



### ***Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – March 4, 2016***



### **Mark Your Calendar – Special Town Board Election – March 15, 2016**

The Town Board set Tuesday, March 15, 2016 for a special Town Board election to fill the vacancy created when Francis Corcoran became our County Legislator. You'll vote at your regular polling place.

**2015 Annual Report of Town of Bedford** now is available. [Click here.](#)

### **Community Choice Aggregation – Great News for Con Edison Customers! NYSEG Service Area Not Far Behind!**

Since the Town of Bedford became the first in the County (and therefore the state) to approve the Community Choice Aggregation Memorandum of Understanding with Sustainable Westchester, 20 other municipalities have followed Bedford's lead. The program leverages the aggregated purchasing power of residential and small business electricity customers in the participating municipalities to yield competitive pricing. And it's working. As co-chairman of Sustainable Westchester, I joined with my fellow co-chairman Mike Gordon and others on our team to conclude a successful energy bid process and reached an agreement on the Con Edison service territory (for over 90,000 homes and small businesses). We did so only after an independent company confirmed compliance with the pricing requirements under the RFP and an independent auditing firm provided us. 18 municipalities with Con Edison service signed the contracts – known as Electricity Service Agreements. We are still finalizing terms for the NYSEG service territory (for another 20,000 homes and small businesses). And here's the key results: prices for the Con Edison service territory for BOTH the default supply rate and the 100% renewable supply rate were BELOW the benchmark, which was the average Con Edison supply rate for the past 12 months. In other words, residents in the Westchester Smart Power Program will be saving money whether they stay with the default supply or if they opt up to the 100% renewable supply rate.

These prices will be fixed for the next 24 months, starting this May. More details will be forthcoming as we make final decisions on the NYSEG service territory and have all the executed contracts in place. We expect to know more in about a week.

**Snow Storm** – at peak we had 2000 residents without power, primarily in the NYSEG service area. Service always is out longer than any of us would want, but service was restored more quickly this time around due to the excellent work of our Police Department and Public Works Department. We utilized for the first time NYSEG’s new storm damage assessment system for near real time reporting of the damage. We made sure that communication with the residents were made via NIXLE, Facebook, Constant Contact and the Town’s website several times until we were satisfied that power had been restored to our residents. My thanks to Chief Padilla, Lieutenant Novick, Lieutenant Diebold, Sergeant Fusco, Dispatcher Bueti and Sergeant Evans and Public Works Commissioner Winn for their work.

**New Recycling Center** – thanks to the DPW crew for their efforts on their work on the new recycling center. We expect to open the new center this spring. DPW is moving ahead with its work on the Adams Street facility – with initial focus on improving salt storage.

**Stamford Recycling Plant** – Thanks to Midge Iorio, Ellen Calves and the others in Bedford 2020 who arranged a tour last week at City Carting’s state of the art single stream recycling center in Stamford. It is an impressive facility and is being kept very busy.

**Temporary Police Headquarters** – The work on the temporary location of the Police Department in the lower level of the Town House building at 321 Bedford Road is moving along well. We are hopeful in having the work completed in April which will enable renovation work on the police building to get started on time. Our thanks to our Town employees, George Graniero, Peter Welch and Jim McHugh, and our architect George Rosamond of Lothrop Associates for their excellent work. Using our own Town forces for carpentry and other work is holding down costs significantly while producing an excellent product in good time.

### **Moving Ahead on the Comprehensive Plan**

Our thanks to residents and business representatives who have provided input in updating the Town Comprehensive Plan. We’ve now had a number of facilitated workshops asking for input and advice, including last year at the Bedford Hills Community House, a session with property owners and on January 13 at the Bedford Presbyterian Church and one on Wednesday, February 3 from 7 PM to 9 PM at the Katonah Library. The Town will be updating its Comprehensive Plan, which describes the community’s current conditions and provides guidance for future growth and preservation. Though no further public meetings are scheduled at this time, we continue to seek input and advice regarding the community’s priority issues, and the Town’s assets, and challenges, as it begins planning for the future. Pace University’s Land Use Law Center. Please e-mail your comments to [planning@bedfordny.gov](mailto:planning@bedfordny.gov) or give me a call at 666-6530 or send me an e-mail at [supervisor@bedfordny.gov](mailto:supervisor@bedfordny.gov).

