



Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – April 30, 2017



2016 AUDIT REPORT

The Town's auditing firm, PKF O'Connor Davies, has issued the results of the Town's financial operations for the year ended December 31, 2016. The 2016 Audit Report among other things shows a \$1,117,000 increase in unappropriated General Fund balances and an increase of \$452,000 in unappropriated Highway Fund balances. The full report will be available shortly on the Town's website.

HIGHWAY

Work during the month of March included snow and ice removal, pothole patching, maintenance of drainage systems, and dirt road grading. A 14" snow storm on March 13 dropped lots of heavy wet snow and some sleet on the Town. DPW, Parks, and Building employees along with outside contractors did an excellent job responding to the storm, clearing the roads, and making the hamlets look like the storm never happened. Westchester County will be paving Greenwich Road in April.

GENERAL AND HIGHWAY FUND

Expenditures for the General and Highway are at the 25% mark as of March 31. It is important to note that, in both funds, there are seasonal expenditures that affect the overall percentage. However, after analyzing the individual departments within both funds, there are no unusual levels of expenditures recorded for the period.

COMPTROLLER'S MONTHLY UPDATE

Mortgage Tax. Based on information obtained from the Westchester County Clerk's office, we have been able to project that the first installment of the Mortgage Recording tax due in April will be slightly higher than originally reported; in the \$500,000 range. Projections for the rest of the year indicate that we will meet or slightly exceed the budgeted amount.

Sales Tax. Projections for sales tax revenue continue to demonstrate that the \$2,480,000 budgeted for 2017 will be exceeded by over \$100,000. At this point, we are optimistic that the same trend will continue for the rest of the year and that our estimates will be realized.

Parking. As the result of the increase in the daily parking fees approved by the Town Board effective January 1, 2017, we are seeing a boost in parking revenue. Based on the revenues collected in the first three months of the year, we are projecting being able to surpass the budgeted amount by about \$100,000. Based on the Town Board's recently approved increase in the resident parking rate, once we start selling 2017 parking permits we will be able to better project revenues for the year.

Fines and Forfeited Bail. Collection of fines are recorded a month in arrears due to the timing of the processing by the NYS Office of Court Administration. Fines collected in first two months are slightly higher than in 2016. At this point, we will meet or exceed the amount budgeted for the year.

Safety Inspections. The trend in collections of Safety Inspection fees reported in February continue. The total collected during the first quarter of 2017 are at the 50% level in comparison to 2016. We will continue to monitor these revenues and make recommendations. However, we need to keep in mind that the warmer months historically bring more activity in this area.

GREAT NEWS - ALL OF I-684 RUNNING THROUGH BEDFORD TO BE PAVED

I am delighted to share with you some great news. In a follow up call with NYS Department of Transportation Regional Director Todd Westhuis, he reported that DOT in 2018 will proceed with the paving of I-684 from Harris Road to the Exit 5/6 interchange (at Route 35). This is in addition to the funding which Assemblyman Buchwald helped secure for the portion from the Route 172 interchange to Harris Road which will be carried out in 2017.

My thanks goes to the community for making your voices heard. The petition drive, the letter writing, the phone calls, the lobbying, the work of our elected representatives collectively paid off. [Click here](#) for the press release

BEDFORD HILLS TRAIN STATION GRAND RE-OPENING RECEPTION

On Thursday evening, April 6, 2017, we celebrated the grand re-opening of the Bedford Hills train station following its restoration to its former glory from the early 20th century. The event, which the Bedford Hills Neighborhood Association co-sponsored with and the Town, was well attended. Folks who had seen the before station marveled at the restoration of the high ceilings, ceiling lighting, ceiling fans, wall sconces and wainscoting. The event was hosted by Chris Burdick Town Supervisor; Lee V.A. Roberts Deputy Supervisor; Maryann Carr Councilwoman; and Don Scott Councilman. Our Superintendent of Recreation and Parks did his usual fabulous job as MC and arranging the reception. Many who contributed so heavily to this project were thanked and acknowledged. We also thank the Bedford Hills merchants who supported this event. Pizza, deserts, wine, sparkling water, flowers were all in abundance.

We are delighted that the newly renovated station now is available for Town activities, community events and use by community organizations and even for private parties (imagine a birthday party in the beautiful venue). Superintendent of Recreation & Parks Bill Heidepriem has posted to the Town's website a facility use forms and fee schedule should you be interested, [click here](#).

POTHOLE REPAIRS SEASON HAS OPENED

As to potholes you find in our Town roads, please call our Pothole Hotline at 666-7669 or feel free to contact me at 666-6530 or Supervisor@bedfordny.gov.

For potholes on state roads in our Town, such as Routes 22, 117, 121, 137 and 172 we would suggest that you call NYS's pothole line at 1-800-POTHOLE.

