



July 2019

Supervisor Chris Burdick's June Report

August 1, 2019



Update on Phase I Sewer Project

Our Phase I Sewer Project team comprised of staff, project design engineers Woodard & Curran, Deputy Supervisor Lee Roberts and I have been pressing ahead to meet our ambitious plan to start construction by March.

This follows the July 2 announcement from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that New York City has completed the year long process to register the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Town and the City.

This key agreement provides up to \$13.3 million in funds to be transferred from the City to the Town for Project Costs. We are moving forward with final permitting in preparation for bidding the project this fall.

This timing will avoid the start of construction over November and December – the busiest time for our business community.

The bidding falls within the optimal bidding season,

and hopefully will result in favorable bid pricing. Following receipt and review of the bids, we intend to award the project in mid- December, and begin preparatory construction work, including review of submittals and schedules, during the winter. A project of this nature unavoidably will be noisy, dusty and disruptive.

That said, as we approach the start of construction, we will provide details on measures that will be taken to minimize such impacts.

As we discussed previously, we also will form a small working group of owners and merchants in Bedford Hills and Katonah to work with our team and the contractor to help us identify issues and problems and address them.

The following is the schedule which our project team has developed

Milestone	Date
Advertise for Bids	September 30, 2019
Bid Opening	November 14, 2019
Award Construction Contract	December 17, 2019
Field Construction Starts	March 30, 2020
Substantial Completion (Sewer System is Operational)	June 30, 2021
Completion of Sewer System Construction	August 30, 2021
All Customers Required to Connect to Sewer System	December 30, 2021

Please mark your calendar for a Public Information Session which will be held September 19, 2019 at 7:30PM at the Bedford Hills Train Station with further updates on bidding and construction schedule, as well as an opportunity to ask questions about the project. Once construction is underway, we will be posting regular updates on progress and where work will be taking place.

Comptroller's Report

Comptroller Zambrano reported to the Town Board on July 8 the results of June financial report as follows:

EXPENDITURES

General and Highway Funds.

The overall year-to-date expenditure percentage for the General and Highway funds are on target of the first quarter of the year and with prior year's trends.

At this point, the overall expenditure percentage for the General Fund is consistent with mid-year trends at 47.8% of the total budget, while the Highway Funds is at 46.6%; these percentages are reflective of yearly seasonal trends.

REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE

Mortgage Tax.

Based on updated data provided by the County, we anticipate that the first payment in 2019 will be \$451,187. According to the Westchester County Clerk's Office, mortgage tax revenue for April and May are \$60,083 and \$46,161 respectively.

Projections for the rest of the year are indicating that we will end the year slightly below the budgeted amount. However, at this point, year-to-date mortgage taxes are about 3% greater than the same period in 2018.

Sales Tax.

At the time of this report, the Westchester County Department of Finance had not released the sales tax figures for the month of June.

However, as reported last month, the Town received the first quarterly payment in the amount of \$684,888 and based on historical trends and data analysis, we are projecting being able to exceed the amount budgeted for 2019 by over \$225,000.

Based on the recently State Legislature approved increase in sales tax rate, that will become effective on August 1, the projected amount of sales tax revenues through December 31 will be substantially higher than current estimates.

Parking.

The 2019/2020 parking year portal was activated on June 10th, email notifications were sent to all active permit holders and at the time of the report, ninety percent (80%) of permit holders had renewed their permits.

However, due to the timing of the recording of revenues, parking receipts for the last week of June are not reflected in this report.

We are projecting that the amount budgeted for the year will be exceeded by over \$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 through May 31 are still indicating that projected revenues will exceed budget by approximately \$100,000 by year end.

Safety Inspections.

Safety Inspections fees through June demonstrate a surge of activity in the Building Department this year.

Based on projections through year end, we estimate that by year end, revenues will be exceeded the budgeted amount.

