



Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – January 31, 2018



PROPOSED PARKING LOT IN BEDFORD VILLAGE – PUBLIC FORUM

Monday, February 5 at Bedford Historical Hall at 7:00pm

The Town of Bedford is considering building a free municipal parking lot off of Court Road in Bedford Village on vacant land which the Town would purchase from the Bedford Presbyterian Church. Click [here](#) for the details.

Bedford Village Municipal Parking Project

For many years there has been discussion about expanding parking opportunities in the hamlet for businesses and for our residents and those who shop or do business in the Village. To fill the need, the Town Board is considering acquiring from Bedford Presbyterian Church vacant land off of Court Road to the East to develop municipal parking (a provision in the deed to the Church for part of the property stipulates that it must be free municipal parking). Click [here](#) for our new web page.

SUPERVISOR'S NEWS AND NOTES: CLOSE OF 2017 AND CONVERSATION WITH CO-CHAIRS OF THE LEAF BLOWER COMMITTEE

Click [here](#) for the video

LEAF BLOWERS An Open Discussion

Tuesday, February 13 at the Katonah Village Library at 7:30pm

Click [here](#) for the details

Background on Leaf Blower Initiative: 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 met with them earlier this month to begin a conversation and address concerns, as their livelihood would be affected. As we move

ahead, I will continue to provide 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. 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.

UPDATE ON POLICE STATION RENOVATION

Drive past the Police Station undergoing renovation. You'll notice some significant progress with steel for the additions and front having been installed and the "shell" going into place. The excavation is now behind us, both inside and out. We've also gotten over some humps in the road (structural steel fabrication, replace entire existing concrete floor slab found to be insufficient due to high moisture content with no vapor barrier and previously mentioned removal of contaminated soils). We are doing our utmost to hew to the revised project schedule for completion in late summer. We are pleased with the quality of work, construction management and the overall oversight of the project.

As to costs, we set a project cost and corresponding bond issue of \$7 million. With the unanticipated contaminated soil removal (at a cost of \$280,000) and other unforeseen problems, we have only about \$50,000 of contingency remaining. It may be that the final work will go over the \$7 million figure, though we are doing our utmost to stay within it. To put it in perspective a 2006 feasibility study performed for the Town put the cost of new police station facilities at approximately \$10 million.

We are confident that the community will be pleased when the Police Station renovation has been completed, and have done so at reasonable taxpayer expense – all the while staying within the Property Tax Cap.

We are doing our utmost to hew to the revised project schedule for completion in late summer. We are pleased with the quality of work, construction management and the overall oversight of the project.

As to costs, we set a project cost and corresponding bond issue of \$7 million. With the unanticipated contaminated soil removal (at a cost of \$250,000) and other unforeseen problems, we have only about \$50,000 of contingency remaining. It may be that the final work will go over the \$7 million figure, though we are doing our utmost to stay within it. To put it in perspective a 2006 feasibility study performed for the Town put the cost of new police station facilities at approximately \$10 million.

We are confident that the community will be pleased when the Police Station renovation has been completed, and have done so at reasonable taxpayer expense – all the while staying within the Property Tax Cap.

SAVING TAXPAYER DOLLARS WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY – SOLAR PROJECT

We are moving ahead with plans to provide solar panels atop buildings and carports on Town facilities. We prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP) which we anticipate will be distributed February 15 with proposals to be returned by March 15 for solar installations through a "Power Purchase Agreement" in which the Town will contract with the solar developer to purchase electricity at a favorable rate. The developer also will be responsible for installation and

