



## *Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – March 31, 2015*

### **Pothole Repair Season is Underway**

This past winter (though as of this writing it seems to be lingering) has been one of the most punishing on our roads in memory – perhaps the most punishing. A friend who has lived in town for over 50 years mentioned that it's the worst on the roads in her time here. So our Highway Department is hard at work filling potholes, and we thank you for contacting our Pothole Hotline at 666-7669 or feel free to contact me at [Supervisor@Bedfordny.gov](mailto:Supervisor@Bedfordny.gov). For New York State roads, such as Routes 172, 22, 117, please call the Department of Transportation hotline at 800-POTHOLE.

### **Tax Freeze Law and Government Efficiency Plan**

As I mentioned in previous reports, the NYS Tax Freeze Law enacted last year will provide a tax refund to eligible taxpayers in an amount equal to the increase in Town taxes, provided the Town's 2015 budget meets the tax cap and the Town files with the State a Government Efficiency Plan with a 1% sustained reduction in the tax levy (base year 2014) for each of 2017, 2018 and 2019. The Town's 2015 budget comfortably meets the tax cap and the Plan which will be filed comfortably meets the requirements mentioned. I will be certifying and filing the Plan next week on behalf of the Town and the Town's fire districts (my thanks to Katonah Fire Commissioner Hank Bergson for identifying substantial savings for the fire districts).

### **Comptroller's Report**

Comptroller Ed Ritter reported on March 11 as follows:

The annual audit of the town's 2014 finances has been completed. Preliminary data show a surplus in the General fund. The Highway fund looks to be within the amounts budgeted and appropriated by the board for use throughout 2014. Once the final audit is available it will be shared with the board and publicly presented. Any adjustments required will be presented to the board for consideration at the next town board meeting.

### **REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE**

Mortgage Tax has actual data from October through February 2015. The actual percentage over 2014 is a 17.95% decrease. This amount has been used as a basis for projecting the remainder of the year (through September). Mortgage tax is projected to be \$945,601, which is \$54,399 under budget.

**Sales Tax has actual data from January 2015.** County sales tax shows a 0.52% decrease over 2014. This revenue is projected to be \$2,510,933 which is \$110,933 over our budget of \$2,400,000.

**Parking** has actual data from January through February 2015. The actual percentage over 2014 is a 3.47% decrease. Revenue to date is \$47,063 which is a decrease of \$1,694 from last year at this time. This revenue for the year is projected to be \$967,932 which is \$37,932 over budget.

**Fines and forfeited bail** has actual data for January through December 2014. Revenue is \$686,730 which is \$42 over last year's revenue at this time. This is the final for 2014. This revenue is \$686,730 which is \$136,730 over budget

**Safety Inspection Fees** has actual data for January through February 2015. Revenue is \$134,832 which is \$92,112 over 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

### **Traffic Safety Measures**

At its March 3 meeting, the Town Board adopted, with some modifications, certain recommendations of the Traffic Safety Working Group.

Regarding Cherry Street related to the VHB Engineering report on Cherry Street, and sight distance at the Jay Street/ Route 22 triangle and Jay Street/Barrett Road intersections.

- Stripe lane widths to 10.5 feet using white shoulder striping along all of Cherry Street in order to create more narrow lanes, reduce vehicle speeds, and create more of a buffer between vehicles and pedestrians on the sidewalks. Currently white shoulder striping is only used north of Whitlockville.
- The VHB report pointed out that the functional classification of Cherry Street as a minor arterial appears to be a misclassification, and that it should be classified as a collector street. A less stringent classification would allow flexibility for the Town to consider vertical and horizontal deflection traffic calming measures, should the measures being implemented prove unsatisfactory. The TSWG concurred with VHB's recommendation that the Town seek a reclassification from the New York State Department of Transportation. The TSWG emphasized, however, that this does not mean that the TSWG recommended at this time any additional traffic calming measures beyond those identified in its recommendations. The TSWG will evaluate the impact of any these measures which are implemented before considering further measures. The Board authorized Supervisor Burdick to request that NYSDOT evaluate reducing the functional classification of Cherry Street.
- The VHB report recommended a permanent speed indicator sign on southbound Cherry Street north of Quicks Lane. The TSWG recommended stationing a portable speed indicator sign in this location for a period of two months, and notifying residents of this

in advance. This will give residents the opportunity to see it, react and respond and to provide enough data to evaluate efficacy.

Regarding Jay Street/ Route 22 triangle and Jay Street/Barrett Road intersections:

Sight distance looking west at the end of the triangle after making a left onto Jay Street from northbound Route 22 is quite limited. Sight distance looking west from Barrett Road when turning onto Jay Street is also quite limited. Installation of a stop sign on Jay Street in the eastbound direction at Barrett Road would mitigate both of these issues. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which regulates signs, states that stop signs may be considered at locations where a road user, after stopping, cannot see conflicting traffic and is not able to negotiate the intersection unless conflicting cross traffic is also required to stop. The TSWG recommended that the Town Board schedule a public hearing to consider this proposed stop sign. The Board scheduled the hearing for April 7 at 8:15 PM.

### **Possible Police Station Renovations – Update**

As mentioned in my last report, the Town Board met on March 3 with architect George Rosamond of Lothrop Associates and Police Chief Melvin Padilla to review a progress report on Lothrop’s feasibility study of the Police Station (last renovated in the 1970s). The study has been undertaken to determine whether and what renovations may enable the facility to serve the Police Department’s mission. The Board will meet again on April 7 with Mr. Rosamond and Chief Padilla to review concept plans and “order of magnitude” costs. As earlier noted, we are keenly aware of the need to stay within the property tax cap and to maintain the Town’s strong financial position.

### **Proposed Wilder Balter Partners Project in Bedford Village**

At our February 24 meeting, the Town Board heard a presentation from Wilder Balter Partners regarding its proposed 79 unit Conservation Development on 118 acres located south of Old Post Road across from the Hunting Ridge Mall in Bedford Village. As provided in the Zoning Code, the Town Board referred the matter to the Planning Board for review and recommendation. The Planning Board, which is the “lead agency” in reviewing the project, has begun the process for the developer’s preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). On March 24 the Planning Board held a “scoping session” to consider the scope of the DEIS and heard comments from members of the public, including neighbors and others in Bedford Village whom the project would affect. The Wetlands Control Commission also will hold a meeting on April 6 at the Bedford Presbyterian Church’s fellowship meeting room to consider the wetlands related portions of the draft scoping document. The Commission will be providing comments on those portions to the Planning Board. The April 6 meeting is open to the public who will be given an opportunity to speak or, if you cannot attend the meeting, you may provide your comments to [planning@bedfordny.gov](mailto:planning@bedfordny.gov). You may also copy me on your comments at [supervisor@bedfordny.gov](mailto:supervisor@bedfordny.gov).

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

Con Edison notified us last week 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