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June 30, 2019

Note to Residents: please refer to my recently reelected law which has succeeded on reauthorization for homeowners under the New York State Tax Law to prevent a successor to recently passed Westchester County Law Superintendent Bill Haderlein and details of the new Westchester County law banning pornography (Gymbeam). I hope you and yours are enjoying the first days of summer, and 4th of July. Thank you for reading, and please e-mail your comments and suggestions.

Westchester County Sales Tax Increase

The New York State Legislature, at the request of Westchester County Executive George Latimer, has adopted a bill to increase the sales tax rate by 1% for most municipalities in Westchester County, which is currently 4%. The bill has been sent to the Governor's Office for his consideration. At the time of this report, the bill has not been signed into law. Latimer explained that the impetus for the increase is to help the County and local governments and school districts. He wishes to avoid the burden of increased property taxes on the residents of the County. The bill is substantial, noting Mr. Latimer had the additional revenue to increase the sales tax rate by 1.5%. The proposed short finance proposals, and end borrowing for any amount over \$100 million, and the County's goal is that if sales tax grows at 3%, and the County stays with the 1% increase, the County will be able to meet its operating expenses. Additionally, as a current state law, the County will have a structural deficit in the budget.

The County Executive's goal is to restore reserves to 100% of the budget. The County Executive has anticipated that the increase will satisfy the bond rating agencies, leading them, over time, to the

Click to read the June Report

2020 Town Budget

I have been meeting with Comptroller Zambrano and one on one with Town Board members and department heads regarding the 2020 budget. As I've previously mentioned, we will bring in a budget which is property tax compliant and fiscally prudent while continuing to provide a high level of service to the community.

In keeping with fiscal prudence, Comptroller Zambrano and I will be recommending to the Town Board that 2020 revenue projections include considerably less than the full amount which Westchester County projects will flow to the Town from the recently adopted 1 point increase in sales tax (**see the report on the next page which discusses the Westchester County Tax increase**)

Saving Merestead



I wish to thank County Executive George Latimer and our County Legislator Kitely Covill for their decisive moves to save the historic Merestead mansion from further deterioration. I strongly support the action which the County has brought in Westchester Supreme Court to allow a fund created by the original donor of this 130 acre property to defray the significant restoration and repair costs.

The action also will loosen deed restrictions that prevent the County from using the property in the way the County uses other parks. If successful, the County would have the ability to sell some works of art to help finance such restoration efforts. As it is now, without sufficient funding the leaking roof and other deteriorated conditions threaten to damage the art and diminish or eliminate its value. The County is working both with descendants of the original donor as well as the Town.

IN THE WORKS: A Town of Bedford Website Facelift!

After months of sketches, layouts, design decisions, and the migration of 100+ pages of data, a new website is coming! The site is responsive, and will work across all devices, from desktop and tablet, to mobile phone....you will have the whole town in your hand!

We understand that you are coming to our site for information, and you will seamlessly find what you need: contact info, news, meetings, links and details from Town Departments, as well as our active Boards, Commissions and Committees that are the heart and vitality of our Town.

Town Board Meetings and Agendas, Forms and Applications, a Parking Portal, Online Payments and Recreation & Parks are easy to find on the homepage. You can easily stay informed by signing

up for nixle reports, the e-newsletter, or read the most recent issue. There are additional features that will make it convenient to find out what is going on at the local libraries and other events around town. We have added a community "bulletin board" where you can post yard sales, events and fundraisers, eliminating the need to paper the town with posters on telephone poles.

We have incorporated the natural beauty of the Town as backgrounds and images on interactive buttons that will deliver you to pages with the links and details you seek. There's a link to our FB page and Instagram.

The plan is have a limited beta test soon, with a goal of launching by September.

We are excited to share the new look and feel of the Town's website and hearing your thoughts.

