



Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – October 31, 2017



FOR THE TENTATIVE 2018 BUDGET click [here](#) (1 of 2) and [here](#) (2 of 2)

As previously reported, I had appointed Comptroller Abraham Zambrano as the Budget Officer for the 2018 operating budget. Pursuant to requirements of NYS law, the Budget Officer submitted the tentative 2018 budget to the Town Clerk which she will be presenting to the Town Board prior to November 10. The Town Board will consider any revisions in the tentative budget at its November 9 and/or November 21 meetings and adopt it, together with any revisions, whereupon it becomes the preliminary 2018 budget. Highlights of the tentative budget are as follows:

- The budget remains within the allowable tax cap of 2.79%.
- The budget provides for all contractual obligations in place with the Town's three bargaining units.
- The budget is relatively flat
- On the revenue side, the following *changes* over 2017 operating budget:
 - \$667,754 as the allowable growth in the tax levy
 - An additional \$26,000 in water revenues.
 - An increase of \$200,000 in parking permit revenue due to an anticipated 100 additional permits being sold and an increase in daily parking fees; \$50,000 in franchise fees; \$60,000 in fines and penalties; decrease of \$75,000 in building permits (this decrease is being made in order to bring that revenue in line with the anticipated activity for the year); an increase of \$7500 in rental of real property; and \$26,000 in water revenues; Park & Recreation Fees of \$6,875, Electric Vehicle Charging Stations of \$2,500
- On the expenditure side, the following changes:
 - Paving in the amount of \$1,325,000; an increase of \$175,000 over the 2017 budget.
 - \$90,000 contingency for future unbudgeted expenses.

- \$174,333 for contractually obligated salary increases for union employees and for non-represented employees,
- \$150,000 for debt service
- \$293,000 for an increase in health insurance premiums and \$67,000 for workers' compensation insurance.
- \$128,400 increase in the following areas: \$5,000 in additional funding for each of the three Hamlet Libraries; increases for care for the Bedford Oak, municipal buildings maintenance, an expansion of the summer intern program, seasonal overtime for the parks, special recreation events, Town co-sponsored events, update for the Climate Action Plan (see below) and the Energize Residential program, a domestic abuse program in collaboration with other northern Westchester communities; and funding for a Senior Advocate Program.

FROM OUR COMPTROLLER ~ FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Town Comptroller Abraham Zambrano reported on October 16 to the Town Board on results through September 30

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 September 30, 2017. The General Fund is at 69.47% while the Highway Fund is slightly under at 61.30% for the year. These percentage are normal at this point in the year.

REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE

Mortgage Tax. The numbers reported for the month September by the Westchester County Clerk's Office and projections based on actual year to date mortgage taxes are now indicating that we will be slightly under the budgeted amount. At this point we will await for the numbers to be updated; we could end up with a short deficit of \$40k in mortgage tax.

Sales Tax. 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 year's end. Based on historical data and projections we are anticipating that the third quarter payment will be over \$645,000 or 2.27% higher than the third quarter in 2016. Forecasts through the end of the year show that we will exceed the \$2,600,000 mark or \$120,000 in excess of the 2017 budgeted amount of \$2,480,000.

Parking. Parking revenues recorded through September 30th are still indicating that year-to- date we are collecting parking fees that are 16% above the same period in 2016. The increase is due to the Board-approved fee escalation as well as the staff's dedication to better manage the lots. We will continue to monitor the use of permits in order to bring further efficiencies and the generation of additional revenues. At this point, we are anticipating exceeding the \$1 million dollar mark in parking revenues by the end of 2017.

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 August have generated \$530,000 or \$74,000 higher than the same period in 2016.

Safety Inspections. Safety Inspections fees in September increased considerably from August to September. However, based on the amount collected to date, we are still 10.92% lower than in 2016. Projections through the end of 2017 are still well below the \$700,000 amount budgeted for year.

UPDATE ON CERTAIN TOWN PROJECTS

SEWER PROJECT

The Town's engineers, Woodard & Curran, remain on schedule regarding design of the sewer system. We appreciate the cooperation of property owners in the district working with our engineers. We anticipate that the design work will be completed as early as next summer with construction contracts to be entered into late summer/early Fall and completion 12 to 18 months thereafter. The Town also is working with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) on operation and maintenance agreements and other agreements. DEP will be contributing \$12.8 million toward project costs as a cost-efficient alternative to wastewater treatment upgrades at Katonah Elementary School, property of St. Mary's Church and Bedford Park Apartments. DOCCS will be turning over to the Town operation of its wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and become a customer of the Sewer District contemporaneously with the Town's entering into the construction contracts. Other funding sources include up to \$6.5 million in Water Quality Improvement Program funds originally provided by DEP over which Westchester County is fiduciary and \$1.2 million in sewer bonds, solely a responsibility of property owners in the Sewer District. No Town taxes will be applied to the project.

ADAMS STREET HIGHWAY GARAGE UPGRADES

Having completed the Salt Shed earlier this year, the Highway Department is prepared for the winter season for environmentally friend storage of salt, meeting concerns of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Highway employees have installed significant drainage improvements required as part of the salt shed project. The portion of the lot by the salt shed will be paved in the next few weeks.

