



## ***Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – June 2, 2016***



**The Town's 2015 Financial Statements and Supplementary Information – PKF O'Brien Davies, LLP** (the Town's auditors) now is available. [Click here.](#)

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

**Congratulations to our New Building Inspector!** We are delighted to have Al Ciraco join us on June 3. We are fortunate to have a highly qualified and experienced new Building Inspector and head of the Building Department.

**Update on Possible Sewers for Katonah and Bedford Hills Business Districts** I am happy to report progress on the plan, but there remains a long way to go. As I mentioned previously, there are many participants in this conversation, not least of which is the community and especially the owners of the properties which would be in the sewer district. The Board may be scheduling a public information session for the end of the month to have the first in a series of conversations which we wish to have with the community. Here's a summary status report:

1. Possible Funds from Westchester County – We've made some progress. I am happy to report that at its May 31 meeting the Northern Westchester Watershed Community unanimously approved recommended allocations to the Westchester County Board of Legislators for unexpended Water Quality Improvement Program funds (WQIP), which the County oversees. The plan, which I proposed, covers all of the unexpended funds and includes \$9,250,000 for Bedford's sewer plan.
2. Possible Funds from New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Based on a meeting with representatives of DEP, we are hopeful that DEP may re-direct funds for three treatment plan upgrades (St. Mary's, KES and Bedford Park Apartments) to the capital costs of the proposed sewer project. Because each of these projects is well along, we were advised that the Town would need to provide assurances and evidence

that Bedford is committed to moving ahead with the project expeditiously. It also should be noted that DEP stated that property owners can change use (the example I used was from a clothing store to a restaurant) as long as the aggregate outflow did not exceed the capacity of system under the state permit. DEP would certainly comment on any sewer law which Bedford were to adopt in connection with the creation of the sewer district (as an example, that the law should require grease traps for restaurants).

3. Sewer Treatment Plant from NYS Department of Corrections and Community Services (DOCCs) Last week I spoke with a representative of DOCCs whether DOCCs would convey its treatment plant to the Town and become a customer of the district. This was a key element of the previous plan and it appears that DOCCs may be amenable. If the treatment plant (and land on which it is erected) is conveyed to the Town, the Town then would operate and maintain the plant. Based on a prior assessment of the plant and its present use, there is some excess capacity which we believe would accommodate the flows from the business districts (St. Mary's KES and Bedford Park Apartments and possibly some other properties adjacent to the lines). A key consideration is ensuring that the additional flows are not so great that they would require the construction of additional capacity. Doubling the capacity would cost as much as \$11 million which may well place the entire project out of reach.
4. Balance of Funding for Project Bear in mind that actual project costs would not be known until the construction plans had been bid out. Possible other sources may be the Environmental Facilities Corporation (I will join a number of other Northern Westchester supervisors meeting with the EFC in Albany on June 16 to discuss our requests) and a bond issue the debt service on which would be paid by the property owners in the sewer district.
5. How Much Would it Cost? We really don't know yet, but we are working on rough cost estimates for discussion at a public information session.

*Please let us know what you think*

### **Parking in the Hamlet Business Districts**

1. **Enforcement of Posted Parking Limits** The Town is working to improve parking availability in the hamlet business districts not just for the convenience of shoppers and patrons, but because parking is the lifeblood of our the businesses. Because there are limited opportunities to increase capacity, enforcement of parking limits is important to ensure turnover and space availability. In that connection we have been working closely with Complus, the firm which handles the hardware and software related to our parking enforcement. The Town Board at its May 3 meeting approved an amendment to our agreement with Complus. Complus will be providing license plate readers and related software to improve efficiency, reliability and the quality of the evidence of a violation. This should help in all three hamlet business districts.
2. **Court Road – Bedford Village** At the request of the Bedford Village Business Association, Bedford Playhouse and local businesses, the Town has developed a plan to increase street parking on Court Road. I will report more on this plan in my weekly report.

### **Park Season Opens/ Recreation & Parks Department Update**

Superintendent of Recreation and Parks Superintendent Bill Heidepriem reports as follows:

**Pools:**

The Recreation and Parks Department is pleased to report that the three pool facilities located in Bedford Hills, Katonah and Bedford Village opened for the season on Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> for the 2016 summer season. The full schedule of pool hours and pool information can be found on line by visiting [www.Bedfordny.gov](http://www.Bedfordny.gov) under Recreation – [click](#) on the Spring Summer brochure and scroll to page 39 through 45 for pool information.