Prior Posts of Continued Relevance

Westchester County Sales Tax Increase

The New York State Legislature, at the request of Westchester County Executive George Latimer, adopted an increase to 8 3/8% in the sales tax rate for most municipalities in Westchester County, which is currently 7 3/8% in Bedford.

The measure goes to Governor Cuomo for his consideration. At the time of his introducing the measure, County Executive Latimer explained that the impetus for the increase is to bring new non-property tax revenues to the County and local governments and school districts.

He wishes to avoid the burden of increased property taxes. The County finances, he stated, need substantial shoring. Mr. Latimer said the additional revenue source will also eliminate the need for one-shot finance proposals, and end borrowing for any annual operating expenses.

It has been projected that if sales tax grows at 3%, and the County stays within the property tax cap the County will not be able to meet its operating expenses. Additionally, as it currently stands the County will have a structural deficit in 2020 and 2021.

The County Executive's goal is to restore reserves to \$150 million, up from the current \$70 million. It is anticipated that the increase will satisfy the bond rating agencies, leading them, over time, to restore the County's bond rating to the highest credit rating available of AAA.

The following are principal elements of the sales tax increase, if signed into law:

- County Executive Latimer has pledged to freeze County property taxes for the next two fiscal years of 2020 and 2021.
- New revenues would be allocated as follows: 70% to the County; 20% to local governments and 10% to school districts.
- Sales tax parity among most Westchester's communities, bringing the rate in line with other counties including Rockland and Putnam, and other cities including White Plains, Mount Vernon and New Rochelle. The new countywide uniform rate of 8 3/8% would be lower than that in effect in Yonkers, New York City, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

- Existing partial sales tax exemptions for food and clothing are unaffected.

- The law would take effect in August.

I have discussed with Town Comptroller Abraham Zambrano the potential effect on Town of Bedford finances which the prospective sales tax increase may have. The possible sales tax revenue increase for Bedford brought about by the 1% increase is uncertain. As such, Comptroller Zambrano cautions against including increases in the 2020 operating budget.

Ten Year Historical Data on Bedford Sales Tax Revenue

In light of the legislation to increase the sales tax rate, Town Comptroller Abraham Zambrano prepared a [report](#) with the 10 year historical data on sales tax revenue to Bedford as compared to budgeted amounts.

The sales tax report includes actual historical data for the years 2009 through 2018. Over the 10 year span, with the exception of 2011, the actual sales tax revenues exceeded the budgeted amounts.

The column labeled 2019 includes actual data for the first quarter and projections for the rest of the year.

Based on the information reported by the Westchester County Department of Finance, for 2019, the \$2,642,000 budgeted for the year is projected to reach \$2,883,417 or \$241,417 higher than the budget or 3.89% higher than the amount received in 2018. sales tax increase may have.

The possible sales tax revenue increase for Bedford brought about by the 1% increase is uncertain.

As such, Comptroller Zambrano cautions against including increases in the 2020 operating budget.

Prior Posts of Continued Relevance (cont.)

2018 Audited Financial Statements

The following report appeared in my weekly newsletter of June 21, but I felt should be repeated here for those who hadn't seen it:

The auditing firm of PKF O'Connor Davies presented to the Town Board at its June 18 the financial statements for the Town as of December 31, 2018. Alan Kassay, a member of the firm, stated that the Town's financial position continues to be strong, noting the reaffirmation by Standard & Poor's Global of its highest bond rating of AAA.

1. The fund balances (or reserves) stand at 35.6% for the General Fund (which covers the majority of the Town's operations including the Police Department, Recreation and Parks Department, Justice Court, Receiver's Office, Assessor's Office, Building and Planning Departments and Supervisor's Office and Town Clerk's Office).
2. The fund balances (or reserves) stand at 24.6% for the Highway Fund (roads, snow removal).
3. In 2018 the Town operations resulted in a modest underspending of the adopted budget and receipt of modestly more than budgeted for non-property tax revenues.
4. All other District Funds were able to add small amounts to their reserves which continuing to provide services to the resident.
5. As part of the Town's practice to pay down debt aggressively, \$3,650,073 of bond debt was amortized in 2018. This practice allows for the Town Board to plan accordingly and keep debt payments affordable while staying within the property tax cap. [link to PKF O'Connor Davies Audited 2018 Financial Statements]



PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE READING ROOM IN KATONAH - Wednesday, June 25, 2019

Westchester County has adopted a new County law banning the use of polystyrene (Styrofoam is the well-known brand name of one manufacturer) at food service establishments in the County.

