



Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – September 2, 2015



2016 Budget Preparations

We face a tough challenge for 2016. Though we don't have all the figures yet from New York State, Comptroller Ed Ritter estimates the property tax cap for 2016 to be under 2.0%. This at a time when health care costs, pension contributions, winter salt and sand and other expenses over which we have no control are rising at a faster pace. My direction to the Department Heads was to keep their budgets flat apart from contractual costs. We intend to stay under the cap while continuing to maintain or improve Town services. I am confident we can do so.

The Town Board began budget work sessions on September 1 with the presentation of the proposed budgets for the Police Department and the Recreation and Parks Department. We will be meeting with department heads to review each proposed 2016 budget. Here's the schedule for upcoming budget work sessions, each of which will be at 6:30 PM before regularly scheduled Town Board meetings and held in the Court Room at the Town House at 321 Bedford Road:

September 17 to cover Department of Public Works and Building Department
October 6 to cover Assessor, Clerk, Planning, Tax Departments.

We invite and welcome community input and comment.

Update on Proposed Septic System Repair & Replacement Fund Advances

I'm pleased to report further progress on Bedford's proposal to establish a \$3.5 million septic system repair and replacement fund for Bedford properties within the New York City watershed to be funded by East of Hudson Water Quality Improvement Program funds over which the County is custodian. Last week Jeff Osterman and I appeared before a joint committee of the County Board of Legislators which has received the proposal from the County Planning Department. Planning Commissioner Ed Burroughs spoke for his department. The County has prepared an Inter-Municipal Agreement between the County and the Town which the Town Board approved at its September 1 meeting. We are hopeful that the County Board of Legislators will take final action this month after which the matter goes to the County's Board of Acquisition and Contract. As mentioned previously, if established, the program

would provide up to 50% of approved eligible expenses for construction of repair remediation or replacement of a septic system, as well as design engineering costs not to exceed 20% of total construction costs. An enhanced treatment unit (utilizing more advanced technology) would be permitted, provided the County Board of Health and, if applicable, DEC and DEP, approves it. We believe that this program is important to residents of the watershed as well as the vitality of the business districts of the Town's hamlet centers, Bedford Hills and Katonah, located in the Croton Watershed, with Katonah's commercial district immediately adjoining the reservoir.

Single Stream Recycling Now at the Recycling Center

On September 2, 2015 Winters Brothers began operating the Town recycling center. Winters Brothers was the low bidder for this service, and has a great reputation in the industry. We thank Rogan Bothers for their excellent service at the facility since 2007. The Recycling Center has changed to Single Stream recycling. This is the same recycling method that is provided to residents throughout Bedford by their private carters. Residents can now place all of their conventional recyclables (plastic, paper, cardboard, glass, and small metal) in one container at the recycling center. Bulk metal, Ewaste, and textiles will continue to be collected separately.

Single Stream recycling is required by law for residential waste in the Town of Bedford. For information on Single Stream Recycling and a list of what is recyclable and what is not, [click and download this handy printable flyer](#) -- and [click here to check out our new video on Recycling in the Town of Bedford](#).

Vacancy on Planning Board and Blue Mountain Board

The Town Board will be interviewing candidates for appointment to a vacancy on the Planning Board and for a vacancy on the Blue Mountain Housing Development Corporation, Bedford's affordable housing affiliate. An architect or an engineer experienced in reviewing plans would be the preferred appointee for the Planning Board position. A property manager or owner experienced with maintenance, repairs, construction estimates would be the preferred appointee for the Blue Mountain position.

Town Board Action and Proposals

Co-Sponsorship of Community Events

A number of community organizations have applied for Town co-sponsorship of community events under the Town Board's guidelines (*see below "Community Organizations Take Note"*). The Town Board approved co-sponsorship of the following community events: The Halloween Parade in Katonah on October 25, the Turkey Trot in Bedford Village on November 28 and Secrets of the Stone in Bedford Village on October 23. For details, please check the Community Calendar the Saturday before the event.