### **Property Tax Credit Reimbursement Checks**

Eligible property owners in late January received Tax Freeze reimbursement or refund checks which resulted from all the taxing jurisdictions in Bedford being under the property tax cap and adopting a government efficiency plan. For further information regarding the Program, including homeowner eligibility requirements, contact DTF at (518)-453-8146 or at [https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/property\\_tax\\_freeze.htm](https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/property_tax_freeze.htm)

Click here <http://www.bedfordny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2015TaxReimbursementFacts.pdf> for facts and information regarding New York State’s Tax Reimbursement program.

Click here <http://www.bedfordny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2015VeteransTaxExemptionFacts.pdf> regarding the Veterans Tax Exemption.

### **Moving Ahead on Single Stream Recycling – Thank You for Your Efforts!**

You should have received a letter from me early in January explaining the County and Town law which requires haulers to ensure that recyclables are being kept separate from household waste. We are thrilled with the positive response to recycling, which has never been easier, now that single stream recycling is in place and most residents and businesses are separating recyclables from their household trash for collection. As I mentioned in my letter, starting in February, to comply with the laws, haulers will leave yellow notification stickers that say: “OOPS, We Found Recyclables Mixed With Your Garbage” on the trash containers of customers not properly separating recyclables. Following the notification stickers, those who fail to separate recyclables risk their trash collection being suspended. As a guide for the amount of materials that should be recycled from a typical household, approximately two-thirds of household trash consists of recyclable materials. That means that your recycling bin typically will have twice as much material as your trash bin. Please read the complete list of recyclable materials at <http://www.bedfordny.gov/resources/recycling-sustainable-programs/> Item 3. Ask a neighbor or friend who can help, or call Bedford 2020 at 914-620-2411. Our system can recycle many more materials than were traditionally recycled. Almost everything in the house except food and heavily soiled paper is now recyclable. The Town Board and I are very pleased that recycling rates have increased over the past two years as our new Single Stream program has come into effect, but in accordance with New York State planning goals, we have much further to go to reach our goal of 40 percent recycling by 2020 and 75 percent by 2030. Please help us reach these goals. We appreciate your efforts and thank you for your cooperation. Please call me at 666-6530 or [supervisor@bedfordny.gov](mailto:supervisor@bedfordny.gov) with any questions.

### **Continuing to Move Ahead for the Repair or Demolition of Derelict Zombie House**

The Town is continuing with a systematic approach of identifying vacant and neglected houses in disrepair. Where the degree of disrepair is significant, the Building Inspector has issued notices of violation to the property owners to take action. In instances in which the Building Inspector determines that any structure on the property is unsafe and the owner has disregarded the Town’s efforts to bring the properties into compliance with New York State and local property maintenance code, the Town is taking further action under Town Code. Chapter 42 of the Town Code “Unsafe Buildings” enables the Town to commence a proceeding to repair or demolish a derelict and unsafe house. Recently we have taken action regarding a house at 53 Jay Street in Katonah. It is unsafe and neglected. The Building Inspector determined that the house should be demolished.

### **Bedford Hills Train Station**

The train station is showing real life thanks to the exhibits of the Bedford Hills Historical Museum, the Farmer’s Market on Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM, sponsored by Bedford Hills Live, and other events being planned. Neighborhood organizations are working together under the auspices of Recreation and Parks Superintendent Bill Heidepriem who is handling the scheduling, logistics and compliance with insurance and other requirements. Be sure to come by on Saturday mornings from 10 AM to 2 PM for the Farmer’s Market and that you were able to see the January 17 Bedford Hills Model Train Show. Learn more about what’s happening at the train station by checking out our [Community Calendar](#). Our thanks to the Museum, Bedford Hills Live, BHNA and the Library for injecting new life and energy into the station which the Board applauds.

### **Applications for Vacancies on Boards and Committees**

The Town Board is accepting applications for vacancies:

- 1) Board of Assessment Review
- 2) Conservation Board
- 3) Planning Board
- 4) Tree Advisory Board
- 5) Senior Committee

If you'd like more information on any Board or Committee, please check on the Town's website. If you are interested in serving, please e-mail your resume with a cover letter to [supervisor@bedfordny.gov](mailto:supervisor@bedfordny.gov). You also may mail it to me at Supervisor, 321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, New York 10507.

