



Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – October 31, 2016



UPDATE ON THE SEPTIC SYSTEM REPAIR & REPLACEMENT PROGRAM AND SEWER PLAN – COME TO THE TOWN FORUM

The Town Board is holding a Town Forum which we hope you can attend. Please see [link] for the invitation on the forum. Please also see [link] for an update. Please also see dedicated Sewer Project page on the Town's website, <http://www.bedfordny.gov/departments/planning/sewer-plan/>. Please let us know what you think: *call me at 666-6530 or e-mail supervisor@bedfordny.gov* As we've mentioned, the Town Board will not make a firm decisions until hearing from the community. See information below.

SEPTIC LAW ON CLEANING AND INSPECTION: SEPTIC SYSTEM PROGRAM –

We want property owners to be aware that financial help is available for those in the NYC Watershed (about 80% of the land area) with failing septic systems. Under Bedford's Septic System Repair and Replacement Program, the Town now has reimbursed over \$100,000 in eligible costs covering 30 properties. 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. If you have a failing septic system, help is here 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. Almost all the properties in Bedford Hills and Katonah and many in Bedford Village are in the watershed. We 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

2017 BUDGET & 2016 THROUGH 2025 CAPITAL PLAN

Town Comptroller Abe Zambrano, whom I appointed as Budget Officer for the 2017 budget, submitted to the Town Clerk the tentative 2017 budget which complies with the New York property tax cap. At the same time, the tentative budget provides for a continuation of high quality and level of services to the community. I will recommend to the Town Board adoption at our November 1 meeting of the tentative budget at which point it becomes the preliminary budget. The Board has scheduled a public hearing for December 6 at 6:30 PM on the budget.

The Board also has been reviewing the proposed 10 year Capital Plan. The Capital Plan provides for needed renovations to facilities such as the police station renovation, upgrade to Adams Street Highway Yard and replacement and upgrades to vehicles and equipment.

Both the 2017 budget and 10 year Capital Plan should keep the Town on a strong financial position with the highest credit rating available and solid fund balances or reserves.

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. You also can see the tentative budget at [\[link\]](#)

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 (6:00 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 (6:00 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; further review of Capital Plan.
November 1	Town Board consideration of revisions in tentative 2017 budget - adoption of preliminary 2017 budget; further review of Capital Plan
November 15	Adoption Town Board adoption of 2016-2025 Capital Plan
December 6, 6:30 PM Public Hearing	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 will incorporate the 2016 and 2017 plan.

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

The Town's Comptroller, Abe Zambrano, reported on October 13 as follows:

General Fund revenues received through September 30th total \$17,282,479 or 86% of the total budget. Non-Tax revenues recorded during the reporting period total \$5,511,893 or 28% of the total budget. The major components of those revenues show trends that will result in meeting or exceeding the budget amounts by year end. On the other hand, General Fund expenditures through the end of September are below the expected 75% at this time of the year. Expenditures and encumbrances that total \$14,140,070 have been recorded thus far; an amount that represents 70% of the General Fund budget. Conversely, the Highway Fund has collected 95% of its revenues as of the end of September. The bulk of uncollected revenues are funds that will be paid by New York State. Year to date expenditures and encumbrances total \$5,497,465 or 72% of its total budget. As previously reported, due to the mild 2016 winter, the Highway Fund will be able to generate a surplus in 2016.

REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE

Mortgage Tax. As reported the last couple of months, projections for Mortgage Tax revenue continue to indicate that the amount budgeted for the year will be met and exceeded slightly. Mortgage rates remain low and the real estate market continues is strong in Westchester County.

Sales Tax. Revenue projections through September 30th continue to validate that the amount budgeted for 2016 will be exceeded by at least \$162,000. Our projections are validated by data received from the Westchester County Department of Finance. We anticipate receiving the third quarter payment in early November.

Parking. Once again, parking revenues at the end of September 2016 still demonstrate that a short fall for the year is eminent. At this time, the projected deficit is just under \$40,000.

Fines and Forfeited Bail. Recorded Court fines through August 31st continue to indicate that the budgeted amount of \$655,000 to be exceeded by over \$19,000 by the end of the year.

Safety Inspections. As of September 30th, \$652,704 has been collected in Safety Inspection fees. The amount collected thus far would normally indicate that the projected revenues will exceed the budgeted amount of \$740,000. As previously reported, a building permit for a sizeable project that generated fees of \$180,100 was approved in July. Projected activity for the remainder of 2016 appear to remain flat.

False Alarm Charges and Clerk Fees. As of September 30th, billings for False Alarm total \$110,265 or 90% of the \$123,000 budgeted for the year. If the number of false alarms being responded continue at the same rate as the past 9 months, a surplus in excess of \$20,000 will be generated. Clerk Fees collected through the end of September add up to \$27,615; the total revenue projected in the 2016 budget is \$22,500; the Office of the Town Clerk collects fees for dog licenses and film permits; among other things. Based on previous years' activity, a surplus of over \$10,000 is being projected to be generated by the Town Clerk's Office.

VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE David Zapsky, chairman of the Committee and Committee member Jim Polos made a presentation to the Board. The Committee has been working hard to raise community awareness of the needs of veterans, identify veterans here in Bedford, highlight Veterans Day and offer to veterans to include them on communications (e-mails and so forth). *Remember November 11, Veterans Day* - observed at 11 AM on the 11th day of the 11th month of the year at which time Veterans and members of the community will assemble at Lawrence Circle in Katonah. Follow the link for the flyer <http://www.bedfordny.gov/veterans-day-poster-draft-2/> .

WESTCHESTER POWER – COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA)

How has it been performing? You may recall that we said that we'd have Westchester Power (the CCA program operated by Sustainable Westchester) track the performance of the CCA. They've tracked the CCA program, which is going on six months since its launch with the first billing cycles in May. They've tracked the fixed rate contracts against the variable energy costs under Con Edison and NYSEG. The analysis shows these have provided a modest savings or are breaking even (green option in NYSEG territory) versus the variable rate utility supply. For more information, please see <http://www.westchesterpower.org/rates/rates-so-far/>

NEW PARKING ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY IN USE The Town has been working to improve parking availability in the hamlets – this for convenience of shoppers and also because parking is the lifeblood of our businesses. Given the highly limited opportunities of increasing the number of spaces, turn over in spaces is key. As such, we have been focusing on ensuring that the posted parking time limits are observed. Working with the Police Department and the service which handles the processing of parking tickets, we recently put in place new technology to help our parking enforcement bureau. The Bedford Police will no longer be utilizing the traditional "chalking of tires" method to monitor overtime parking. Gone are those chalk sticks (maybe we should offer them to the Smithsonian). New License Plate Reader (LPR) technology is now in use. Vehicles are now monitored through state of the art Global Positioning System (GPS) technology which alerts our parking enforcement officers to vehicles that are in violation of our overtime restrictions. In addition, this new technology identifies scofflaw vehicles as well.

POLICE STATION RENOVATION The Board approved going out to bid for the construction of the project. This \$7 million project should get underway during the winter. The project is a complete renovation of the existing police station with two additions. It is significantly less expensive than alternative plans for a two story building or an entirely new building estimates for which exceeded \$12 million. Construction is scheduled to begin in January 2017 and be completed in January 2018.

GRAND OPENING OF RECYCLING CENTER Supervisor Chris Burdick, members of the Town Board and Public Works Commissioner Kevin Winn, carried out a "ribbon cutting" this past Saturday, October 29 for the Town of Bedford's New and Relocated Recycling Center at 343 Railroad Avenue in Katonah (a ¼ mile south of Harris Road). The site is at no expense to the Town thanks to the NYS Department of Transportation, the owner of the property. We have received positive comments from the community on the new facility. Please follow the link <http://www.bedfordny.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/10-29-16-Recycling-Center-Supervisors-Remarks.pdf> for the many we thank who made the new Recycling Center a reality

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT/PUBLIC WORKS Those driving by the Town's Highway Yard on Adams Street may have noticed the substantial work underway. It's part of a \$2.5 million project to improve the facility. With the relocation of the recycling center (see item above regarding grand opening) to its new home on Railroad Avenue, work now is underway to expand

the highway garage, install a salt shed for improved, environmentally friend storage of salt and provide better facilities. While not an entirely new building, it is substantially less than the \$14 to \$15 million estimated under earlier plans (at a time when the economy was healthier and the Town's budget might have been able to accommodate it). The plan will meet department needs for decades to come.

UPDATE ON KATONAH RAILROAD CROSSING - Director of Planning Jeff Osterman and Commissioner of Public Works Kevin Winn discussed a report recently received from CTC, Inc., consultants for Metro North Railroad, regarding proposed improvements to the railroad grade crossing at Jay Street in Katonah. Mr. Osterman explained that one of the key recommendations of the report is to implement the design plan created by the Town and Hahn Engineering ten years ago that would create a more defined pedestrian crossing and move the entrance to commuter parking lot #1 to the east to permit a left turn lane entering this parking lot. Mr. Winn discussed the other recommendations involving signs and pavement markings and stated that many of the suggestions have already been implemented. The report will be reviewed by the Town's Traffic Safety Working Group who will transmit their observations to Metro North

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@nyenate.gov, 914-934-5350
- State Assemblyman Buchwald: buchwaldd@assembly.state.ny.us, 914-244-4450

PARKING IN THE HAMLET BUSINESS Districts

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).

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.

VACANCY ON RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A position on the committee is open for a resident of the Bedford Village Park District. You can find information about RPAC at [link]. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please e-mail a cover letter and resume to supervisor@bedfordny.gov.

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

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 blower, 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
Chris Burdick
Town Supervisor