Bedford Village Parking and Hamlet Improvements

We are continuing to move ahead on developing parking opportunities. At the Town Board meeting on September 1, the Board took the following actions:

1. Approved an access agreement with Alchemy Bedford LLC, the owner of the Bedford Playhouse building to explore the possibility of additional spaces at the rear of the Playhouse building.

2. Adopting a bond resolution to ensure that engineering and other professional expenses may be included in the financing of the municipal parking.
3. Approved a lease renewal agreement between Bedford Presbyterian Church and the Town for 20 parking spaces at the rear of the Church to be made available to Bedford Village businesses through annual Town permits to them.
4. Scheduled a Special Town Board evening meeting for September 24 to update the community and seek input not only with respect to parking but also other improvement plans which in previous years have been proposed by the Bedford Village Historic District Review Board and the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Meeting details to follow.

Bedford Hills Hamlet Improvements

At the September 1 Town Board meeting, Bedford Hills LIVE presented recommendations for hamlet enhancement, some of which are intended to be quicker, relatively inexpensive projects. The Board is pleased to receive these community based recommendations and Recreation and Parks Superintendent Bill Heidepriem and Department of Public Works Commissioner Kevin Winn will work with Bedford Hills LIVE and will report back to the Town Board.

Unwanted Circulars

At its August 18 meeting, the Town Board discussed further a proposed local law to restrict the non-mailed distribution of unsolicited printed publications consisting of commercial advertisements or classified ads, such as circulars we find on our front lawns. The Board felt that we first should try a voluntary approach with the distributors of the unwanted publications. We are investigating the matter further and will report back shortly.

Dangerous Dogs

Also at the August 18 meeting, the Town Board discussed further an amendment to our Town code to provide further protections to the public (and pets) from dogs with a history of attacking humans or other animals. It would impose additional penalties on dogs found to be dangerous under Town law or New York State law. The Board felt that we should proceed on the law with further discussions on enforcement, insurance and other matters.

Antioch Baptist Church Affordable Housing Proposal Advances

The Town continues to work with Antioch Baptist Church on its proposal for providing affordable house on property it owns on Railroad Avenue (presently comprised of a church building, a single family house and a four family house). Westchester County has been represented at all planning meetings and has indicated that it will seriously entertain funding requests for acquisition and rehabilitation. The County's contribution to the project is key, but other funding sources are essential. The Town authorized me to proceed with a grant application to the New York State Office of Community Renewal for infrastructure work associated with the project. The deadline for application submission is October 23 and it is important that significant progress has been made by such time. To the end, the Town Board authorized proceeding with a subdivision application for unused Town property which lies between the rear line of Antioch's property and the MTA right of way. The Board also approved proceeding with a text change in the Zoning Code to allow multifamily housing in the light industrial zoning district in which the property is located. A public hearing has been scheduled for 7:50 PM on September 17 regarding the Zoning Code change and a public hearing also has been scheduled for 7:45 PM on October 6 in connection with the grant application. The Helmes Group moved extremely quickly and produced a preliminary site plan for the Town Board and for the Planning Board.

Comptroller's Report

On August 13 Comptroller Ed Ritter reported to the Town Board as follows:

The recent bond offering received very active interest with eight firms bidding. This resulted in very favorable interest rates for the Town. For the series 2015A bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$8,577,016 (20 year traditional debt), the interest rate is 2.33% and for the series 2015B in the aggregate principal amount of \$977,611 (30 year level debt), the interest rate is 3.64%. The Town's Financial Advisors have told us that our triple AAA bond rating and strong financial planning were key to the favorable rates.

Along with the Town Supervisor, Budget meetings with each department head have begun. Each department has been asked to keep their 2016 requests level from 2015. As of today, the Office of Real Property Services (ORPS) has not released the growth factor rates. This is a critical piece of the tax cap formula to determine the allowed levy increase. For now we are working with estimates.

REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE

Mortgage Tax has actual data from October through July 2015. The actual percentage over 2014 is a 14.61% decrease. This amount has been used as a basis for projecting the remainder of the year (through September). Mortgage tax is projected to be \$1,000,391, which is \$391 over budget.

Sales Tax has actual data from January through June 2015. County sales tax shows a 3.47% decrease over 2014. This revenue is projected to be \$2,436,433 which is \$36,433 over our budget of \$2,400,000.

