



Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – November 30, 2017



2018 BUDGET UPDATE

The Board adopted the preliminary budget and will hold a public hearing at 8 PM on December 5. Comptroller Abraham Zambrano who also serves as Budget Officer for the 2018 Budget, at my request and the request of the Board, has provided a budget which complies with the New York Property Tax Cap while also providing for all services with an improvement in certain areas. At the December 5 public hearing, he will further explain the budget through a presentation. We will hold open the public comment period until December 15 and after considering any comments and possible further revisions, the Town Board will adopt the budget at its December 19 meeting. You can access the Tentative Budget by clicking [here](#).

CAPITAL PLAN UPDATE

2018 to 2027 Ten Year Capital Plan - Though not required by law, the Town of Bedford for some time now has considered a long-term capital plan to be fiscally prudent and responsible (the credit rating agencies as well prefer such planning). Doing so helps avert unpleasant surprises. Our debt is structured conservatively in that our payments are higher in the early years of the bonds which results in quicker reduction in the Town's overall debt. This approach, which is endorsed by our financial advisors, enables the Town to "layer in" indebtedness down the line as unanticipated needs arise. Working with our Department Heads, Comptroller Zambrano presented the preliminary Capital Plan which the Town Board discussed at our work session. We will have another work session on December 5 and likely again on December 19 at which time we aim to adopt the Plan.

FROM OUR COMPTROLLER ~ FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Comptroller Abraham Zambrano reported on November 17 to the Town Board:

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 October 31, 2017. The General Fund is at 75.28% while the Highway Fund is slightly under at 70.20% for the year. As we near year end, department heads will be encumbering funds for expenses related to 2017 operations that will be paid in 2018.

REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE

Mortgage Tax. As reported for the month of September, the figures reported by the Westchester County Clerk's Office and projections based on actual year to date mortgage taxes are now indicating that we will end slightly under the budgeted amount for 2017. 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 amounts reported by the County's Finance Department show as substantial increase in sales tax for the month of September. Based on projections we are anticipating that the third quarter payment will be over \$692,232 or 2.27% higher than the third quarter in 2016. Forecasts through the end of the year show that we will exceed \$2,664,000 mark or \$182,000 in excess of the 2017 budgeted amount of \$2,480,000.

Parking. Parking revenues recorded through the end of October are indicating that we will be collecting parking fees that are 18% 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 2017 budgeted amount by \$140,000.

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 October have generated \$664,558 or \$94,247 higher than the same period in 2016.

Safety Inspections. Safety Inspections fees through October 31 are still lower than the same period in 2016. Based on projections, we will not be meeting the \$700,000 budgeted for the year. At this point, we will end the year with a deficit of \$143,951 or 16.23% below budget.

BEDFORD VILLAGE PARKING UPDATE

The Town has been working with the Bedford Village Business Association to revise the parking rules to improve availability of parking spaces and, in some areas, increase the limit of parking to two hours and other areas to decrease it to one-half hour. The Town Board will consider the recommendations at the December 5 meeting and if the Board is in agreement will schedule a public hearing for the December 19 meeting.

COMPLETION OF PAVING

The Highway Department has successfully completed all paving for the season which entailed 8 miles of the Town's 97 miles of paved roads.

UPDATE ON POLICE STATION RENOVATIONS AND ADDITIONS

As earlier reported, soil contamination resulted in approximately \$300,000 of unanticipated cost. Though we still are within the project budget, the cost entails a significant drawn on the contingency budget. The contamination removal together with delivery issues pertaining to specialty steel has

resulted in the anticipated completion of the project now being late summer or early fall of 2018. We are pleased with the quality of the work and construction management. While renovation of an existing building has its frustrations and issues, a completely new building may not have been possible (due to Westchester County Department of Health regulations pertaining to the septic system) and would have cost upwards of \$15 million. We will continue to keep the community apprised.

UPDATE ON CON EDISON GAS LINE WORK ON NEW YORK STATE ROUTE 117

I am very concerned about Con Edison's gas line work. There is no question that the work is required for safety and reliability. Our concern is that the Town had earlier been notified that the work would be limited to night hours so as to minimize disruption. Without notice to the Town, the work was switched to daytime. Daytime work during the height of the busiest time for our merchants is having a severe impact. Assemblyman Buchwald and I have been working diligently and continuously to secure cooperation from Con Edison. Daytime work now seems to be on and off again. We have impressed upon Con Edison that daytime work is drastically cutting into sales for merchants and causing holiday shoppers to buy on Amazon or elsewhere. I had earlier discussed with Con Edison the condition of the road, including the steel plates covering work in progress prompting drivers to avoid the steel plates by driving in the lane of oncoming traffic (the plates fortunately have been attended to).

I should mentioned that Route 117 is a state road and Assemblyman Buchwald has been in communication with the regional office of NYS Department of Transportation. Through his efforts the daytime work was suspended at least for several days. We thank him for all he is doing.

