



Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – January 31, 2016



The first month of 2016 draws a sharp weather contrast to last year at this time. Except for the one big snow storm, we have been spared the constant drubbing of snowstorms which both inconvenienced residents and businesses and was costly to keep up with.

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.

Community Choice Aggregation – Implementation Moving Ahead

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, approximately 18 other municipalities have followed Bedford's lead, five more are considering approving and signing the MOU while the bids are still open (see below). The suppliers likely to submit bids have agreed that Sustainable Westchester may add the communities during the bidding period. The 19 municipalities which have signed on represent 110,000 customer accounts which will be automatically enrolled unless they opt out. These are Bedford, Greenburgh, Hastings, Irvington, Larchmont, Lewisboro, Mamaroneck (Town), Mamaroneck (Village), Mt. Kisco, New Castle, New Rochelle, North Salem, Ossining (Town), Ossining (Village), Pelham, Rye Brook, Somers, Tarrytown and White Plains. We are on the verge of providing our residents and small businesses a powerful program that has worked successfully in other jurisdictions. CCA's success in our communities in turn will inspire similar CCA efforts statewide and in other states across the country. Sustainable Westchester sent out the Request for Proposals to qualified suppliers this past Friday, January 29 and bids are due February 22,

which is when we'll learn whether we receive at least one bid which complies with the requirements of the RFP. Stay tuned!

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. We also have one coming up 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. [Click here](#) for the flyer – the topics listed are examples only and discussion is by no means limited to them. This is a great opportunity to learn more and get involved with the future of the community. We want input and advice regarding the Town's priority issues, assets, and challenges, as it begins planning for the future. Pace University's Land Use Law Center will organize people into small groups to collect input and facilitate the dialogue. This is a great way to voice your opinion regarding the things that matter to you.

Property Tax Credit Reimbursement Checks

Eligible property owners last week 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

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 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. I hope 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

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. 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

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.

Comptroller's Report

Comptroller Ed Ritter reported on January 14 as follows:

We are in the process of closing the town's books for 2015. Departments have a cut-off point of January 29, 2016 to submit any remaining invoices chargeable to 2015. The town's audit will be the week of January 29, 2016. I will provide the audited numbers to the board as soon as they are available. We processed our final payroll on December 24, 2015. All year end accruals have been captured from the January 8, 2016 payroll. We will be processing W-2 forms for all employees and will distribute them no later than January 29, 2016. This year will begin the distribution of 1095-C forms to all employees. This is in compliance with the Affordable Care Act. These forms are required to complete income tax returns. The tax cap report was filed prior to the adoption of the 2016 budget as required. Also filed was the Tax freeze compliance report.

REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE

Mortgage Tax has actual data from October through September 2015. The actual percentage over 2014 is a 13.26% decrease. This is the final for the year, subject to audit review. Mortgage tax is \$955,797, which is \$44,203 under budget.

Sales Tax has actual data from January through October 2015. County sales tax shows a 0.72% decrease over 2014. This revenue is projected to be \$2,505,959 which is \$105,959 over our budget of \$2,400,000.

Parking has actual data from January through December 2015. The actual percentage over 2014 is a 6.2% increase. Revenue to date is \$922,294 which is an increase of \$53,849 from last year at this time but \$7,706 under budget. These are the final numbers, subject to audit, for 2015.

Fines and forfeited bail has actual data for January through November 2015. Revenue is \$625,100 which is \$1,265 under last year's revenue at this time. The revenue is projected to be \$685,344 which is \$35,344 over budget.

Safety Inspection Fees has actual data for January through December 2015. Revenue is \$705,067 which is 19,478 under last year's revenue at this time and \$34,933 under budget. These are the final numbers, subject to audit, for 2015.

EXPENDITURES: 2015 expenditures are within budget limits at this time except as follows:

Engineer Consultant

001.1440.405 - Is over budget by \$11,947.06. This is from additional town work by the Town Engineer.

Town House Maintenance

001.1620.100 - Is over budget by \$8,835. Additional maintenance work.

Train Station

001.1621.400 – Heating fuel costs that were not budget as there was no tenant

001.9010.800 – Retirement system; additional cost due to changes in salaries

001.9015.800 – Police retirement system; additional cost due to changes in salary cost.

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 . 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, 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