**Day Camp & Tiny Tot Camps:**

Registration for Sumer Camp is ongoing at the Recreation Office with Camps starting on Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Information on the Camp programs and late June specialty camps can be found on pages 24 through 28 of the Spring - Summer brochure

**Park It in the Parks:**

*FREE* Summer Entertainment series kicks off on **Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>** at the **Bedford Village Memorial Park** featuring local musical talent **The Mulligan's Band** from 7:00pm – 8:30pm

**Friday June 24<sup>th</sup>** at the **Bedford Hills Memorial Park** at **7:00pm** – **Mario the Magician** will be our featured entertainer

The full schedule of the Park it in the Parks Entertainment Series can be found on page 8 of the Spring - Summer brochure.

**Bedford Hills Community House – Cool News:**

The Town Board is excited to announce the completion of the air conditioning installation project in the main auditorium of the Bedford Hills Community House. User groups who use/rent the facility in the hot summer months will now enjoy a climate controlled room that will be cool and comfortable for all. Additional interior renovations are anticipated in the winter of 2016/17

**Finance Department Report:**

The Finance Department reported on May 12 as follows:

“The parking renewals permits have been mailed out to residents. Business and Non-Resident renewal applications will be sent at a later date.

Summer employees have started to arrive and are being added into payroll. As summer approaches our payroll increases to over 400 people.

**REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE**

Mortgage Tax has actual data from October through March 2016. The actual percentage over 2015 is a 49.38% increase. This amount has been used as a basis for projecting the remainder of the year (through September). Mortgage tax is projected to be \$1,375,546, which is \$335,546 over budget.

Sales Tax has actual data from January through February 2016. County sales tax shows a 0.06% increase over 2015. This revenue is projected to be \$2,525,028 which is \$125,028 over our budget of \$2,400,000.

Fines and forfeited bail has actual data for January through March 2016. Revenue is \$112,030 which is \$28,972 over last year's revenue at this time. The revenue is projected to be \$893,762 which is \$238,762 over budget.

Safety Inspection Fees has actual data for January through April 2016. Revenue is \$249,267 which is 50,320 over last year's revenue at this time. This revenue is projected to be \$883,401 which is \$143,401 over budget.

**EXPENDITURES:** 2016 expenditures are within budget limits at this time"

Note that parking lot revenues were not available at the time of the report.

Following receipt from the Finance Department of parking lot revenue data as of May 18, the year to date projections for principal non-property tax revenue are in the table below. The table shows an aggregate positive variance of \$603,875, however, it should be noted that these projections are based on only a short period of time since January 1 (the Town budget is on a calendar year basis):

Description	2016 Budget	Estimated 2016*	Variance
Mortgage Recording Tax	\$1,040,000	\$1,375,546	\$335,546
Sales Tax	\$2,400,000	\$2,525,028	\$125,028
Parking	\$930,000	\$1,026,684	\$96,684
Fines & penalties	\$655,000	\$893,762	\$238,762
Safety inspection fees	\$740,000	\$883,401	\$143,401
	\$5,765,000	\$5,328,875	\$603,875

\* Based on YTD percentage variance as applied against 2016 month to month

**Update on Police Station Renovation Project** The police department is scheduled to move in the next few days into their temporary quarters at the lower level of the Town House building. We are continue to work closely with Lothrop Associates, architects, and Calgi Construction Management to develop a high quality, cost effective design for the project. We anticipate going out to bid over the summer with construction drawings with construction to begin in the late summer/early fall.

**Update on Adams Street Highway Garage Upgrade and New Recycling Center** The project is proceeding well. Westchester County approved the Town's request for \$175,000 from the Water Quality Improvement Program funds to defray in part the cost of a salt shed, necessary for the improved storage of salt minimizing run-off into the watershed. Highway Department employees also have been working on excavation to the rear of the highway garage to accommodate an addition to the garage. As earlier noted, the highway facility will expand into the lot presently occupied by the recycling center immediately to the north. Relocation of the recycling center to its new quarters on Railroad Avenue likely will take place in July. The stormwater infiltration system has been completed and grading and paving will occur shortly.

**Other Department of Public Works Updates** Work in April and May included pothole patching, maintenance of drainage systems and dirt road grading. Paving also was completed on

Roosevelt Drive (following the water main installation and associated work), the remaining portion of Chestnut Ridge Road not paved in 2016 and a portion of Franklin Drive.

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

The Town Board is accepting applications for vacancies to the Tree Advisory Board – we especially are seeking an arborist. There is a second position available too. 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.