Parking has actual data from January through June 2015. The actual percentage over 2014 is a 2.87% increase. Revenue to date is \$684,229 which is an increase of \$19,070 from last year at this time. The revenue for the year is projected to be \$930,770 which is \$770 over budget.

Fines and forfeited bail has actual data for January through June 2015. Revenue is \$334,796 which is \$7,204 under last year's revenue at this time. The revenue is projected to be \$672,265 which is \$22,265 over budget.

Safety Inspection Fees has actual data for January through June 2015. Revenue is \$429,820 which is 39,015 over last year's revenue at this time. This revenue is projected to be \$796,878 which is \$56,878 over budget.

EXPENDITURES: 2015 expenditures are within budget limits at this time

Report from our Recreation and Parks Department

Bedford Recreation and Parks Department Fall program registration started today – September 1st – Registration can be done at the Recreation Office and for most programs online registration is available. Residents are encouraged to check out the Fall brochure for a full listing of programs and special events. The brochure can be found online by visiting www.Bedfordny.gov under Recreation and Parks.

Bedford Village Memorial Park Tennis Court Renovation Project – Was started August 3rd and is scheduled to be completed and open for play starting Friday September 11th. This project was

completed earlier than projected and within the approved budget. The project includes new fencing and a new Premier playing surface system. The courts will be open during daylight hours and are available to Town residents.

FREE LUNCHEON PROGRAM - The Bedford Senior Adult program is working with The Town of Bedford Planning Department on the update of the Town Comprehensive Plan and will be hosting a free informational luncheon event on Wednesday October 7th. Pre registration is required by calling 666-7203. For additional information please contact Jim Whiting at the Recreation office 666-7004.

Report from the Department of Public Works

Highway Division:

DPW crews have been busy preparing roads for paving, and working with our paving contractor. Drainage upgrades have been installed on Sunrise Avenue in Katonah. In order to stretch the paving budget, DPW rented a milling machine and our crews are performing shoulder milling and roadway key cuts. Roads paved to date include:

- Deer Park Road
- Woods Bridge Road from Park to Lot 3
- Valley Road
- Railroad Avenue (from #307 to #339)
- Oak Road (Cherry Street side)
- The Terrace
- Woodfield Road
- McLain Street (from Barker to Rt 172)
- Court Road
- Girdle Ridge Road/Pea Pond Road
- Dwight Lane, Howe Circle and Monroe Drive

The remaining roads on our paving list (Sunrise Avenue, portions of Chestnut Ridge Road, and Lakeside and Stanwood Roads) are scheduled for paving in mid-September. Affected residents will be notified by a flyer left at their house.

Water Division:

Our crews have started a program to replace valves in the Consolidated Water District to improve reliability and reduce the impact of shutdowns for main breaks or other repairs.

Traffic Light at Intersection of Route 172 and Route 22

As you may know, the NYS Department of Transportation has engaged a contractor to replace the existing one color traffic with a “full color” traffic light. It was hoped that the project would be completed by this time this year. We do believe that it is the DOT’s intention to complete it this year. We did notice that the new poles have been set. We have asked DOT for a status update.

Community Organizations Take Note – Town Co-Sponsorship of Community Events

Following Town Board action at its June 16 meeting, Town Clerk Boo Fumagalli has prepared an application form, at the Town Board’s request, for community organizations requesting Town co-sponsorship of community events. This means that there may be the possibility of the Town Board relieving the organization from a portion of overtime expenses for Town personnel (e.g., police and public works) assisting with the event. Please note that funds are limited and Town co-sponsorship is subject to Town Board approval. The application form and the guidelines which the Board adopted are available from the Clerk’s office. The Clerk will review applications as received for completeness and compliance with the guidelines and forward them to the Town Board for action. You can contact the Clerk at 666-4534 or by e-mail at clerk at townclerk@bedfordny.gov.

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.

NYSDEC E-Waste Law

Since January 1, 2015, New York State's electronic waste disposal ban applies to all persons in the state, including individual and household consumers. [Click here](#) for more information.

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, 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