



Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – August 27, 2016



Repaving of 684 we're not there yet! It was very good news as reported previously that working collaboratively with the community and Assemblyman David Buchwald, we've secured a \$6 million appropriation for paving *a portion* of the Bedford stretch of I-684. We need to get the *entire* stretch paved including the portion from Harris Road through the Exit 5/6 interchange. I ask your help again. Please pitch in to have your voices heard:

- Governor Cuomo: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/contact>; also try <http://www.writethegovernorofnewyork.com/>; also [1-518-474-8390](tel: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, 914-934-5350
- State Assemblyman Buchwald: buchwaldd@assembly.state.ny.us, 914-244-4450

Great News! The New Recycling Center will be moving to its new location, 343 Railroad Avenue, effective September 1, 2016. The new location is less than a mile from the current location. It is located on Railroad Avenue ¼ mile south of Harris Road. When leaving our Adams Street location, make a right out of the driveway, take a left at the traffic light onto Harris Road, and take the first left on Railroad Avenue. The new Recycling Center is ¼ mile down on the left. Although the location is new, the services are the same. Thank you for using our recycling center, and we look forward to seeing you on Railroad Avenue.

Department of Public Works – July Report

- Work during the month included pothole patching, maintenance of drainage systems, and dirt road grading. In addition, excavation is occurring for the salt shed project. The salt shed preparation work is progressing very well using in house staff and rented equipment.

- Construction on the Railroad Avenue Recycling Center, including the fence and electrical work, will be completed in August. Relocation of our recycling center will likely occur in early September.
- 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.

Notes from Town Board Meetings

Budget Season Underway Comptroller Abe Zambrano met with the Board in a work session to discuss non-property tax revenue and expense reduction proposals. The Comptroller explained that several fees for services have not kept pace with increasing costs to provide such services, have not been raised in a number of years and recommended increases. The Board expressed the view that any increase in fees should be modest and gradual – best to have smaller increases on an annual basis to keep up with expenses than a single, large increase which is more difficult for those affected. On the expense side, the Comptroller identified areas (including telephone, electricity and court prosecutors) where economies might be achieved. Below is the schedule for upcoming budget work sessions, which also will address the ten year 2016 through 2025 Capital Plan to ensure that the Town’s municipal facilities and equipment are maintained properly.

Here’s the full schedule of Town Board work sessions (including those already held). Come on by, tune in, send in an e-mail with any comments.

**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.

Schedule of TB Meetings - 2017 Budget Capital Plan 7-19-16

1. Update on Lead Content – Consolidated Water District Public Works Commissioner Kevin Winn provided an update. To be clear the District does not have lead pipes or high lead solder in the supply or distribution system, the source of lead is leaching from customer owned pipes in their homes. Customers were first notified of the issue of the concentration of lead in drinking water from samples in homes which exceeded New York State Health Department (DOH) action levels in 2015. Our sampling results were 19 parts per billion compared to an action level of 15 parts per billion. Switching to our new surface water supply from NYCDEP has likely contributed to this issue. Although the new water supply has many benefits, including eliminating scale build up on plumbing fixtures, it is more corrosive to pipes when compared to the hard well water that was our previous source. Our design engineers anticipated this and included the use of NYSDOH approved water treatment chemicals to reduce corrosion, including sodium hydroxide and orthophosphate. In June and July of this year we collected our most recent round of samples. The results were higher, with a 90th percentile of 46 ug/l, resulting in another violation of the NYSDOH action level. Further discussions with water quality experts lead to a decision to change corrosion control chemical to a zinc orthophosphate corrosion inhibitor, which is expected to improve the capacity of our water supply to reduce corrosion of customer owned pipes and fixtures. This was implemented in late July 2016. The District will give the change three months to take effect in the system and then collect our next round of samples in November and December 2016. We plan to notify our customers of the results in January 2017. A mailing will again be sent to the system customers and the press this month to notify them of the issues and next steps. The Town will continue to offer a lead sample to customers at no charge. To reiterate information previously provided to our customer, one of the easiest ways to reduce the risk of elevated lead levels in drinking water is to run the cold water faucet until the water gets noticeably colder, usually about 15 to 30 seconds, before using it for drinking or cooking. Sample results from customers' homes have confirmed that this is quite effective.
2. KVIS Beautification Project KVIS Co-Presidents Thom Hagen and Eve Hundt presented a splendid plan for "Phase One" of plantings and landscaping along the east side of Katonah Avenue from the corner of Edgemont Road to the stairs leading to the train station and a small portion of area between the station and the gazebo. Our thanks as well for the pro bono professional services of Lynn Becker in developing the planting plan which highlights native plants that are environmentally friendly, hardy and low on maintenance. The Board approved the plan under which KVIS will donate the funds for the plant material and the Parks Department staff will carry out the planting and related work.

Sewer Plan for Business Districts of Bedford Hills and Katonah

At its August 16 meeting, the Town Board approved a proposal of Arcadis Design & Consultancy to prepare a Map, Plan & Report, which includes a map of geographic area which the proposed sewer district would comprise, describes the sources of funds for constructing the collection system and provides maximum estimated costs for the average property owner in the district. The Board also approved engaging Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, as bond counsel for

the project. Please also refer to the documents below and you can find additional information on the Town's website.