### **Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)**

The preliminary numbers for those in Bedford remaining in the CCA program are approximately 83% for Constellation Energy (those in the NYSEG service area) and approximately 94% for Con Edison Solutions (those in the Con Edison service area). We expect that there may be customers of other energy service companies who may enroll. For additional information on the CCA program please see the information on the Town's website by [clicking here](#).

### **REMINDER TO HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD Will Funds for Paving I-684 Paving Become a Reality? Your Voice Will be Helpful**

Our thanks to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Assemblyman David Buchwald and State Senator George Latimer for increases in funding for the Department of Transportation in the recently adopted State Budget. It includes significant increases in DOT's capital funding. We now need to urge the DOT and Governor Cuomo's Office to apply a portion of that increased funding level to pave the portion of the 684 running through Bedford, most of which is the original roadbed. Here is some contact information:

Governor Cuomo: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/contact>; also try <http://www.writethegovernorofnewyork.com/>; also 1-518-474-8390

DOT Albany office: 518-457-6195

DOT Region 8 Acting Regional Director Todd Westhuis: 845-431-5750

If you send an e-mail, please consider copying me and our legislators:

State Senator Latimer: [latimer@nysenate.gov](mailto:latimer@nysenate.gov), 914-934-5350

State Assemblyman Buchwald: [buchwaldd@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:buchwaldd@assembly.state.ny.us), 914-244-4450

Thank you!

**Paving Route 172 – And for a State Road Being Paved** NYS Department of Transportation's engineer in charge of paving the stretch from Village Green up to Westchester Avenue in Pound Ridge tells me it should be done in about a week. As mentioned previously, it's a **noisy** operation which can't be avoided and results in intermittent closure of single lanes. We're certainly pleased to have the work being done.

**Temporary Police Headquarters** – As reported earlier, the Police Department will be moving to temporary quarters in the lower level of the Town House building at 321 Bedford Road. The carpentry work and finish work has been completed and our thanks again 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 reduced costs significantly while producing an excellent product in good time. The Town Board awarded HVAC to Atlantic Westchester work for the temporary location of the Police Department. We remain hopeful that the department may move into the temporary quarters soon. It is uncertain, however, whether the Verizon strike will affect the move date. We now are targeting the first or second week of June, a bit later than we earlier had hoped, but still well before any construction work will begin on the renovation of the police station.

**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 or early summer. DPW is moving ahead with its work on the Adams Street facility – with initial focus on improving salt storage.

### **Changes to STAR program for Residents New to Town Since June 1, 2015**

The STAR program has been amended to transition the STAR exemption to the payment of an annual STAR check from the NYS DTF-ORPTS for new property owners as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Below is a brief summary:

- Property owners who received the STAR exemption based on their own application on their 2015/2016 school tax will experience no change. As long as they remain eligible they will continue to receive the STAR exemption on their school tax bill and can go from basic to enhanced and back to basic in the same manner as in the past for as long as they remain in their current home.
- New property owners who did not receive the STAR exemption based on their own application on their 2015/2016 school tax will not be eligible for a STAR exemption but will be eligible for a STAR check from DTF-ORPTS for the 2016/2017 school tax and beyond. It constitutes new ownership or a transfer when the new owner is completely different from prior owner (I.e. transfer from husband and wife to wife only may continue to receive the STAR exemption). (Property placed into a life estate may continue to receive the exemption).
- The STAR check program will be administered by the State, therefore when a property transfers, the assessor no longer needs to send STAR application information to the buyer.
- Eligibility for the STAR check is the same as for the STAR exemption i.e. basic (primary residence, income) enhanced (primary residence, age, income). The STAR check amount will be equal to STAR saving on tax bill.
- Eligible owners must register with the State for the STAR check. Registration is not yet available. DTF-ORPTS will let us know when it is. Eligible owners who register with the State for the STAR check by July 1, 2016 and whose school taxes are levied on or before Sept., 2016 will receive a check in September, 2016. In the future it is intended that the STAR check will be received in the month that the School tax bill is levied.
- DTF-ORPTS call number for Taxpayers 1-(518)-591-5232

You should also feel free to contact the Bedford Tax Assessor at 914-864-3831

### **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)

**For Your Neighbor's Sake** – Please consider your neighbor when you go to work with your lawn mower or weed whacker (or your lawn service uses them). We realize that your busy schedule makes it difficult to find time to get work done on your property. We all try to squeeze in time to do it. But please not too early and not too late. Our Town Code does not permit high noise activities, such as these, before 8 AM or after sunset.

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