



## *Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – July 29, 2016*



**I-684 Paving!** For those who subscribe to this newsletter, you know that for several months I have been asking residents to contact our representatives and the NYS Department of Transportation to advocate for the repaving of the portion of I-684 running through Bedford between Exits 4 and 6. . The poor condition is both a safety concern as well as quality of life concern, with the constant and ever worsening noise. I am pleased to advise that \$6 million in state funds have been secured to repave the portion of I-684 running through Bedford between Exits 4 and 6. The project will be carried out by 2017, though more specific timing is not available at this time. The repaving will fix a badly deteriorated road surface. The Town of Bedford for many years has been pressing to have this portion of I-684 repaved – it is the original concrete roadbed from the late 1960s. The repaving project will be an expansion of an existing DOT repaving project for portions of I-684 north of Bedford, work on which started last week. In July of 2015, Assemblyman David Buchwald and I organized a meeting here at Town Hall with the then Regional Director of the DOT. Also attending the meeting and providing support were Francis Corcoran and representatives of Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, State Senator George Latimer and Bedford resident Mara Glassel, speaking on behalf of many residents adversely affected. My thanks go to Assemblyman Buchwald for his effective advocacy and critical role in securing the funds, also to State Senator Latimer, Congressman Maloney for his important contribution as a member of the House Transportation Subcommittee, and also my predecessor, Lee Roberts, who pressed for the repaving. Todd Westhuis, the Regional Director of the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) and his staff have been supportive of the project as well. I have been tireless in my reach-out efforts in working diligently to help make the paving a reality. Your voices have mattered and made a difference. As more information becomes available, I will be providing updates in my weekly e-news.

## Notes from Town Board Meetings

**Antioch Baptist Church Affordable Housing Project** At the Town Board's July 5 meeting the Town Board approved authorizing me as Supervisor to execute the deed, transfer forms and ancillary documents, subject to Town attorney review and approval of such documents, to effectuate the conveyance of the Town's vacant lot of approximately 0.3 acres and identified as SBL 60.14-2-5 to Antioch Homes Housing Development Fund Company, Inc. for no consideration, also subject to the actual closing of the transactions, including the permanent mortgage financing, the County housing funds and the NYS Community Development Block Grant. The lot is to be used for a septic system for the residences. I also should note that the Working Group, which meets every other week, has tentatively set October 13 as a closing for the project.

**Action on Zombie Houses** Building Inspector Alberto Ciraco reported at the July 5 meeting that the Town is moving ahead with demolition of the dilapidated house in dangerous condition at 53 Jay Street, which has been vacant for at least seven years. This property is the subject of proceedings against the owner and the bank for failure to maintain the premises in safe condition. The Building Inspector boarded up the house to discourage access (the bank's property maintenance company has been billed \$1,000). Our attorneys continue to try to reach out to the bank (the owners abandoned the house and moved West). It should be noted that if the bank were to take action, then the Town Board would consider suspending the proceedings, subject to all costs which the Town incurred being paid.

**Police Station Renovation** The Board at its July 19 meeting approved a design plan as proposed by Lothrop Associates, the architects on the project. The Board also approved the means of financing the project, as recommended by Comptroller Abe Zambrano in which, as is conventional, short term borrowings (called bond anticipation notes) would be issued while the project is underway and then bonds would be issued after the project is complete. The financing plan should enable the Town Board to meet our objectives of carrying out the project within a sound fiscal path for the Town: staying within the property tax cap, providing for the other operating and capital needs of Town functions, maintaining healthy fund balances and keeping our triple AAA bond rating.

## Budget Season is Gearing Up – 2017 Town Budget and 2016 to 2025 Capital Plan

Here's the schedule of Town Board work sessions. Come on by or tune in.

### Schedule of Town Board Work Session and Meetings 2017 Budget and 2016-2025 Capital Plan (see Note)

Town Board Work Sessions/Meetings	Department/Comments
August 16 (6:30 PM)	Overview & Discussion of Comptroller's suggestions on possible expense reductions and non-tax revenue sources
September 6 (6:30 PM)	Town Board review of proposed 2017 budget and 2016-2025 Capital Plan for Police, Recreation & Parks Departments

September 20 (7:15 PM)	Town Board review of proposed 2017 budget and 2016-2025 Capital Plan for Department of Public Works, Lighting and Water Districts and Building Department
October 6 (6:30 PM)	Town Board review of proposed 2017 budget and 2016-2025 Capital Plan for all other Departments; discussion of tentative 2017 budget and 2016-2025 Capital Plan
October 18 (6:30 PM)	Town Board further review of tentative 2017 budget; note that Budget Officer is to finalize tentative budget and file tentative budget in office of the Town Clerk and the Town Clerk is to formally present tentative budget to the Town Board prior to October 30; Town Board adoption of 2016-2025 Capital Plan
November 1 (7:00 PM)	Town Board consideration of revisions in tentative 2017 budget - holding of a public hearing is optional before adoption of preliminary 2017 budget
November 15	Adoption of preliminary 2017 budget based on any revisions in the tentative 2017 budget
December 6	Town Board to hold public hearing and adopt the final 2017 budget (must be done prior to December 10)

Note: At its meeting of February 16, 2016 the Town Board adopted a Capital Plan to cover the Town’s capital needs for 2016 and 2017. The ten year 2016-2025 Capital Plan is to incorporate the 2016 and 2017 plan.