Bedford's County Legislator, Kitley Covill, who is Vice Chair of the Board of Legislator's Environment and Energy Committee, worked several months on the law resulting in a bipartisan unanimous adoption.

The press conference took place at the Reading Room as owners Peter Menzies and Gretchen Jordan have avoided the use of polystyrene, and rather use environmentally friendly products.

The Supervisor's Show

June Edition

Town of Bedford Supervisor, Chris Burdick updates viewers regarding recent Town Board actions to amend the current Affordable Housing Law. In addition, he discusses current grant applications to go before the DEC, the advisory committee that has been appointed and the Wireless Master Plan.

Supervisor Burdick also introduces the current Town of Bedford Interns.

"Affordable Housing Law Amendments, Grant Applications, Cherry Ridge Lake Advisory Committee, Wireless Master Plan and Bedford Town Interns"

June 2019



Prior Posts of Continued Relevance (cont.)

NYSEG Project and Company Update

On Thursday, June 27, I attended a "Municipal Officials' Meeting" which NYSEG held for chief elected officials in NYSEG's Brewster Division.



As Supervisor, my key concerns with respect to NYSEG are reliability, resilience and reasonable rates. As to the latter, bear in mind that whether you purchase your electricity from Westchester Power (through Direct Energy), NYSEG or any other energy services company (ESCO), NYSEG delivers the electricity and charges separately for it.

Following numerous and prolonged power outages which affected large portions of the Town, the Town Board in September adopted a resolution calling upon the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) to require greater resiliency, more frequent and more effective tree trimming and advanced metering. County Executive Latimer, County Legislator Covill and our representatives in the NYS Legislature, Senator Mayer and Assemblyman Buchwald, also have been pressing NYSEG (and Con Edison) for such service improvements.

At the June 27 meeting NYSEG's President Carl Taylor acknowledged "We're not living up to customers' expectations. We need to improve that." I wish to acknowledge, as well, that NYSEG has been more responsive to our calls for improvements and has followed through. While much remains to be done, there is clear progress.

NYSEG has completed in 2019 improvements to bolster the resiliency of substations and circuits serving areas of Bedford. Further improvements are scheduled for 2020. While not adopting the three year trim schedule which we have advocated, NYSEG has proposed in its rate filing with the PSC a more robust vegetation management program that would clear completely above the wires. One-third of the proposed increase would be allocated to vegetation management, NYSEG stated. There will be an emphasis not only on trimming and removal of vegetation that which is near or touch wires, but also those that are hazardous and are likely to do so. In addition, NYSEG has proposed Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) which is comprised of smart meters, communications network and data management systems providing two-way communications. AMI would allow NYSEG nearly instantaneous notification of interruptions in the electric distribution system. It also would enable customers to monitor electric use in real time providing greater control over their use of electricity and how they are charged for it.

As I mentioned above, NYSEG has filed with the PSC for a rate increase. NYSEG stated in its presentation that if approved, the monthly average bill increase would be \$10.20 (13.5% of the total bill) for a residential customer using 600 kilowatt-hours per month.

The May 20 filing would cover the rate year April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021 and would take effect on April 20, 2020 if the PSC approves it.

There is the distinct possibility, we were advised, that NYSEG and PSC may settle on a three year rate schedule.



[click for presentation](#)

Prior Posts of Continued Relevance (cont.)