BEDFORD VILLAGE CROSSWALK

The raised crosswalk in front of the Bedford Fire House is in place and soon will be followed by a speed hump further to the East later this Fall, after which the Village Green road will be re-paved. The Town also is proceeding with its phased street lamp replacement and beautification with eleven replacement street lamps to be installed by Spring 2018. The Town Board extended to November 30 the temporary change in parking regulations to allow the business community more experience with it and whether it may be beneficial to make the changes permanent.

POLICE STATION RENOVATIONS AND ADDITIONS

Following the previously reported environmental remediation required by the Westchester County Department of Health, the project has proceeded with foundations for the addition having been poured and interior work soon will commence. Completion now is expected May 2018. [Click here](#) for the update of Calgi Construction, construction managers.

KATONAH RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING

We earlier reported that following the tragedy at Valhalla Metro North crossing, the Federal Railway Administration has been moving ahead with review of and action on safety measures at

railway crossings. The US Department of Transportation today has installed a camera to monitor traffic conditions prior to installing flashing “do not stop on tracks” signs. The camera will be mounted on a NYSEG pole by the entrance to Lot 1. The proposed signs will only flash during conditions that indicate vehicles may be stopped on the tracks. The Town will continue to work Federal and State authorities and the MTA to improve the safety of the crossing.

UPDATE ON CON EDISON GAS LINE WORK ON ROUTE 117

I have been working with Con Edison with regard to their safety-driven work on the gas line along Route 117. Please note status as follows:

Metal Plates The project, which runs from Bedford Hills to Mt. Kisco entails considerable work including the installation of temporary large steel plates which, of course, later will be removed following the completion of the project. I have brought to Con Edison's attention resident concerns that in trying to avoid the plates, some motorists steer into the oncoming lane of traffic. To remedy this safety hazard, Con Edison will be recessing plates so they will lie flush with the road surface. This will have some impact on the November 15 target completion date. I appreciate Con Edison's responsiveness to this safety concern.

Restoration of Route 117 Following Completion of Work

Con Edison has advised me as following: "As per our restoration department after consulting with NYSDOT, the restoration of route 117 will take place early spring of 2018. The NYSDOT specification on that road is a two foot cutback on both sides of the trench, filled with an 8 inch base, 2.5 inch binder and 2 inch of super pave top. On route 117 that will encompass curb to center line of the road for the entire trench. For the winter it will remain the way it is now on areas we have completed."

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 UPDATED notice

BEDFORD 2020 UPDATE FOR TOWN'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2018 is a big year as it represents the ten-year mark of the Town committing to communitywide climate action goals. There is a need and major opportunity in 2018 for the Town to assess how far we've come in addressing the measures laid out in the Climate Action Plan; report progress/achievements to the Bedford community, and use this as a platform for establishing new, post-2020 strategic targets.

Bedford 2020 is in a unique position to lead a 2018 greenhouse gas inventory and climate action plan assessment, and to develop a messaging campaign to convey and celebrate the Town's climate action achievements over the past 10 years to the community:

- Bedford 2020 leaders directed the baseline and 2014 Bedford greenhouse gas inventories
- Bedford 2020 created, lead and implemented -- in partnership with the Town -- majority of the community programs established to address the measures in the Climate Action Plan
- Bedford 2020's primary expertise is outreach and communications to the community on climate action issues, programs and progress

Implementation of the Town's Climate Action Plan is achieving significant cost savings to residents and businesses reducing energy use while cutting greenhouse gas emissions. We're also saving tax dollars in reducing the Town's energy costs.

FOR THE OPEN SPACE VIDEO FEATURING CO-CHAIR GLENN TICEHURST, CO-CHAIR OF THE OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION COMMITTEE click [here](#)
REFERENDUM ON OPEN SPACE LEVY

After voting for candidates of your choice on November 7, please don't forget to turn over the ballot. Including among the several ballot measures is a proposal which the Town Board placed on the ballot with respect to the Open Space tax levy. Presently the levy is 1% of the amount for the General Fund and Highway Fund. It raises approximately \$200,000 each year for the purpose of acquisition of open space property for active and Passive Park and recreational uses and for surface and ground water protection. The proposal would increase the levy by one-quarter of one percent each year beginning in 2019 until 2022 at which point it would remain at 2%. Comptroller Abraham Zambrano's estimates that at the end of phase-in the increase would raise \$415,838 and the annual cost to the average home owner (with an assessed value of \$65,000 or full market value of \$665,600 using 2017 State Equalization Rate) would rise from \$20.67 to \$46.13. The open space tax levy when first enacted was 3% and was reduced to 1% during the recession. In proposing the gradual increase to 2%, I noted that the phase-in starting in 2019 would better enable the Town to remain within the property tax cap. Of course, since the phase-in would not commence until 2019, the 2018 budget is unaffected, the tentative budget for which is tax-cap compliant. Click [here](#) for the Comptroller's June 1, 2017 Memorandum to the Board.