**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.](#)

**Update on Sewer Proposal for Katonah and Bedford Hills Business Districts**

- [7-29-16 Update Memo to Town Board](#)
- [Preliminary List of Approvals Required 7-28-16](#)

*Please let us know what you think – call me at 666-6530 or e-mail [supervisor@bedfordny.gov](mailto:supervisor@bedfordny.gov)*

**Parking in the Hamlet Business Districts**

1. Bedford Village
  - a. Court Road Parking – 11 New Spaces At the request of the Bedford Village Business Association, Bedford Playhouse and local businesses, the Town Board adopted a change in the parking law on June 21 which creates 11 on street parking spaces on Court Road. Public Works Commissioner Kevin Winn developed the plan following discussions with the BVBA, the Bedford

- Village Elementary School, the Bedford Fire Department, residents of the road and other community members.
- b. Off Street Parking – Bedford Playhouse Building The Town is continuing discussions with Alchemy Partners and their counsel about the possibility of increasing parking on its premises and dedicating certain of the parking to municipal parking.
  - c. Off Street Parking – Presbyterian Church Vacant Lot\_ The Town also is in discussions with the Church about the possibility of acquiring vacant land the Church owns off of Court Road for creation of a municipal parking lot. The land is subject to a deed restriction which prevents the use of the property for such purposes. The Church is approaching the individual who deeded the property to remove the deed restriction. Upon removal of the deed restriction, the Town will proceed with the plan (the Town’s Capital Plan includes funds for design and engineering to proceed).
2. Enforcement of Posted Parking Limits The Town is continuing to work on means of improving 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.

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

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

### **Pools:**

The three pool facilities located in Bedford Hills, Katonah and Bedford Village now on the summer schedule. 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:**

Sumer Camp are scheduled to start on Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Information on the Camp programs can be found on pages 24 through 28 of the Spring - Summer brochure

### ***Park It in the Parks:***

**FREE Summer Entertainment** continues in July

**Friday July 8<sup>th</sup>** at the **Katonah Memorial Park** from 6:30pm until 8:30pm the ***Trashcan Poets Band*** will be playing. This concert is sponsored by the Katonah Memorial Park Association.

**Friday July 15<sup>th</sup>** at the **Bedford Village Memorial Park** the C&M Club is pleased to sponsor their annual movie night. This years’ feature is The ***Minions*** and will start at **8:30pm**.

**Friday July 22<sup>nd</sup>** at the **Bedford Hills Memorial Park** the ***Blonde Ambition Band*** will be playing from 7:00pm – 8:30pm

**Friday August 5<sup>th</sup>** at the **Katonah Memorial Park** the ***Island Soul Band*** will be playing from 6:30pm – 8:30pm

**Sizzling Sunday's at the Pools**

Sundays from 5:00pm until 7:30pm

**July 10<sup>th</sup>** at Bedford Village Memorial Park Pool

**July 24<sup>th</sup>** at Katonah Memorial Park Pool

**August 7<sup>th</sup>** at Bedford Hills Memorial Park Pool

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 Memorial Park Basketball Courts**

Reminder the light poles at the basketball courts are energized from dusk until 10:00pm daily.

**Please** – Basketball only on the courts – Riding of tricycles, bicycles, skateboards or rollerblading is not permitted.

**Comptroller Report:**

Comptroller Abraham Zambrano reported on July 1 as follows:

As of June 30th the General fund has received 75% of the budgeted revenues. The tax levy of \$11,755,194 represents 59% of the \$20,190,784 budget. As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, \$3,358,241 of the \$8,435,590 of Non-Tax revenues have been collected. The major components of those revenues show trends that will result in meeting the budget amounts by year end. Overall expenditures are below the half way mark at 42% of the budgeted amount keeping in mind that there is a considerable amount in seasonal expenses that will take place this summer.

**REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE**

**Mortgage Tax.** At the time of this report, the June projections for Mortgage Tax were not available so the attached spreadsheet remains unchanged from the previous month. Once the information is received, I will forward the information.

**Sales Tax** projections through June 30<sup>th</sup> demonstrate that the budgeted amount \$2,400,000 will be exceeded by \$142,300. We will continue to monitor and report any projected changes.

**Parking** revenues for the first 6 months of 2016 are below the amount anticipated at this point. If same trend continues over the next six months, we will end up with a shortfall of \$84,219.00.

**Fines and Forfeited Bail** recorded through May as of June 30<sup>th</sup> continue the trend that will allow the budgeted amount of \$655,000 to be exceeded by over \$20,000 by the end of the year.

**Safety Inspections** fees recorded through June 30 are below the anticipated amount at mid-year. However, a building permit for a sizeable project was just approved and generated fees of \$180,100. The budgeted amount will be met.

**Update on Police Station Renovation Project** The Police Department has moved to temporary quarters in the lower level of the Town House building. The renovation project for the police

station, originally estimated to cost between \$3.5 million and \$4.0 million, now is estimated significantly higher at approximately \$7 million. Lothrop Associates, architects, and Calgi Construction Management, construction managers, will be discussing the project in a Town Board work session on Tuesday, July 5 at 6:30 PM. The discussion will include the significant change in cost estimates, whether the present plan is what should be pursued and if so, how to finance it while providing for the Town's other operating and capital needs, staying under the tax cap and maintaining sound reserve levels and prudent fiscal management. The original cost estimates from last year also included as an option, an option which the Board did not pursue, for an entirely new building at approximately \$12 million (if regulations of the Department of Health and NYC DEP regarding the septic system could be met).

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

The Town Board is accepting applications for vacancies on 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. There also is a vacancy on the Film Committee.

### **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 later this month or in August. 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 \$70,000 in eligible costs covering 11 projects. 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