Town Board Considers Allowing Bed & Breakfasts

As some of you may have read, a resident proposed to the Town Board at our April 23 meeting the adoption of a local law under which the Planning Board would have the authority to issue a special permit to homeowners wishing to operate a bed and breakfast.

Each member of the Town Board expressed interest, and the concept has received support from business and community groups. While there are reasons to proceed, we also need to exercise caution to avoid adversely affecting the wonderful character of Bedford.

We must also consider potential noise, traffic and parking problems, and take care that we don't end up with absentee landlords who turn their houses into transient short-term rentals with no regard for their neighbors.

Established properly, however, bed and breakfasts could address a paucity of places to stay in town (there isn't a single hotel in Bedford), allow homeowners a way to help pay their high property taxes, and support our hamlet businesses and cultural organizations.

What do you think? My Town Board colleagues and I would like to hear from you.

Reusable Bag Law Now in Effect

The Town's Reusable Bag Law took effect on April 1 with a 10 cent charge on either single use plastic or single use paper bags. It applies to Shoprite, DeCicco's, Key Foods, Pier 1, Kohl's and CVS.

An out of town resident who may not be familiar with the law wanted to know what happens to the 10c fee. First, some background. Each of the grocery stores in Bedford has been an enthusiastic partner with the Town in embracing and advocating our efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate single use plastic and paper, both of which are deleterious to the environment.

Each of the grocery stores' participation has been significant, including training of staff, considerable staff time, the distribution of free reusable bags to their customers, banners and other postings, and other efforts to get the word out. To date the grocery stores have distributed an astonishing number of free reusable bags to their customers: over 9,000. We also received generous contributions from Houlihan Lawrence, Bedford Village Business Association, and

State Farm enabling us to distribute some additional 2,000 free reusable bags. The total number of free reusable bags distributed now exceeds 10,000. Each of the stores will keep the fee to pay for the cost of the bags and defray the costs incurred with their participation. Bedford 2020 and the Reusable Bags Task Force is continuing to give away free bags and they are available at various locations throughout Town including Town Hall, libraries and tabling events being held.

We truly don't want anyone to pay a dime, but rather use the reusable bags. So please put them in your car so you have them handy on your next shopping trip.

New York State's just adopted budget includes a [provision to ban single use plastic bags](#) and also to allow counties and large cities the option of imposing a 5c fee on single use paper bags. This law does not go into effect until March 1, 2020. Meanwhile, the Town's law is in place so Bedford is doing its part to reduce the needless waste.

Prior Posts of Continued Relevance (cont.)

Septic System Repair and Replacement Program Reinstated

Due to the importance of the Septic System Repair and Replacement Program, I am reiterating my update in last Friday's newsletter to the effect that the program has been reinstated now that we have received the \$750,000 funding under the inter-municipal agreement (IMA) between the Town and Westchester County, which provides the funding, and we've received clarification from the County on its rules for governing the program.

Please read the following reimbursement criteria carefully before commencing any work for which you will be seeking reimbursement.

1. Reimbursement is limited to 50% of eligible costs:

Eligible costs are highly limited. Eligible costs include engineering fees and the actual contractor cost of construction of the repair or replacement. Engineering costs may not exceed 20% of the total construction costs.

You are allowed reimbursement for one pump-out at the time of inspection, providing it is determined that the system is not in working order.

One pump-out of a system as part of a replacement or repair is also an eligible cost. No other pump-out expenses are eligible for reimbursement. Restoration of the lawn – reseeding – is allowed. No new topsoil, shrubbery or other landscaping is an eligible expense.

If you are uncertain whether a particular expense is eligible, please contact Jeffrey Osterman, Town of Bedford, Director of Planning at josterman@bedfordny.gov or 914-666-4434.2.

2. Project Submission: All projects must be submitted to Jeff Osterman prior to the commencement of work for review.

If the total cost of your project is estimated to exceed \$20,000, you must obtain pre-approval for your work from the Westchester County Planning Department at 914 995-4400. Kindly copy Jeffrey Osterman on your submissions at josterman@bedfordny.gov or 914-666-4434.

