

THE BEDFORD TAXPAYER

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

Volume 28, No. 1

Special Edition for March 14, 2017 Elections

March 2017

VOTE March 14!

Continuing a practice begun in 1990, BEDFORD TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION (BTA) offers its suggestions on HOW TO VOTE on candidates and warrant articles on March 14

TOWN:

Article 1: ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICES

TOWN COUNCIL: BTA endorses only James Barrett because he is the only proven fiscal conservative running. As a Business Owner, President and CFO, plus being a very involved Bedford volunteer citizen for the last 8 years, Jim clearly has the background, experience, and financial skills to accomplish Town Council goals. BTA is certain that we do NOT need another lawyer on the Council, especially one who has only lived in Bedford for 2 years.

Please Bullet Vote James Barrett (X)

TOWN CLERK: BTA endorses Lori Radke because she has served as a helpful, caring, and very competent Town Clerk for 9 years.

Vote Radke (X)

Article 2: ZONING AMENDMENTS

ZONING AMENDMENT 1. BTA cannot support this proposed amendment because the actual content to be added to the regulations is not shown on the Ballot.

Vote NO (X)

ZONING AMENDMENTS 2 & 3. These are simple housekeeping amendments to clarify language concerning location, size, and use of Accessory Apartments

Vote YES (X)

ZONING AMENDMENT 4. This amendment is intended to clarify the requirements for separate accessory buildings and their allowed use.

Vote YES (X)

ZONING AMENDMENT 5. This amendment specifies methods which may be used to test acceptable locations for proposed cellphone towers.

Vote YES (X)

ZONING AMENDMENT 6. This amendment adds allowed uses to the Office District.

Vote YES (X)

ZONING AMENDMENT 7. This is a simple housekeeping amendment to correct several typographical errors.

Vote YES (X)

ZONING AMENDMENT 8. This has been withdrawn by the petitioner.

Vote NO (X)

Article 3: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

This is a rewording recommended by the Town Lawyer to clarify the timing of any future proposed increase in compensation for members of the Town Council.

Vote YES (X)

SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Article I: ELECTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICERS

There are No Contested Positions

Article II, IV, VI: NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS for STAFF Combined cost is \$808,567 because the increase for II is reduced by decreases for IV and VI. Passing these will also require all staff to pay more of their own Medical Insurance cost from now on.

Vote YES (X)

Article III, V, VII: CONDITIONAL ARTICLES

These 3 articles allow for Special Meetings if Articles II, IV, VI do not pass. Such meetings are costly, poorly attended, and allow decisions by a very small number of voters.

Vote NO (X)

Article VIII: OPERATING BUDGET Projected cost is **\$71,221,547**. This is an **INCREASE of \$2,206,516** over this year's budget. It is **\$587,399** more than the Default Budget of **\$70,634,148**, which is **\$1,619,117** more than this year's Operating Budget!! But the School population is not increasing. The number of students in Bedford's Schools has been essentially the same for the last 3 years and is projected to remain the same for the next 3 years. 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 (with a 6% increase). Since last year's Operating Budget ended with a surplus of \$2.4 million, we can assume another surplus by the end of this year as well. We will also be getting funds from the State of NH which are still owed to us by court ruling, and the dormant Trusts found last year still have another half million dollars just sitting there for when there is a need. There is no possibility that the Default Budget will be inadequate even for unexpected costs.

Vote NO (X)

If Article VIII is defeated you will slow the increase in your taxes for next year. For the last 17 years Bedford's School District Operating Budget has increased by an average of \$2.5 million per year. That is over \$42.5 million, which has caused property taxes to double on an average Bedford home. The time has come to call a halt to perpetual School District tax increases.

Article IX: ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS (to the School District)

Vote YES (X)

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!!**

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 worked hard for 28 years to limit annual increases in spending to that amount of new revenue generated by the growth in the tax base?

To keep the tax rate increases small, BTA helps elect **FISCAL CONSERVATIVES** at all levels of government — federal, state, county, local. To do this, BTA mails town-wide our newsletter **"The BEDFORD TAXPAYER"** at a cost of \$2500 or more each edition. If you find this newsletter helpful to you in deciding how to vote, please help us pay the cost of producing it. Visit our website at bedfordtaxpayers.com for other information.

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 member\$hip 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

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #575
Manchester, NH

IMPORTANT VOTING NOTICE
Town/School District Elections
Tuesday, March 14, 2017
Bedford High School Gymnasium
Budgetary Town Meeting 7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 15, 2017
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 14!

TOWN:

**Article 1 - TOWN OFFICES Vote James Barrett only
for Town Council & Lori Radke for Town Clerk**

**Article 2 - ZONING AMENDMENTS 1,8 - Vote NO
ZONING AMENDMENTS 2,3,4,5,6,7 - Vote YES**

**Article 3 – Proposed CHARTER AMENDMENT
Vote YES**

SCHOOL DISTRICT:

**Article I - SCHOOL OFFICES
There are no contested positions**

Articles II, IV, VI - All Staff Raises - Vote YES

Articles III, V, VII - Conditional Articles - Vote NO

Article VIII - OPERATING BUDGET - Vote NO

Article IX - Acceptance of GIFTS - Vote YES
