



Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – December 30, 2017



**I wish to extend my best wishes for 2018.
Have a happy, healthy and safe New Year.**

THERE'S STILL TIME TO PREPAY TAXES IN 2017 - BUT TIME IS FAST RUNNING OUT

Town offices are now closed and will not re-open until January 2, 2018. Payment of taxes in 2017 may no longer be done in person. There are two remaining options for those who wish to pay taxes in 2017.

- **PAY TAXES ONLINE:** *Please note that for the payment of provisional 2018 County & Town, the online system will shut down immediately after 11:59 PM on Sunday, December 31, 2017.* Though the online system will otherwise remain open, if you wish to prepay second half 2017-18 school taxes, you still may pay them online but must do so prior to midnight on December 31, 2017 if you intend to have them credited as a 2017 payment. **Please [click here](#) to make a payment and follow the prompts to pay online using a credit card or ACH (also known as "eCheck")**
- **PAY TAXES BY MAIL** Payments which are mailed will be recorded as a 2017 payment *provided* the envelope is postmarked no later than Sunday, December 31, 2017. As post offices are closed nationwide on December 31, you must get to the post office no later than Saturday, December 30 to obtain a valid postmark. You might also consider obtaining a date-stamped proof of mailing, though not required.
- **GENERAL INFORMATION** And for general information on prepayment of 2018 taxes [click here](#)

- **NO TAX OPINION** *Although the Town is allowing the prepayment of provisional 2018 County and Town taxes as permitted under the Executive Order, we offer no opinion concerning the deductibility of any taxes paid for federal tax purposes. Property owners should consult with their own tax professionals for guidance with regard to the federal tax implications associated with these payments.*

2018 BUDGET UPDATE

At its December 19, 2017 Town Board Meeting the Board adopted the 2018 Budget and the 2018-2025 Capital Plan. The reports can be found on the Town's website finance page by clicking [here](#).

Adoption of 2018 Budget

Following five months of meetings with staff, department heads, Town Board work sessions and a public hearing on December 5 (followed by a public comment period which expired on December 5), the Town Board adopted the 2018 Town budget. The budget complies with the NYS Property Tax Cap, provides for a modest increase in service to the community and is fiscally prudent. Click [here](#) for the Supervisor Budget message and click [here](#) for the Comptroller's budget message. For the adopted budget 1 of 2 click [here](#), for 2 of 2 click [here](#).

Adoption of 2018-2027 Capital Plan The 10 year Capital Plan is an update from the 10 year plan adopted in 2016. Apart from ensuring that physical assets of the Town, such as buildings, equipment and vehicles, are properly maintained and replaced, as needed, the plan reflects recommendations and requests from the community. We adopted the plan at the December 19 and it will be posted to website shortly.

THE TOWN BOARD ADOPTED A RESOLUTION FOR STIPENDS FOR MEMBERS OF THE HISTORIC BUILDING PRESERVATION COMMISSION Click [here](#) for the resolution. For the last 20 years, stipends have been provided to the members of other permitting boards, i.e., the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Wetlands Control Commission. This provides an annual stipend of \$4000 for each member except the chairman who will receive \$5000. The HBPC normally meets twice monthly, one of which is for site walks and the second the regular meeting.

WORK SESSION ON PROCESS FOR ADOPTING LEAF BLOWER REGULATION

The Town Board met with a number of residents who have been meeting with Deputy Supervisor Lee Roberts and me with a view to adopting a local law in March. We discussed the process for engaging the public, including those that are concerned about the impacts of any such law, including landscapers, homeowners and those in town in the lawn and garden equipment business. As I mentioned previously, we are intent on soliciting input from such stakeholders. At the regular meeting the Board appointed a committee comprised of the entire Town Board and the following residents: Teresa Donkin, John Fry, Helene Kopal, Peter Kuniholm, Jeanne Markel, Fiona Mitchell and also a subcommittee to be comprised of landscapers who had participated in a meeting last month as well as others expressing impact concerns. The goal is to solicit a cross section of viewpoints.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CHANGES IN PARKING TIME LIMITS IN BEDFORD VILLAGE

We held the public hearing at which one commenter asked that we consider reducing the length of two parking spaces which perhaps would allow for the creation of another space. We then closed the public hearing and adopted the proposed changes which were endorsed by the Bedford Village Business Association. The changes will go into effect upon confirmation of filing with the Secretary of State's office.

THE TOWN BOARD ACCEPTED A GRANT FROM THE NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION for a Town Tree Inventory in the amount of \$43,305.90

PETITION FOR CHANGES IN THE TOWN LAW FOR HORSE OWNERSHIP

Horse property owners and others supporting the equestrian way of life here in Bedford. The petition may be accessed [here](#). Each member of the Town Board voiced strong support for protecting the equestrian character of our Town and is highly concerned hearing about prospective purchasers of horse properties (or properties which may be converted into horse properties) perceiving Bedford as horse "unfriendly" with too many regulations discouraging them from proceeding with plans. Under NYS law, the Town Board is required to seek the recommendations of our Planning Board with regard to any changes in our Zoning Code. I will be asking the Planning Board to consider the request for changes and provide recommendations by February 15. I wish to thank the ad hoc committee of horse property owners and advocates with whom I have been working for about two years on this matter.

CON EDISON UPDATE

I was in regular contact with Con Edison regarding the impact of their work. I share with you the email I received regarding the work along Route 117:

"I know you are fully aware of the pavement condition along Route 117 through Bedford Hills. The recent work by Con Ed has left numerous poorly compacted trench repairs along an approx. 6000' section of roadway in the southbound lane. The poor condition of the pavement, the roadway plates left in place (near Westchester Burger and Rivera Toyota), and the mounded pavement of some of these trench repairs present an operational problem for the NYSDOT in advance of the anticipated snowfall tomorrow. If our plows were to attempt to plow snow off this section of roadway, it would likely result in shifting of the plates, damage to the mounded pavement over the trench, damage to our plow trucks, and possible injury to our drivers. As such, we will unfortunately not be plowing the southbound lane through this section of Route 117 during tomorrow's storm. I have instructed my drivers to lift the plow blade and to drop a heavier application of salt along this area of the southbound lane.

I regret that this action will be necessary. I had hoped Con Ed would have made more careful repairs to the pavement after their excavation and backfilling these trenches. I can not however risk injury to my drivers or damage to our plow trucks. If you wish to discuss, you may contact me. Thank you for your understanding."

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE TOWN OF BEDFORD'S PARTICIPATION WITH BEDFORD 2020 IN "MEATLESS MONDAY"

The Town Board adopted the proposed following revisions to make it abundantly clear that the Town is not regulating food choices, but rather encouraging some minor changes in food consumption which collectively among us would have a significant impact on reducing our carbon footprint and which may also provide a healthier diet. The final resolution can be accessed [here](#).

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.

SUPERVISOR NEWS & NOTES: OPERATING BUDGET OF '18, PARKING PERMITS, 10 YR. CAPITAL PLAN, INTRODUCTION TO ANDREA RAISFELD, CHAIR OF FILM COMMITTEE

Click [here](#) for the video

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