



The Bow Times

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SECOND TIF DISTRICT TO BE VOTED ON AT MARCH 13 TOWN MEETING

The area on Route 3-A at the south end of Bow will be considered as a tax increment finance district by the voters on March 13 at Town Meeting. Community Development Department Director Matt Taylor said mixed use zoning changes required for a TIF will be on the ballot for March 12 Election Day. The 3-ATIF is described by Director Taylor as follows:

“The Bow Selectmen approved a warrant article for voters to consider in March that would create a new tax increment finance (TIF) district in the southern part of town. The proposed district would be bound by River Road on the north, Interstate 93 on the west, the Merrimack River on the east, and the Hooksett town line to the south; the underlying goal for the district is to bring public water and sewer to the 284 acre area.”

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ETHICS/CONFLICT OF INTEREST ORDINANCE TO BE CONSIDERED AT TOWN MEETING

Former Selectman Ben Kiniry thought he would need to obtain 25 signatures of voters to place the conflict of interest issue before the voters. A copy of his proposal ran on page two of this paper in January.

Since then Chairman Chris Nicolopoulos of the Board of Selectmen said the Board would “fine tune the proposal and get it before the town meeting on March 13 as an item of business.

Since 2003, the Board has had an ethics policy that mirrors Ben Kiniry’s proposal, but it lacks meaningful enforcement because the voters have never been asked to make it an ordinance. They will now be able to do so, said Chairman Nicolopoulos.

On January 22, the Board discussed the Petition Warrant Article written by former Selectman Kiniry, concerning a Code of Ethics Policy applicable to all officials of the Town of Bow, whether elected, appointed, full or part time, paid or volunteer.

There was a discussion at the meeting on the current Code of Ethics Policy. The Board said it would work with former Selectman Kiniry on creating a Code of Ethics Warrant Article and amending the current policy. The Board voted 5-0 to proceed.

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\$1,519,277 FOR 3-YEAR SCHOOL UNION CONTRACTS

The School Board has approved a three year contract that will be voted upon at the annual school meeting. The raises and benefits package increases the school budget by \$1,519,277 but is spread out over three years. The first year increase is \$341,210 for teachers in 2019-20 and \$91,762 for Educational Support Staff.

Future years are:

	TEACHERS	STAFF	TOTAL
2020-21	\$431,798	\$113,051	\$544,849
2021-22	\$436,364	\$105,092	\$541,456

The contracts will come before the voters at the annual school meeting on Friday, March 15 at 7 p.m. at the High School Auditorium.

A final budget committee hearing on February 12, follows two votes approving the three year pay and benefits contracts by the teachers and the support staff last week.

The schools budget will rise from last year’s \$28,206,625 appropriation to a proposed \$28,832,825 number for this year. The \$626,200 increase was \$200,000 less than the schools wanted but the Budget Committee’s lower number was agreed to by the Board.

The \$28,832,825 is Article #2 on the School District Warrant. Other articles, including the bargaining agreements, run the total request to \$29,750,172 or \$1,543,547 more than this year’s budget. Offsetting revenues brings the net number increase to \$1,048,992 or 79¢ per thousand dollars of assessed real estate when other adjustments are made.

Using the customary Bow benchmark of a typical \$300,000 home the tax increase is approximately \$240 according to Assistant Superintendent Duane Ford.



BOW'S OLDEST RESIDENT PRESENTED WITH BOSTON POST CANE

On January 22, 2019, the Board of Selectmen presented the Boston Post Cane to **Mary (May) Allquist, the Town of Bow’s oldest resident.** May recently celebrated her 97th birthday and she has been a resident of Bow for 40 years. The Town has presented the Boston Post Cane to the Town’s most senior resident since 1909. At that time, the now defunct Boston Post newspaper presented canes to communities in New Hampshire for this purpose. Bow residents are now awarded a replica cane, and the original cane is on display in the Board of Selectmen meeting room.

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