



Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – September 30, 2017



FROM OUR COMPTROLLER ~ FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT – AUGUST 2017 EXPENDITURES

General and Highway Funds. Detailed expenditure reports for both the General and Highway have been included this month as part of the financial report. The overall expenditure percentage for the General and Highway Funds are within normal ranges as of July 30, 2017. The General Fund is at 62.10% while the Highway Fund is slightly under at 55.59% for the year. These percentages are normal at this point in the year.

REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE

Mortgage Tax. Based on the information provided by the Westchester County Clerk's Office and projections based on actual year to date mortgage taxes we are anticipating exceeding the \$1,040,000 budgeted for 2017.

Sales Tax. We are in receipt of the second quarter's share of sales tax which validated our projections. The two payments of \$630,067 and \$642,909 for the first two quarters of the year along with the projected amounts for the next two quarters will not only allow the Town to meet the total budgeted for the year but exceed the projected revenues by over \$100,000 by year's end. The information provided by the County as of July 2017 validates our projections through the end of the year.

Parking. Parking revenues recorded through July 31 indicate that year-to-date we are running 16% above the same period in 2016. We are anticipating exceeding the \$930,000 budgeted for the year by at least \$100,000.

Fines and Forfeited Bail. The collection of fines imposed by the Justice Court are recorded a month in arrears due to the timing of the processing by the NYS Office of Court Administration. Fines collected from January through July are 23% higher than for the same period in 2016. Our current projections for the rest of the year indicate that we will exceed budget by over \$200,000.

Safety Inspections. Safety Inspections fees in August have been recorded and show that in comparison to the same period in 2016, these revenues are 46% lower than last year. However, we need to keep in mind that in July of 2016, one building permit for over \$180,000 was issued and has skewed projections for 2017. If we were to exclude that fee collected in 2016, revenues in 2017 are only 23% below normal collections during 2016. Projections through the end of 2017 are still well below the amount budgeted for year.

RULES OF THE ROAD FOR CYCLISTS; SAFETY TIPS FOR WALKERS; TIPS FOR CROSSING THE STREET AND MOTORISTS

At the request of residents I included in my weekly e-news a section on rules of the road.

Motorists and sharing the road with bicyclists: When parked on the street, check for bicyclists approaching from behind you before opening your car door.

Always exercise due care to avoid colliding with any person walking or bicycling. Always be vigilant when pedestrians are present, especially those with visual or physical impairments.

Bicyclists are fully entitled to use the road and have the right to “take the lane” by positioning themselves at or near the center of the lane when needed to avoid hazards or if the lane is too narrow to safely travel side by side with motorists.

Pass bicycles only when necessary and safe: pass to the left of the bicycle at a safe distance until safely clear. When in doubt, wait until you can pass at a safe speed. Before making a right turn, let bicyclists clear the intersection. When turning left or entering a roadway, yield to oncoming bicyclists as you would to any vehicle.

Some of you may have heard of the tragic deaths earlier this month of two cyclists, one in Stony Point and the other not far from our area. We also are concerned about the safety of walkers and pedestrians. While we implore drivers to observe speed limits and other rules of the road, we also wish to share with you rules and tips for cyclists and pedestrians some of which a Bedford resident compiled and sent to me.

CYCLISTS

New York State law mandates the following related to cyclists:

1. Travel WITH traffic (i.e. on the same side of the road) and obey all vehicle laws (stop at stop lights, etc.)
2. Are not allowed on sidewalks
3. Helmets (protective head gear) are required
4. No headphones, ear buds, or other noise cancelling devices are allowed in more than 1 ear.
5. Horn/bell audible for 100 feet
6. Lighting required a half hour before dusk until a half hour after dawn.
7. Cyclists are required to use appropriate hand signals.

SAFETY TIPS FOR WALKERS

1. Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk always walk facing traffic.
2. Dress to be seen. Brightly colored clothing makes it easier for drivers to see you during the daytime. At night, wear special reflective material on your shoes, cap or jacket to reflect the headlights of cars coming towards you.