MISSION 16, Saturday, May 20, 2017 – HONOR FLIGHT FOR WWII VETERANS

Come cheer on veterans from the greatest generation as they depart on Hudson Valley Honor Flight's Mission 16 to Washington D.C. on May 20, 2017. All are welcome to honor our heroes and give them the sendoff and welcome home that many of them never received but they so rightfully deserve. [Click here](#) for the flyer.

TRAFFIC SAFETY WORKING GROUP

Bedford Village Traffic Calming Measures along Village Green; The design for the traffic calming measures has been approved. The existing crosswalk will be changed to a raised concrete block crosswalk that looks like brick. A speed hump is also set to be added near the church on the Route 172 side. Hahn Engineering drafted the design and presented it to the Bedford Village Historic District Review Commission. After some minor modifications, the plan was presented again to the commission and was approved. These measures are set to be implemented in summer 2017 and coincide with the paving in the Village Green area.

Haines Road/Bedford Road Crosswalk; NYS DOT has given its permission to place a rapid-flash beacon at the crosswalk. The beacon goes below the sign indicating the crosswalk. They are currently trying to secure funding.

Parkway/Katonah Avenue; the island on the east side of Parkway is slated to be extended out to create a “refuge island” in summer 2017. The northeast corner of the intersection has been changed to a parking spot. The parking spot idea has seemed to work better than the previous idea of placing flower baskets in the area.

Vehicle Weight Scales; a second set of scales has been acquired. There was a delay in the state certifying the scales; however, both sets are now ready to be deployed. One commercial vehicle detail has been scheduled each month between May and September. The officers will be checking for gross vehicle weight, in addition to other items such as uncovered loads and missing placards. The goal of these inspections is to reduce truck traffic in the hamlets and throughout the town. Don Scott brought up the local delivery only signs which are placed in certain locations in the town. Chief Padilla stated that the law, as written, is too ambiguous to enforce properly. Chris Burdick and Jeff Osterman will look at the previous research done on the signs and law and see if there are any improvements that can be made.

Speed Limit Enforcement on Route 172; the last speed study was done in October 2016. This study found that the 85% of drivers were doing an average speed of 47 MPH on this stretch of road. Chief Padilla brought up that officers have mentioned that one side of the roadway is 35 MPH and the other side is 30 MPH. The same situation exists on Route 35. Kevin Winn said he would look into the signage and bring any inconsistencies to the attention of NYS DOT. A traffic study is currently being conducted now to see if there has been any abatement in speed in this area. Once the study is completed next week, the speed board will be deployed to this area as a short-term fix. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the feasibility of installing speed camera signs or actual speed cameras to deter speeding in the area.

OVERHAUL OF HISTORIC BUILDING PRESERVATION LAW

The Town Board, following a well- attended public hearing with many presenting their views, adopted amendments to the Historic Building Preservation Law. Each property owner subject to the law was mailed notice of the public hearing (and had previously been notified of public information sessions held last year and one held this year). The amendments include adoption of a list of historic properties; reduction in the number of historic properties subject to regulation; reduction in the authority of the Historic Building Preservation Commission (the

HBPC review authority is limited to the 258 properties in “Tier 1”), clear establishment of "as of right" activities (no historic approval required); a new administrative permit to cut time and expense; and plain English rewrites of several provisions of the law. The Town Board also adopted a resolution for a partial rebate in building permit fees for historic work.

SUPPORT FOR INSTALLATION OF REPLACEMENT FIRE TOWER AT WARD POUND RIDGE RESERVATION

The Board adopted a resolution urging Westchester County to proceed with the largely community-funded effort to install a replacement fire tower a short distance for Pell Hill in Ward Pound Ridge Reservation. The tower would provide a magnificent view of the tristate area, draw visitors and be a boon financially for the park and local businesses.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LANDLORD REGISTRY LAW

The Board discussed further changes being recommended by Town Counsel and the Building Inspector providing the following: changing inspection period from every two years to every three years; adding mixed used commercial/residential properties (about 15 to 20); exempting owner-occupied units from the inspection fee (but they would be subject to inspection; and clarifying certain language.

SAVE THE DATES FOR ANNUAL CLEAN UP WEEKEND - MAY 6 AND 7

The Town will be alive with activity in this time honored tradition as we work to clean out our attics and garages, buy treasures at rummage sales and tag sales (for next year's Clean Up weekend), buy and plant flowers and generally beautify our wonderful Town. We applaud Chowder & Marching Club, Katonah Village Improvement Society, the Katonah Presbyterian Church, to name only a few who make it such a great event. The Town's highway facility off of Crusher Road in Bedford Village will be open. [Click here](#) for more information

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