[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

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

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

Parking in the Hamlet Business Districts

Bedford Village

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.

- a. 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.
- b. 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).

All Hamlets

Because there are limited opportunities to increase capacity, enforcement of parking limits is important to ensure turnover and space availability. Parking is the lifeblood of our businesses in the hamlets which depend upon customers and clients finding parking within reasonable distance. In that connection we have been working closely with Complus, the firm which handles the hardware and software related to our parking enforcement. Under a contract amendment with Complus, Complus has provided our parking enforcement unit new license plate readers significantly improving efficiency. By improving Parking Enforcement capability, we are able encourage more turn-over in parking spots (people don't overstay the time limits as much) due to the deterrent effect of the ticketing.

Comptroller Report

As of July 31st, \$11,784,939 out of the \$16,662,310 in revenues represents collection of current and prior year taxes. The total collected is 82.52% of the total Tax and Non-Tax revenues budgeted for the year. Additional information on major revenue sources is included below. Based on projections, we are anticipating being able to meet budgeted revenue amounts in most instances. General Fund expenditures as of July 31 total \$11,223,306 or 54% of the overall budget.

Highlights of Major Non-Tax Revenues:

Mortgage Tax. Mortgage tax payments are received by the Town bi-annually; June and December of each year. The first installment recorded by the Town on June 30, 2016 was \$533,617 an amount that represents 51.31% of the budgeted \$1,040,000 revenue in 2016. At this time, we have strong indicators that the second installment, due in December, will allow us to exceed our budgeted amount by a few thousand dollars.

Sales Tax. The Westchester County Finance Department remitted the second quarter share of sales tax revenues on August 4 in the amount of \$630,903; an amount consistent with projections through June 30th. Based on projections provided by County and our historical financial data, we are anticipating that the total Sales Tax Revenues for 2016 will exceed our budgeted amount by over \$100,000.

Parking. Recorded parking revenue through July 31 total \$705,445 or 76% of the amount budgeted in 2016. Collected revenues year-to-date are below projected amounts at this time of the year, but we will continue to monitor the account as the summer ends. At this point we are projecting not meeting the amount budgeted.

Fines and Forfeited Bail. Through the period ended June 30, 2016, \$346,436 out of the \$655,000 budgeted for Fines and Forfeited Bail has been collected. That amount represents 52.89% of the annual budget.

Safety Inspections. Due to the fact that a building permit for a sizable project was filed and issued in July, the amount budgeted this year for Safety Inspections will be met. As of July 31, we have collected \$550,430 out of the \$740,000 budgeted or 74% of the projected revenues.

Temporary Police Headquarters is open the Police Department has moved to its temporary quarters in the lower level of the Town House building at 321 Bedford Road. Using our own Town forces has significantly reduced costs while producing an excellent product in good time. They are up and running and the transition has been a smooth.

Update on Police Station Renovation Project With the Board having approved the design and cost estimates which now are well along, the architects and construction managers are working diligently to prepare construction drawings for bidding out the project scheduled for October. The tentative schedule places actual construction at the beginning of 2017 and completed in January 2018. We will keep you posted on the progress along the way.

Appointments to Boards and Committees

Thank you for all that have applied. We are very fortunate to have a talented applicant pool to choose from. Michael Weisburger was appointed to the Tree Advisory Board at the August 16 Town Board Meeting – we thank him for his willingness to serve. Please stay tuned as we will be announcing future appointments.

Paving Route 172 – (State Road) NYS Department of Transportation’s engineer in charge of paving the stretch from Village Green up to Westchester Avenue in Pound Ridge has completed its work. Not only has the road been repaved, but catch basin work has also been completed.

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 1st, 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

NYSEG Tree Trimming Along a Few Streets in Bedford Village


NYSEG will be completing routine vegetation management work within our community shortly (see list of streets below). Residents impacted by the upcoming work will be receiving a postcard from NYSEG in the mail followed up by door to door notification closer to the actual work date. Trees are one of the leading causes of power interruptions. It's extremely important that there is proper clearance established and maintained between vegetation and the power lines to minimize power interruptions as well as reduce lengthy restoration times. Safety is the top priority; please slow down when approaching the tree crews and remember to never enter an established work zone.

- Brook Farm Lane
- Brook Farm Road
- Deep Wood Road
- East Brook Farm Road
- Loop Road
- Millertown Road
- Old Corner Road
- Peters Lane
- Plateau Lane
- Pound Ridge Road
- Stone Hill Road
- Trudy Lane

We recognize that property owners understandably are concerned about the impact that the tree trimming may have aesthetically as well as to provide shade and privacy. NYSEG tries to be sensitive as well, however, please be sure to contact NYSEG with any concerns and, of course, feel free to contact me.

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 should you have any questions or comments on this report or any of our work on the Town Board.


Chris Burdick
Town Supervisor