TIPS FOR CROSSING THE STREET

1. Cross only at corners or marked crosswalks.
2. Stop at the curb, or the edge of the road.
3. Stop and look left, then right, then left again, before you step into the street.
4. If you see a car, wait until it goes by. Then look left, right and left again until no cars are coming.
5. Keep looking for cars while you are crossing, and remember, Walk. Don't run.
6. If a car is parked where you are crossing, make sure there is no driver in the car. Then go to the edge of the car and look left-right-left until no cars are coming.

WITH MORE FREQUENT SEVERE STORMS OCCURRING I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO SHARE SOME WEATHER RELATED TIPS

Hurricanes and Tropical storms can wreak havoc in many ways, with lashing winds, torrential rains, and inundating storm surges.

Prepare for a hurricane by stocking up on food, water, protective clothing, medications, batteries, flashlights, important documents, road maps, and a full tank of gasoline.

As a storm unfolds listen to local authorities on radio or television (battery operated in the event of an outage). Evacuation routes often close as a storm develops. Dedicated professionals and improved technology have made hurricane forecasting more accurate than ever before—but it's far from precise.

If forced to weather a storm, get inside the most secure building possible and stay away from windows.

Avoid downed wires – they can be live. Report downed wires to your local utilities. In the case of an emergency call 911. Click [here](#) for more information regarding hurricane and tropical storm preparedness.

And for weather related tips click [here](#) and enter location you would like information about.

THIS YEAR AND MOVING FORWARD PARKING ENFORCEMENT IN COMMUTER LOTS IS SUSPENDED FOR ROSH HASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR

COMMUNITY COMPOST BINS ARE HERE!

Bedford 2020 now has compost bins available for Town residents who want to collect organic kitchen waste and take it to the Town Recycling Center. For \$25 you can purchase 2 bins and a roll of compostable bag liners for \$5. Click here for a brief instructional video and more information <http://bedford2020.org/community-compost-video/>

2017-2018 ADULT SEASONAL INFLUENZA & VACCINATION INFORMATION

Fall is here and with it the unofficial start of the flu season. Please follow the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendations for flu prevention and treatment:

- 1) Get vaccinated
- 2) If you do contract the flu, talk to your doctor about antivirals
- 3) Take these everyday steps to protect your health:
 - a. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
 - b. Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
 - c. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
 - d. Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- 4) Stay home if you are sick until at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever (100 degrees+) or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine). Follow public health advice regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures.

For more information on seasonal flu, you can go to the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu> .

TEMPORARY PARKING RULE CHANGES ON VILLAGE GREEN, BEDFORD VILLAGE

Crews began construction this past Monday to provide a raised crosswalk. The project, which may take as much as a month, temporarily takes out of service 10 to 12 parking spaces. To ease the impact on patrons, customers and businesses, the Town Board adopted a resolution providing temporary changes in the parking rules in the hamlet center, including a reduction in

the parking time limit to 30 minutes from 1 hour for eight parking spaces from Court Road towards the entrance to the fire station and an increase from 1 hour to 2 hours for the next three spaces. It also provides an increase from 1 hour to 2 hours for two spaces in front of the Bedford Playhouse building. We're interested in feedback from the community to help us determine whether after the project is completed, we might keep the changes in place. Our thanks to the Bedford Presbyterian Church for their generosity in allowing the public to use during the course of the construction project parking in the Church lot behind the Church. We ask the cooperation of business owners and their employees to use such parking or street parking on Court Road (those spaces further toward BVES which do not have a limit).

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE BROADBAND (*Altice USA asked we share the following information*)

Altice USA is pleased to announce the launch of Economy Internet, an affordable option for fast, high quality Optimum Internet connectivity at home for households that qualify for the National School Lunch Program and senior citizens that qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). This service is available to new Optimum Internet customers.