maintenance of the solar systems. This approach is a fine example of a public/private partnership where the solar developer accesses federal tax credits and NYS financial incentives which the Town cannot utilize. In turn, the Town buys electricity at favorable rates and obtains facilities beneficial to Town operations and its residents. We are cautiously optimistic that these will include new solar paneled carports for the Police Station, now undergoing renovation. The following are excerpts from the RFP: “The Town of Bedford is seeking proposals from qualified firms for the design, development, financing, construction, commissioning, operation, maintenance and ownership of ground mounted, roof-mounted and carport-mounted solar PV facility or facilities for the Town (the “System”). The System is proposed to be located at 307 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507, the Town’s Police Station Facility, and possibly other locations in the Town of Bedford as set forth above. The successful proposer (the “Contractor”) will enter into a Power Purchase Agreement (“PPA”) with the Town to sell power produced by the System to the Town. The term of the PPA is to be up to twenty (20) years. The Contractor shall be responsible for all costs associated with the development, financing, design, construction and permitting of the System. The successful entity shall also work closely with contractors working on the design and erection of the carports and Town representatives in any location(s) where the proposed photovoltaic facilities shall be installed. The Contractor shall retain ownership of the System, as well as assignable rights to any Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (“SRECs”) generated by the System. The Town acknowledges and anticipates proposers to offer creative, competitive solutions to the Town’s RFP. Any exception to an item in the RFP must be clearly identified and fully explained in the Proposers response as to why the proposer is taking exception. Be specific as to the reasons for the exception.”

TOWN INITIATIVE ON REUSABLE BAGS

For decades all over Europe shoppers bring reusable bags to their grocery stores or wherever they shop. That’s simply the long standing practice. We’d like to do the same here in Bedford. Several Westchester County municipalities have adopted local laws to encourage the use of reusable bags and discourage the use of single use plastic bags. I will be asking the Town Board at our February 6 meeting to appoint an advisory task force to develop such a law. We will work with our business community so that we all are acting collaboratively and cooperatively toward a common objective. We also envision an energetic outreach program and distribution of hundreds of no-cost or low cost reusable bags to help kick start the effort.

CHERRY STREET TRAFFIC CALMING – FEBRUARY 20 TOWN BOARD MEETING

As was discussed at the January 16 meeting of the Town Board, we will resume consideration of additional traffic calming measures which the Town’s traffic consultant has provided as possibilities. Click [here](#) for the proposal.

From the January 16, 2018 Town Board Meeting

Cherry Street - Traffic Calming Measures and Gateway Signs The Town’s traffic consultant, John Canning of Kimley Horn of New York, P.C. presented possible further traffic calming measures including reconfiguring the intersection of Cherry Street and Croton Lake Road to create a standard “T” intersection, which will be less confusing to motorists (the planting island would be expanded and moved slightly to the north); reconfiguring the intersection of Cherry Street and Quicks Lane to provide a “bump out” along the southbound lane (just north of Quicks) to calm traffic; and gateway signs to help alert drivers that they are entering a residential area. We also are considering a beautification of the area adjacent to the gravel parking for the DEP boat area at the north end of Cherry Street. Chief Padilla reported that recently posted portable speed boards thus far have been effective in calming traffic.

BEDFORD 2020 CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 8:45am to 4:00pm at Fox Lane High School in Bedford for the Bedford 2020’s Climate summit. As you know the Town of Bedford has partnered and

supported Bedford 2020's initiatives from the start. Please register for the summit at <https://bedford2020.regfox.com/bedford-2020-climate-action-summit>. Click [here](#) for the flyer.

Let's combat climate change together. - Chris Burdick, Supervisor

BEDFORD LOVES HORSES

We have added a page to our Town's website, Bedford Loves Horses, click [here](#) for the page. It's filled with wonderful pictures. My thanks to the group who made this possible with special thanks to Nancy Nygreen who developed the template for the page.

TOWN COMPTROLLER'S MONTHLY REPORT

Comptroller Abraham Zambrano on January 12, 2018 presented to the Town Board the Finance Department Report for December 2017 as follows:

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 on target. Since we are still processing activity for the year, final numbers will not be finalized until the annual audit is completed. At this point, the General Fund is at 91.15% while the Highway Fund is slightly under at 84.75% for the year. As reported in November, we are projecting that reserves will be increasing approximately \$300k and \$150K in the General and Highway Funds respectively.

REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE

Mortgage Tax. Based on the last report we downloaded from the Westchester County Clerk's Office website and projections based on actual year to date mortgage taxes, the total mortgage tax revenues for the year will end up with a deficit of \$40k. This amount will be confirmed once the second yearly payment is received.

Sales Tax. As of today, the County's Finance Department has not released the sales tax figures for the month of December. However, based on projections for the year, we are still anticipating that the fourth quarter payment will be \$675,122 or 2.27% higher than the same quarter in 2016. Forecasts through the end of the year show that we will exceed \$2,648,000 mark or \$160,000 in excess of the 2017 budgeted amount of \$2,480,000.

Parking. Parking revenues recorded for the year total \$1,065,198. Total collections exceeded the amount budgeted for the year by \$135,000. Compared to 2016, collections in 2017 were \$161,000 higher than in the previous year. The increase in revenue was achieved due to the Board-approved fee escalation on commuter parking as well as the staff's dedication to better manage the lots. In 2018, we will continue to monitor the use of permits in order to bring further efficiencies and the generation of additional revenues.

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 November have generated \$735,377 or \$102,650 more than the same period in 2016. Based on current and prior year's activity, we are anticipating that collections for December will be about \$75,000.

Safety Inspections. Safety Inspections fees in December were totaled \$113,470 and were higher than anticipated. However, through year end, total collections ended lower than in 2016. Actual collections year-to-date totaled \$642,288 or \$57,712 below the budgeted amount of \$700,000.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Commissioner Kevin Winn reported to the Town Board on January 11 activities for December 2017 as follows:

Highway

Work during the month included pothole patching, maintenance of drainage systems, dirt road grading and leaf collection. Snow season has started and our crews have done an excellent job clearing the roads and sidewalks. The new Adams Street salt shed is working out very well.

Regarding the massive salt shed Commissioner Winn mentions above, the shed serves multiple needs and requirements. It was constructed to replace the previous salt storage in response to concerns of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation regarding stormwater run-off from the stored salt. The shed also provides significantly greater capacity and its robust construction allows for installation of solar panels on its large roof and is one of the Town's facilities available for the solar project under the RFP mentioned above.

Expanded by Popular Demand – Mobile Paper Shredder

We have expanded the number of opportunities for the community to bring items for shredding to the Recycling Center. Below is the announcement earlier this month, and we will also be adding a fifth opportunity on a weekday (in recognition that some in the community work on Saturdays). Stay tuned!

Mobile Paper Shredder Events

The Town is pleased to provide once again this year mobile paper shredder events at the Town Recycling Center at 343 Railroad Avenue, Bedford Hills from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM on March 17, September 15, and November 17; and at 1 Crusher Road, Bedford Village (Crusher Road highway yard), Bedford Village from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM on May 5. A Mobile Shredding Truck will securely destroy documents. The company's customer service professionals never physically touch your documents so the entire process is "touch-free". The company can shred paper, paper clips, rubber bands, staples and even the black clips. They cannot shred 3-ring binders, or anything that is non paper (CDs, tapes, DVDs, hard drives, etc.).

TOWN'S 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

We are actively working on putting together our 2017 Annual Report which will become available next month online and we will also print out a limited number of paper copies. As with previous years' reports, the 2017 Annual Report presents a summary of the prior year's activities and looks ahead to 2018, as provided by our Department Heads, Boards, Commissions, Committees and Task Forces. Stay tuned!