### **Septic Law on Cleaning and Inspection: Septic System Program – Open for Business**

Under Bedford's Septic System Repair and Replacement Program, the Town now has reimbursed approximately \$25,000 in eligible costs. As you've probably read, you need to have your septic system cleaned and inspected once every five years. Septic inspections are required by New York State law as incorporated in town law. You don't want to encounter septic system problems in the middle of the winter. As mentioned, if you have a failing septic system, help is here. Bedford's program is open for business. If you are in the New York City watershed, you may be eligible for reimbursement up to 50% of approved eligible expenses for repair or replacement of a septic system, as well as design engineering costs not to exceed 20% of total construction costs. If you received a letter from me about the septic law, you're in the watershed. Almost all the properties in Bedford Hills and Katonah and many in Bedford Village are in the watershed. We now have a number of items posted on our website at <http://www.bedfordny.gov/departments/planning/septic/>. If your septic collector or contractor reports that your system is in failure, and you wish to benefit from the reimbursement program, go onto the website and download the application form which provides the simple steps you should take. Still have questions? Please call me at 666-6530 or e-mail me at [supervisor@bedfordny.gov](mailto:supervisor@bedfordny.gov)

### **Public Works Department Update – Work on New Recycling Center Proceeding Well**

#### *Highway*

Work during the month included pothole patching, installation and maintenance of drainage systems, and dirt road grading. Bulk leaf collection was completed.

#### *Recycling Center*

Construction on the Railroad Avenue Recycling Center stormwater infiltration system was completed in January. Our Highway employees did an excellent job installing the infiltration system. Relocating the recycling center from Adams Street to Railroad Avenue is scheduled to occur by July 1, 2016. Next steps include completing drainage work, paving the area, and installing a fence to secure the site. Once the recycling center is relocated, the Town intends to re-grade the north portion of the Adams Street Highway Yard and install a new winter materials storage structure to replace the existing undersized, deteriorated structure. This work is scheduled to be completed by November 2017. Subsequent to completing the installation of the new winter materials storage structure the DPW will move forward with the second phase of the Adams Street Highway Yard upgrades, designing and installing a new mechanical maintenance bay and truck wash bay.

#### *Consolidated Water District Microfiltration Plant*

Operations continue to go well, and we have received positive feedback from customers on the taste and softer quality of the new supply.

## *Water Operations*

Roosevelt drive water main installation work is ongoing.

## **Antioch Homes Affordable Housing Proposal – Great News!**

The New York State Office of Community Renewal approved the Town’s application for a \$421,050 Community Development Block Grant to defray the cost of infrastructure work and refurbishment for the adaptive re-use for affordable housing of the Antioch Baptist Church’s vacant church on Railroad Avenue. The CDBG funds are the linchpin to the project, and we now are moving ahead quickly with survey work, legal work and architectural plans. This will be the largest affordable housing program for Bedford in many years.

## **Office of Emergency Management**

With hurricane season upon us, we thought it would be helpful to update the community on what we’ve been doing to bolster our storm preparedness. The Police Department has established an Office of Emergency Management which I have tasked with coordinating with the Town’s fire departments and ambulance corps. We have quarterly OEM meetings with these other agencies. A fall “desk top” storm response exercise is being scheduled.

Within the Town we prepare for any potentially serious weather events. The Police Department, Department of Public Works and Recreation & Parks Department each holds emergency preparedness meetings with senior staff (and in the case of the Police Department its community relations sergeant) to discuss plans should a potential weather event actually affect our area. Among the preparations:

1. Participation in the OEM conference calls among other agencies and weather reporting services.
2. Readiness of vehicles in our fleet (which vehicles may be needed, ie 4x4’s, which are actually present or whether any of them are in the shop for service. The feasibility if they are in the shop to expedite the service to get them ready in time. Availability of safety equipment such as protective helmets for operating police officers (in case the UTV had been deployed, etc.)
3. Projected staffing levels over the period for which the weather event has been projected  
Posting for additional manpower during periods that are forecast to be most significant. Placing restrictions on any time off requests during the projected operational periods
4. Coordinating with each of the other departments as to the readiness of generators to be used to power critical intersections within the town (such as I-684 & Route 22 and various others).
5. Schedule times for release of information to public such as updates and suggestions on how to prepare for a weather event (batteries, water, etc). Also plans for deploying our large message boards to display warning messages in the days leading up to event.
6. Plans for “reverse 911” notification in the case of a weather event with widespread power outage, property damage or other heavy impact.
7. Conduct re-familiarization training with our OEM software and testing remote connections for our laptops from Bedford Hills Fire Department Emergency Operations Center to Police Department headquarters.
8. Coordinate with Bedford Hills Fire Department to see if its EOC will be available and who will be primary contact if we want to activate the EOC at BHFD.

9. Ascertain the availability of supervisory personnel over the storm period forecast for continuity of operations if it is a prolonged event.
10. Making preparations for possible opening of the warming center to the community in the event, including checking inventory, scheduling personnel, determining availability of community volunteers to help staff.
11. Make ready the “Call and Check” program for residents (seniors, disabled or others with mobility issues) who have registered with the Town for a call to check on them.
12. Constant monitoring of weather services forecasts and adapting to changing needs as necessary, to include scaling back planned resources if threat is decreasing or scaling up planned resources if threat is increasing.
13. Report and advise the Supervisor on status of emergency preparations and recommended action.

Please be sure you and your family are prepared as well. See the following guide: [http://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/areyouready\\_full.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/areyouready_full.pdf). Please also see below for emergency notifications from your utility company and NIXLE alerts.

### **Keep Posted!**

*NIXLE Alerts* - for up to date notifications (weather, road closures, etc.) [Click here](#) You can register for notifications or enter your zip code to receive local alerts.

For the Town Calendar, [click here](#)

### **Reminder: Emergency Information from NYSEG and Con Edison**

Con Edison notified us that you now can *text* Con Edison about power outages. Here's the message they sent us:

“Prefer texting? No problem. Sign up by texting REG to OUTAGE (688243) and we'll text instead of calling.

But don't wait for us to contact you. The sooner we know about a power problem, the sooner we can respond. Reach us at conEd.com, by texting OUT to OUTAGE after you sign up for texting, with our My conEdison app for Droid and Apple devices, or by calling 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633).”

Both NYSEG and Con Edison encourage customers with special needs to enroll in special services for them.

“**NYSEG** is committed to providing their customers with safe, reliable energy delivery. They also offer many services for special need customers, including:

- Special Identification for households where everyone is elderly, blind or disabled
- Large print, sight-saver Bills for visually-impaired customers
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) grants
- NYSEG's Energy Assistance Program (EAP)
- Project SHARE emergency energy assistance program

*If you or someone in your household relies on life-sustaining equipment, you should contact NYSEG immediately!*

How to call NYSEG:

Electricity interruptions or emergencies: 1.800.572.1131 (24 hours a day, every day)

Customer relations center: 1.800.572.1111

Payment arrangements: 1.888.315.1755

Hearing and speech-impaired: Dial 711 (New York Relay Service)”

**“Message from Con Edison: Customer Central Special Services**

**Safety for Special Customers:**

It is important that we have a record of everyone who uses electrically operated life-support equipment or has medical hardships so we can contact them in an emergency. To learn more and complete the survey, please visit the link below. You can also let us know by calling 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633). Con Edison customers can enroll for this service by visiting [www.conEd.com](http://www.conEd.com), clicking on Customer Central, and then the “special services” link. You will need your account number. To keep our records current, each year we send a letter asking you to recertify.

<http://www.coned.com/customercentral/specialservices.asp>

**Customers with Special Needs:**

We recognize that senior citizens and people with disabilities need special attention. That’s why we offer a variety of services and billing and payment options that make life a little bit easier for the elderly, visually or hearing-impaired, or customers with permanent disabilities. Please visit the link below to view the *Customers With Special Needs* brochure.

<http://www.coned.com/customercentral/specialservices.asp>”

I ask you to please send me an e-mail at [supervisor@bedfordny.gov](mailto:supervisor@bedfordny.gov) should you have any questions or comments on this report or any of our work on the Town Board.



Chris Burdick  
Town Supervisor