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—For section..... News
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—Dateline..... Bellows Falls
—Article Number:..... 43539



Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Rockingham, villages name a new municipal manager

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####BEGIN SUBHED####

2 Aaron Patt will start work as municipal manager for the
3 town, Bellows Falls, and Saxtons River on May 26

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 After a four-month search, Rockingham and Bellows Falls
6 officials hired Aaron Patt as the new municipal manager.

7 Previously the town administrator for Greenfield, New
8 Hampshire, a role he has had since 2011, Patt will start May 26.

9 He replaces Scott Pickup, who left after serving five years
10 to take a similar position with the town of Springfield. Alex

11 Torpey served as interim municipal manager after Pickup left in
12 January.

13 At an April 21 meeting, the Selectboard and the Bellows
14 Falls Village Trustees voted unanimously to hire Patt under a
15 three-year contract.

16 Patt was first interviewed by the hiring committee and
17 then met with the Selectboard, Village Trustees, and department
18 heads during the evaluation process.

19 The search committee members said they felt that Patt
20 had “fostered a professional and collaborative culture among
21 department leaders” in his previous position in New Hampshire.

22 “Aaron’s 15-year tenure as Greenfield, New Hampshire’s
23 manager suggests someone who has the skills and perseverance
24 to provide the long-term leadership and continuity we seek,” said
25 Rockingham Selectboard Chair Rick Cowan said.

26 Cowan said that a key factor in the search was finding
27 someone who could maintain “the momentum
28 Rockingham/Bellows Falls has developed in the past five years”
29 working under Pickup’s leadership.

30 Cowan said that “will require strategic thinking and
31 cooperation among elected officials, municipal employees,
32 businesses, local nonprofits, [and] state and federal agencies. A
33 successful manager will function as a kind of air traffic controller
34 of all these entities.”

35 The town and village officials collaborated with the
36 Recruitment Services division of the Vermont League of Cities
37 and Towns, led by former Montpelier City Manager Bill Fraser.
38 Forty-four people applied, and four finalists were interviewed.

39 “Aaron’s quiet competence impressed all who met him
40 during the search process,” Cowan said. “Another key attribute is
41 that he’s a good listener. We were particularly struck by the
42 financial acumen he’s developed working in commercial as well
43 as governmental realms.”

44 Patt’s financial abilities were important to other town
45 administrators who will be working closely with him.

46 "It's exciting to welcome a leader who brings a strong
47 fiscal perspective to the role, with a clear understanding of long-
48 term financial planning, responsible budgeting, and sustainable
49 decision-making," town Finance Director Alyssa Harlow stated in
50 a press release.

51 In his previous role, Patt has overseen the opening of a
52 new police station, secured a \$1 million grant for the renovation
53 of the town's historic Meeting House, which now offers a
54 community center.

55 "These accomplishments were driven by a strong
56 emphasis on teamwork, clear communication, and sound
57 financial management," town officials said in the release. "His
58 careful oversight of municipal finances has maintained the town's
59 strong fiscal position without the need for borrowing."

60 They noted that Patt is known for promoting transparency
61 and open dialogue with staff, elected officials, and community
62 stakeholders, "while advancing a modern approach to municipal
63 management that aligns available resources with service needs
64 and maintains a high standard of public service."

65 **((subhed))**

66 Patt began his public service in 2002, when he
67 volunteered to manage a citizens group to clean up industrial
68 pollution from a former horse blanket and automotive seat cover
69 factory in Troy, New Hampshire.

70 According to news reports, the land became a
71 Environmental Protection Agency Superfund site and received \$8
72 million in funding for prioritized cleanup.

73 "The net end result was that we were the fastest in the
74 history of applicants to get on the National Priority List, and we
75 were the fastest to get funding," Patt told the *Monadnock Ledger-*
76 *Transcript* in 2011.

77 Following that, he said, he had the opportunity to be a
78 selectman in Troy and a county commissioner for Cheshire
79 County.

80 Patt's salary had come under public debate in Greenfield
81 during its 2025 Annual Town Meeting in 2025. He had received a
82 \$20,000 raise in 2024, and some citizens expressed concern that
83 his \$105,000 salary was high for a town with a population
84 slightly over 1,700.

85 As municipal manager, Patt's starting salary will be
86 \$130,000, managing a town and two villages nearly three times
87 the size of Greenfield, with a total population of 4,800.

88 Patt said he "appreciates the complexity of Rockingham's
89 governmental structure, including the villages of Bellows Falls
90 and Saxtons River."

91 He expressed enthusiasm about beginning work with
92 municipal staff, elected officials, and community stakeholders to
93 advance the priorities of the Selectboard and Village Trustees.

94 In coverage about Patt's departure, Greenfield
95 Selectboard Chair Tom Bascom told the Ledger-Transcript that
96 Patt was "instrumental in making Greenfield into a well-oiled
97 machine, operating in a way that is professional, smooth, and
98 effective."

99 And, he told the newspaper, with Greenfield being a
100 "tiny town" of 1,700 people, "we were only going to be able to
101 hang on to him for so long."

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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105

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