Details of the service can be found at www.geteconomyinternet.com.

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING OUR TOWN

Vacancies on Boards and Committees (updated 9/20/17)

There is one vacancy on the Recreation and Parks Advisory (RPAC) Committee; must be a Bedford Hills resident. For more information on the Committee, please [click here](#).

There is one vacancy on the Tree Advisory Board (TAB). The ideal candidate would be a certified arborist. For more information on the Board, please [click here](#).

There is one vacancy on Committee on Seniors. For more information on the committee, please [click here](#).

If you are interested in serving, please e-mail your resume with a cover letter to supervisor@bedfordny.gov.

APPOINTMENTS AND RE-APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

At the September 19 Town Board meeting the Board appointed and re-appointed the following individuals. Roger Savitt was re-appointed to the Open Space Committee; Ellis Cousens, Lloyd Trufelman and Janet Walsh were re-appointed to the Filming Committee; Michael Weisburger was appointed to the Traffic Safety Working Group; Marjorie Brown was appointed to the Committee on Seniors.

At the September 1 Town Board Meeting the Board re-appointed John Stockbridge to the Historic Building Preservation Commission; Fred Silverman was re-appointed to the Filming Committee; Lauren Smith was re-appointed and Lynn Bayuk was appointed to the Drug Abuse Prevention Council (DAPC)

TOWN STEPS TO REGULATE LEAF BLOWERS

Several municipalities in Westchester County and other municipalities throughout the state and the Nation regulate the use of leaf blowers. The regulations range from seasonal bans to full or partial prohibition. Concerns regarding leaf blowers, among others, are noise, pollution, dust, spread of plant disease, removal of top soil. We are considering regulation which would take effect in 2018. We are evaluating regulations from other communities, but before developing any specific proposal, are soliciting input. Following the busy Fall season for landscapers, we will meet with them in December to begin a conversation and address concerns, as their livelihood would be affected. As we move ahead, I will be providing updates. Of course, we wish to hear from residents of the Town and businesses who may be affected and will provide ample opportunity for views to be expressed. Please let us know yours.

Leaf Blower Use – Please Be Considerate

And in the meantime.... please be considerate on the use of leaf blowers – and if you use a landscaper, please ask your landscaper to be considerate as well. You and, as applicable, your landscaper might consider alternatives to the use of leaf blowing such as mowing over them to create nutritious mulch for your lawn. Please also consider the following:

- Reduce noise by running blowers at the lowest throttle speed and for the minimum time needed.
- Run blowers one at a time and do not idle for more than one minute.
- Consider using electric blowers, which are quieter and less polluting (the price of electric mowers has come down quite a bit and their power has increased)
- Use rakes or clean-up garden beds by hand.
- On pavement and driveways, do final clean-up with a broom.
- Be courteous and don't blow near people and pets.
- Avoid blowing debris into neighbors' yards, the street and towards windows and doors.

PHASE 2 OF KVIS BEAUTIFICATION PLAN

The Board approved phase 2 of the superb beautification plan for Katonah Avenue in front of the train station. The first phase was completed last year with the Town providing park personnel for the plantings and KVIS providing professionally prepared planting plans and \$12,000 in plant material. This covered the area from Edgemont to the stairs to the station. Phase 2 covers from the fire hydrant to the gazebo. This will entail from \$8,000 to \$10,000 in plant material KVIS will donate and over \$8,000 in Town furnished labor. We thank KVIS for making this partnership possible to move ahead with a significant beautification of Katonah Avenue.

CON EDISON WORK NOTICE

Con Edison is replacing the gas main on 117 between Norm Avenue and Woodland Road in Bedford Hills. NYSDOT required night work to minimize traffic disruption. If you have any questions, please contact Westchester Public Affairs at 1-914-925-6361 or dl-WestchesterRCA@coned.com. [Click here](#) for the notice.

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