ENSURING COMPLIANCE AT CANINE COMMONS (DOG PARK)

Parking at the Dog Park is limited to those with permits for use of the park. The Town Board amended the Town's parking law to enable parking enforcement and animal control personnel to issue parking tickets to vehicles at the park which fail to display a permit for use of the dog park. A permit is key to safety as it will not be issued absent proof the dog has been vaccinated. In addition the Town has strictly limited the number of out of town permits, and enforcement is necessary to ensure compliance.

EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY PARKING RULES FOR BEDFORD VILLAGE

The parking rules in Bedford Village were extended through December 31 the temporary changes in parking limits (for example to one-half hour for four spaces fronting shops along the Village Green) to allow the Bedford Village Business Association, residents and others to provide feedback on the changes. While we believe at least some of the changes have been well received, we wish to provide additional time for consideration.

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE REPEAL OF CLEAN WATER ACT RULE

At the urging of Dr. Marian Rose, the Conservation Board and the Wetlands Control Commission, the Town Board adopted a resolution strongly opposing the Trump Administration's proposed repeal of a key rule of the Clean Water Act the result of which would be devastating to the protection of the Nation's drinking water. The repeal would remove from protection 2 million miles of streams, rivers and other water ways. Click [here](#) for the resolution.

TIPS ON PREPAYMENT OF 2018 PROPERTY TAXES

With possible changes in the federal tax law, some residents have contacted us regarding prepayment of 2018 property taxes. We are permitted under NYS tax law to collect a prepayment of the second half of 2017-18 school taxes, but without a tax warrant, we are not permitted to collect any prepayment of the Town tax bill which would be due by April 30 (we cannot generate the bills without the warrant). If you wish to prepay second half of 2017-18

school taxes in 2017, be sure the Bedford Tax Receiver receives payment on or before December 31, 2017 or transmittal of payment is postmarked on or before December 31, 2017. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Amy Pectol, Bedford Tax Receiver at 666-4475 or apectol@bedfordny.gov

FOR THE SUPERVISOR'S NOVEMBER SHOW FEATURING DR. WILLIAM T. SMITH, MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON SENIORS

The video included the status of the Operating Budget and 10 Year Capital Plan, and an Introduction to Dr. William T. Smith, Member of the Committee on Seniors. Click [here](#)

THE TOWN BOARD AT ITS NOVEMBER 21 MEETING APPROVED A REVISED HOLIDAY DISPLAY POLICY

click [here](#) for the policy and application

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Town of Bedford and the Veterans Advisory Committee is hosting a donation box for Toys For Tots this year. New, unwrapped toys can be brought to the drop box located at the Town Hall, 321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills.

U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program:

The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

WREATHS FOR AMERICA

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. Here are links and instruction on how to donate to the local cemeteries:

<http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/#our-supporters> and <https://wreaths.fastport.com/>

OPEN SPACE PROPOSITION

I am pleased to report that the Open Space proposition passed in Bedford with 62% of votes in favor (2704 votes) (the numbers will be certified by the Board of Elections and we will provide final numbers)

ELECTION DAY RESULTS

George Latimer was elected as County Executive

Kitley Covill was elected as County Legislator, D2

Chris Burdick was re-elected (unopposed) as Town Supervisor

MaryAnn Carr was re-elected as Councilwoman

Kate Galligan was elected as Councilwoman Boo Fumagalli was re-elected (unopposed) as

Town Clerk

Erik Jacobsen was re-elected (unopposed) as Town Justice

For Bedford election results: click [here](#)

For County election results: click [here](#)

FURTHER STEPS ON TRAFFIC SAFETY MEASURES FOR BEDFORD VILLAGE

As earlier reported, the Town of Bedford replaced the crosswalk in front of the Bedford Village Post Office with a raised crosswalk intended to increase visibility and reduce vehicle speed. As the next step in our plans for the Village Green road, today the Highway Department installed a speed hump in the southbound lane of the road before the entrance to Bedford Presbyterian Church. We will be paving the road later this fall.

Our thanks to the merchants, the Bedford Historical Society, the Bedford Village Library, the Bedford Fire Department and the Bedford Village Historic District Review Commission (who originally proposed safety measures some 10 years ago) all of whom have been instrumental in moving this project forward.

Our temporary parking rules will remain in effect through November 30, after which we hope that, working with the Bedford Village Business Association and others in the hamlet, we can make permanent some, all or a variation of those rules. We'd appreciate feedback!

FOR THE 11-28-17 SEWER PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Click [here](#)

REGULATION OF LEAF BLOWERS

I provided the Town Board an update on plans to adopt in 2018 regulations on use of leaf blowers. Deputy Supervisor Lee Roberts and I have been meeting with several residents concerned about the noise, pollution and health hazards which leaf blowers pose (see below discussion of the concerns). There are no specific measures which are being proposed – only that regulation in some form would be proposed. We have planned a meeting with landscapers in early December to consider their concerns. The Town Board will hold a work session for the second meeting of December or the first meeting in January to take the next steps.

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