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING ON THE NEW SEWER SYSTEM HOSTED BY THE KATONAH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

I am delighted to report that new sewer system project to be constructed in Bedford Hills and Katonah is moving ahead on schedule. At the meeting held at the Katonah Library on Thursday, January 25 a project update was provided as well as a Q&A. There were about 50 people in attendance. The engineering firm of Woodard & Curran is designing the sewer system. I explained the overall timelines with construction anticipated to commence late Summer/early Fall this year and the project to be completed first quarter of 2020. Representatives of Woodard & Curran provided a more detailed explanation of the project, including location of the sewer lines, pump stations and other aspects of the collection system. We also discussed measures planned to minimize disruption, especially in the business districts and that we will *not* carry out work during the peak shopping season of November and December. We will have at least one more public information meeting prior to adoption of the Town's sewer law which incorporates the requirements for connection to the sewer system, sewer rents, procedures for increase in

capacity resulting from change in use and other provisions. For more information regarding the project, click [here](#).

JANUARY 16 TOWN BOARD MEETING

- **Work Session on Draft Sewer Law** Planning Director Jeff Osterman and Public Works Commissioner Kevin Winn discussed with the Board the outlines of the sewer law which will be the basis for sewer rates, for connection to and use of the system as well as the rate structure for financing its operation and maintenance.
- **County Executive George Latimer spoke about the County's good neighbor policy.** He wants to strengthen the relationship between county and local government within Westchester to enhance the quality of life for all who reside here. He signed an Executive Order on January 2, 2018 regarding this policy. The legislation will allow municipalities and their residents to have input with the decision making process regarding the use of County land. For the executive order click [here](#).
- **Appointments and Re-appointments**
George Henschel was re-appointed to the Bedford Village Historic District Review Commission for a three (3) year term to expire on 1/20/2021; David Beckett was re-appointed to the Conservation Board for a two (2) year term to expire on 1/20/2020; and Betsy Weir was appointed to the Leaf Blower Task Force.
We thank them and appreciate their dedicated service to the Town.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETINGS ON JANUARY 2, 2018

During the annual Organizational meeting routine annual agreements for services provided to the Town (such as vendors, consultants and service providers), designation of official newspapers, appointments of certain positions and certain policies and procedures were approved. The agenda and backups can be found by clicking [here](#).

Lee V. A. Roberts agreed to continue to serve as Deputy Supervisor effective January 1, 2018. Lee brings over two decades of experience and service to the Town, has been a tremendous help to me in my post as Supervisor and has been instrumental in the bipartisanship which I have been fortunate to achieve since first taking office nearly four years ago.

Kevin Winn (Commissioner of Public Works), Abe Zambrano (Comptroller) and Amy Pectol (Receiver of Taxes) were re-appointed each for two year terms ending December 31, 2019. Each has done an outstanding job serving our community.

Appointment of Registrar and Deputy Town Clerk - We are fortunate to continue to have the service of Boo Fumagalli and Nina Kellogg, in their respective roles, each for a further four year term ending December 31, 2021.

Appointment of Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor - Bea Rhodes has served extremely ably in this post and I am grateful for her work in the "front lines" – always a cheerful and reliable voice on the phone or in the office when a resident calls or comes in for help. I am re-appointing her a two year term ending December 31, 2019.

During the Regular Meeting Fiona Mitchell and Teresa Donkin were appointed as co-chairs of the Leaf Blower Committee, the committee which is soliciting feedback from landscapers and property owners and will be making recommendations to the Town Board. The proposed timeline is to solicit comments throughout the process, but principally in January and early February with a view to presenting recommendations in late February and Town Board action in March with an effective date of mid-May (to allow time to adjust to regulations). The Bedford Town Board will be holding a meeting with the Leaf Blower Committee on Thursday, January 18 at 7pm in the Court Room at 321 Bedford Road in Bedford Hills.

A PERSONAL NOTE REGARDING MY PLANS On a personal note, a number of you have asked me about my bid to succeed George Latimer as our State Senator. I am no longer a candidate. This past Tuesday, January 9, I withdrew from the contest for the Democratic nomination and seconded the nomination of Shelley Mayer, a member of the State Assembly, who subsequently was nominated by acclamation for a special election which it is anticipated that Governor Cuomo will call for March or April. I wish to thank so many of you for your kind words, including those who were apprehensive about my interest in the seat as you'd prefer that I remain as your Supervisor, a job I love.

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