



Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – April 30, 2015

State Roads in Terrible Shape

We are acutely aware of the terrible condition of the state roads, especially Routes 172 and 22. Our region of the New York State Department of Transportation is woefully underfunded. I am a member of a bipartisan coalition of Town Supervisors and elected officials pressing for funds to take proper care of the State roads. I'd like to ask your help by contacting our elected officials. Please let them know your thoughts.

<p>Governor Andrew M. Cuomo NYS State Capitol Governor of Building Albany, NY 12224 gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us</p>	<p>Congressman Sean P. Maloney 123 Grand Street, 2nd Floor Newburgh, NY 12550 Phone: (845) 561-1259</p> <p>1529 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: 202-225-5441 Fax: 202-225-3289 http://seanmaloney.house.gov/contact/email-me</p>
<p>Senator George Latimer <u>Albany Office</u> 615 Legislative Office Building Albany, NY 12247 Phone: (518) 455-2031 Fax: (518) 426-6860</p> <p><u>District Office</u> 222 Grace Church Street Suite 300 Port Chester, NY 10573 Phone: (914) 934-5250 Fax: (914) 934-5256</p> <p>latimer@nysenate.gov</p>	<p>Assemblyman David Buchwald <u>District Office</u> 125-131 East Main Street, Suite 204, Mount Kisco, NY 10549 914-244-4450 Fax: 914-629-3618</p> <p><u>Albany Office:</u> LOB 326 Albany, NY 12248 518-455- 5397 BuchwaldD@assembly.state.ny.us</p>

While we have been busy filling potholes, we know there are some still out there, so please call our Pothole Hotline at 666-7669 or feel free to contact me at Supervisor@Bedfordny.gov. And even if you are writing, as suggested above, for New York State roads, please call the NYS DOT's hotline at 800-POTHOLE.

2014 Audit Results

The Town's 2014 audit shows further strengthening of already strong financial health. Presenting the audit at the Town Board's April 21 meeting, Alan Kassay of the Town's auditors, O'Connor Davies, summed up that the Town is in a very strong financial position. The Town's general fund balances have increased substantially, highway funds and special district funds remain strong, our internal controls are sound and our debt levels are modest.

Comptroller's Report

Comptroller Ed Ritter reported on April 14 as follows:

The annual audit of the Town's 2014 finances has been completed. The General Fund show a surplus of \$1,090,542 which has been added to our Fund Balance. The total General Fund balance is \$9,339,584. The unassigned portion is \$6,493,152 or 32.97% of total General Fund expenditures and other financing uses. The Highway fund looks to be within the amounts budgeted and appropriated by the board for use throughout 2014.

REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE

Mortgage Tax has actual data from October through March 2015. The actual percentage over 2014 is a 15.16% decrease. This amount has been used as a basis for projecting the remainder of the year (through September). Mortgage tax is projected to be \$968,855, which is \$31,145 under budget.

Sales Tax has actual data from January through February 2015. County sales tax shows a 0.68% increase over 2014. This revenue is projected to be \$2,541,181 which is \$141,181 over our budget of \$2,400,000.

Parking has actual data from January through March 2015. The actual percentage over 2014 is a 0.58% increase. Revenue to date is \$73,751 which is an increase of \$426 from last year at this time. This revenue for the year is projected to be \$936,875 which is \$6,875 over budget.

Fines and forfeited bail has actual data for January through February 2015. Revenue is \$83,058 which is \$48,066 under last year's revenue at this time. The revenue is projected to be \$644,997 which is \$5,003 under budget.

Safety Inspection Fees has actual data for January through March 2015. Revenue is \$170,299 which is \$11,614 under last year's revenue at this time. With limited data, calculations were adjusted to show a more accurate projection at this time.

EXPENDITURES: 2015 expenditures are within budget limits at this time

Community Choice Aggregation

The Town is moving forward with Community Choice Aggregation, a voluntary program to save money for electric and natural gas customers in Bedford. Bedford is joining a growing

number of Westchester municipalities who through Sustainable Westchester, a not for profit corporation with 41 of the 44 Westchester municipalities as members, will help drive down costs. By aggregating the total amount of natural gas or electricity purchased by local residents or businesses, Sustainable Westchester will go out to bid for lower costs. We only proceed if the costs are guaranteed to be lower. All it does is change the default provider of electricity or gas from NYSEG or Con Edison. If you've already switched to another provider (ESCO), then that stays the same. Either way NYSEG and Con Ed still will be distributing the electricity or gas through their system of poles, wires and pipes. Not interested in going forward, you can opt out at any time.

Updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan

We are moving ahead with the Planning Board handling the initial review of the 2003 Town Comprehensive Plan. As the most recent step, the Town Board has engaged PACE Law Center to assist with public outreach and engagement. The Planning Board first will be looking at carefully integrating the Climate Action Plan into the Comprehensive Plan. The Climate Action Plan was an added chapter to the 2003 present plan. You should be hearing a good deal about it all in the fall.

Amendment to Solid Waste Law – Advancing Single Stream Recycling

Thanks to the work of Peter Kuniholm who heads Bedford 2020's Solid Waste Task Force, the Town is moving ahead with a proposed amendment to Bedford's solid waste law to provide that licensed carters for residential customers would be required to utilize "split packer" trucks to further the success of Single Stream recycling, already required under the law. The intention is to create a "level playing field" among Bedford's licensed carters. There will be a public hearing on the amendment at 8:30 PM on May 5 at the court room in Town Hall.

Unfunded Mandates

The Town Board is considering forming a committee to evaluate unfunded mandates and ways in which the Town might go about having them removed or alleviated. The Town of New Castle has established such a committee, and we will be looking into the matter further.

Filling Vacancies in Town Elected Positions

We are considering adopting a local law to provide for a special election to fill vacancies in the position of Supervisor, Councilman or Town Clerk which would provide that if the Town Board does not fill the vacancy by appointment within a certain period of time, then a special election must be held within a certain period of time. We are considering ways to avoid scheduling summer elections or an election within a short time before a general election.

Solarize!

LAST Solarize Bedford-Mt Kisco Workshop! Come learn about Solarize before it's too late! Almost 175 community members have signed up to explore solar through Solarize Bedford-Mt Kisco. Join us for the FINAL Solarize workshop on May 7th at Bedford Historical Hall at 7pm. Learn the nuts

and bolts of solar... Meet our official installer... Hear from a neighbor who has solar... Sign-up for a free home visit and find out if solar is right for you! In the meantime, check out Solarize by [clicking here](#). [Click here for the flyer](#).

Police Station Renovations – Update

We're taking the next steps. At the Board's April 7 meeting, we authorized Police Chief Melvin Padilla to prepare a Request for Proposal for architectural services. The RFP will be presented to the Town Board at its May 5 meeting for requested approval. This follows the completion of the feasibility study of Lothrop Associates LLP considering various options for the police station. Based on the study and Lothrop's recommendations, the Town Board decided to keep the present building by renovating it and adding additions of approximately 4,300 square feet to serve the Department's needs. During the course of construction, the department will be temporarily relocated to the lower level of the adjacent Town House building. Energy efficiency will be emphasized. The building's design is to include maximum insulation and solar roof panels with paired with a generator/battery system to make back power systems redundant and resilient to address an emergency situation where no fuels are available. With the planned renovations, these elements should be very cost effective and will ensure a much more resilient first responder facility.

Reminder: Emergency Information from NYSEG and Con Edison

Con Edison notified us two weeks ago 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, 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 should you have any questions or comments on this report or any of our work on the Town Board.



Chris Burdick
Town Supervisor