FOR THE 2018 TOWN OPERATING BUDGET, BEDFORD HILLS TRAIN STATION AGREEMENT, AND AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, DAVID ZAPSKY

Click [here](#)

EXCITING NEWS FOR SUSTAINABLE WESTCHESTER'S MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES: SOLARIZE WESTCHESTER RETURNS!

Are you interested in bringing the benefits of more low-cost clean energy to residents and small commercial property owners in your community? Due to popular demand, Solarize Westchester campaigns are returning! Click [here](#) for more information.

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.

NEW YORK LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS (NYLCV) AND SUSTAINABLE WESTCHESTER PLEDGE ON ZERO EMISSIONS VEHICLES (ZEV)

The Town Board approved the adoption of the ZEV Pledge as the Gold Tier making Bedford the first community in Westchester County to do so. The NYLCV and Sustainable Westchester have called upon municipal leaders to adopt a pledge to integrate into municipal fleets ZEVs, which include battery electric, hydrogen fuel cell and plug-in hybrids. This pertain to purchases or leases by the end of 2020 of new light-duty ZEV vehicles. The tiers are:

1. Tier 1: Gold Pledge - 10% of light-duty fleet.
2. Tier 2: Silver Pledge - 5% of light-duty fleet
3. Tier 3: Bronze Pledge - evaluate opportunities to include ZEVs in future.

I have identified at least two vehicles in our fleet of 14 light duty vehicles which under the Town's Capital Plan are scheduled for replacement by the end of 2020 and which can be replaced with mission-compatible and highly cost-efficient ZEVs. We anticipate that meeting the pledge both will reduce vehicle operating costs while bringing Bedford closer to meeting our Climate Action Plan goals.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY DECEMBER 16, 2017

The Town Board adopted a resolution in support of the National Wreaths Across America Day. We thank David Zapsky and Rodger Guest for bringing this to the attention of the Town Board.

The Town of Bedford wishes to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in protecting our Nation, to honor those who continue to serve and to teach our children the value of freedom; The National Wreaths Across America Day carries out the mission to "Remember, Honor and Teach" by promoting wreath-laying ceremonies in cemeteries throughout America; in the words of Karen Worcester, Executive Director of Wreaths Across America, "We are not here to 'decorate graves.' We're here to remember not their deaths, but their lives; the Town of Bedford Veterans Advisory Committee has recommended to the Town Board that the Town of Bedford participate in the National Wreaths Across America Day on December 16, 2017; be it resolved that the Town of Bedford hereby joins with the millions of others across America in participating in the National Wreaths Across America Day on December 16, 2017.

FOR THE MOST RECENT SEWER PROJECT STATUS UPDATE 10/27/17

Click [here](#)

HELP US KEEP OUR ROADS SAFE

Fall Leaf Collection

This Fall the Town's Department of Public Works once again will provide service to the community with bulk leaf collection in designated hamlet areas. If your property is in one of these areas, please minimize the amount that leaf piles occupy the roadway edges in order to allow for safe passage of vehicles. As usual, the tentative leaf schedule is posted on the Highway Division page - click [here](#)

Snow

We certainly are hoping that we don't have an early snowfall as we've had for a couple of Halloweens, but as a reminder, it is illegal to deposit snow from your property into the road or along the edges of the road. Doing so causes road safety issues and can result in traffic accidents and injuries.

THE CONSERVATION 2017 GREEN AWARDS recognized organizations and individuals who have made a difference in our hamlets by embracing several initiatives they are passionate about. The organizations recognized were Bedford Hills Live who has been working tirelessly toward the revitalization of downtown Bedford Hills; The Westchester Land Trust and Douglass DeCandia coordinates the Farm Growing Program for the Food Bank for Westchester; Fox Lane High School Student s Win Envirothon Hudson Valley Regional Competition, the Envirothon is a national environmental science competition sponsored by Canon U.S.A., the US Forest Service, the Canadian Forestry Association, and the National Association of Conservation Districts - the impressive Fox Lane team consists of Seniors Asha Grossberndt, Dylan Grant, and Natalie Colao, Junior Ethan Gatfield and Sophomore Cerina Karr. They dedicated hours of preparation in addition to existing school work, sports, and clubs, and have represented our community with dignity and class. Their passion and commitment to environmental sustainability serves as a model for us all; Ben Antin, Fox Lane High School "The Plastic Bag Project" - his creative concept involved obtaining student signatures (#) in

support of a plastic bag ban in Bedford and Mt. Kisco and arranging the preview of a film at the school describing the impact plastic has on our environment, "Bag It" ; Energize Bedford, the "Energize Bedford" campaign evaluated wasted energy use, level of comfort, costs and green solutions for 200 homes in Bedford, the highest number of assessments in New York state.

TRAFFIC SAFETY WORKING GROUP (TSWG)

The following items were covered at the October 19, 2017 meeting.

- Traffic Calming/Safety Measures
- Snow/Leaves on Town Roadways
- Speed Studies – Police Department

For the Meeting minutes, click [here](#)

TOWN STEPS TO REGULATE LEAF BLOWERS

Continuing our section on leaf blowers, click [here](#) for more information

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.

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