living increases. In one year, there was NO tax rate increase; in 3 years, there were tax rate **REDUCTIONS!!** You should also know that **BTA has never raised its dues!**

Just think what Bedford's tax rate would be today had BTA NOT come into existence in 1989. How many **THOUSANDS** of dollars have been saved, because BTA has been working hard for 33 years to limit annual increases in spending, to that amount of new revenue generated by the growth in the tax base?

To keep tax increases small, BTA helps elect **FISCAL CONSERVATIVES** at every level of government - federal, state, county, local. To do this, BTA mails town-wide our newsletter "**The BEDFORD TAXPAYER**" at a cost of \$3000 for each edition. If you find this newsletter helpful to you in deciding how to vote, please help us pay the cost of sending it. Visit our website at **bedfordtaxpayers.com** for other information or to **JOIN AND PAY ONLINE.**

Please JOIN, REJOIN, or Renew your Membership today to help BTA continue its constant fight to keep spending REASONABLE and taxes AFFORDABLE.

***Together, Taxpayers CAN control spending and taxes.
HELP us by JOINING us.***

BEDFORD TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION Membership Application

- Individual \$20 Couple \$30 Small Business (up to 100 employees) \$50
 Large Business (over 100 employees) \$250 Bronze Member \$1,000
 Organization (\$1 per member, \$25 minimum, \$100 maximum) \$ _____
 Silver Member \$3,000 Gold Member \$5,000 Platinum Member \$10,000
 Also enclosed is something EXTRA to help BTA fight to keep spending reasonable & taxes affordable.
 \$5 \$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 \$30 \$50 \$70 \$80 \$100 \$200 Other _____

Name(s) _____ Tel _____

Company/Organization _____

Address _____ Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Fax: _____ E-Mail _____

Your membership due\$ could \$ave you hundred\$ of dollar\$ a year in taxe\$!

BEDFORD TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
PO Box 10473 – Bedford, NH 03110-0473
Keeping spending REASONABLE, taxes AFFORDABLE

PRSR MKTG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Spectrum Marketing
Companies

IMPORTANT VOTING NOTICE
Town/School District Elections
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 7am-7pm
Bedford High School Gymnasium
Budgetary Town Meeting 7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 9, 2022
Bedford High School Theater
Sample Ballots Available -
Online and at Town Office

BTA'S VOTING RECOMMENDATIONS
BEDFORD - A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, PLAY!

IMPORTANT! VOTE March 8!

TOWN:

**Article 1 - TOWN OFFICES - Vote Greazzo
for Town Council 2 years. Vote Gilbert
and Bemiss for Town Council 3 years.**

Article 1 - Vote Stevens for Library Trustee

**Article 2 - Planning Board AMENDMENTS 1 & 2
Petition ZONING AMENDMENT 3 - Vote YES**

SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Article I - School Board - Vote John Schneller

Article II - SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLE - Vote YES

Article IV- NEGOTIATED Agreement - Vote YES

Article V - CONDITIONAL Article - Vote NO

Article VI - OPERATING BUDGET - Vote NO