3. Additional Requirements: PRIOR to the commencement of work the property owner must:

- Contact Joe Mancini of the Westchester County Department of Health at 914-224-7656 before any repair, remediation or replacement work is performed to ensure that prior approval or inspection of such work is properly coordinated with the Department of Health.

- Supply the following to the Town of Bedford, attention: Jeffrey Osterman, Director of Planning, 425 Cherry Street, Bedford Hills, NY 10507 or josterman@bedfordny.gov :
- The completed, signed, dated and notarized application form
- Copy of Notice of Non-Compliance issued by the Westchester County Department of Health that the septic system was found in failure. Please contact the Mount Kisco office of the Health Department at 914-864-7330 for a copy of the Notice of Non-Compliance.
- Photographs of the property evidencing failure of the septic system, if practicable.
- Septic contractor's contract for the work approved by the Health Department, including itemized scope of work with corresponding cost breakdown.
- Work on the septic system may commence once the Town of Bedford and if applicable the County of Westchester, has approved and reviewed the Septic Contractor's contract.

4. Upon COMPLETION of the work, supply the following to the Town of Bedford, attention: Jeffrey Osterman, Director of Planning, 425 Cherry Street, Bedford Hills, NY 10507 or josterman@bedfordny.gov

1. Evidence of full payment to the contractor.
2. Photographs showing each stage of the work, and the completion of the project.
3. Health Department final approval or inspection report if required.
4. Address to which the reimbursement check is to be mailed.

The Town of Bedford will issue a check for 50% of the eligible and approved repairs, remediation or replacement.

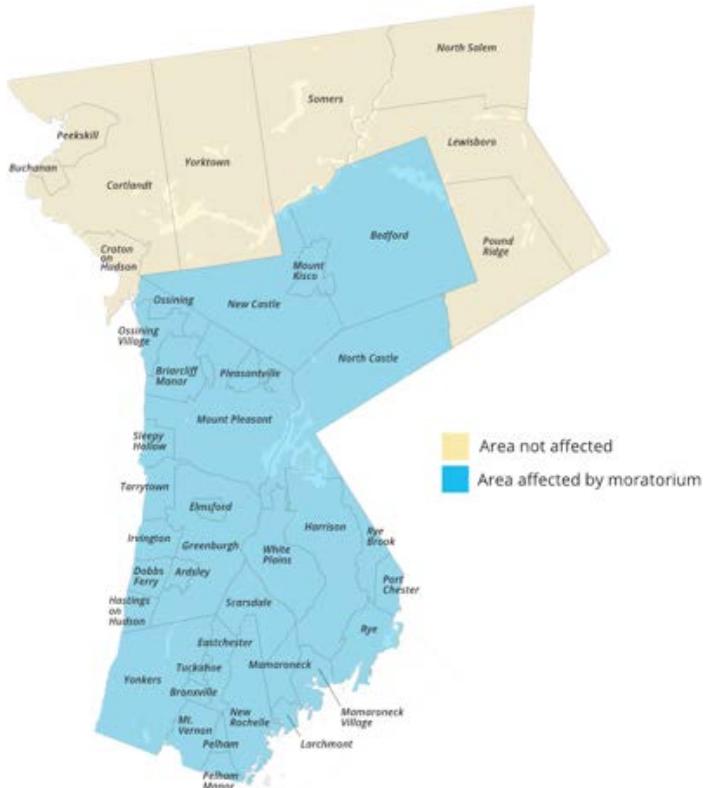
Prior Posts of Continued Relevance (cont.)

Update on Con Edison Gas Moratorium - New NYS Incentives Available

We received the notice below from New York State regarding incentives now available for those affected by the Con Edison moratorium. Con Edison provides gas service in Bedford, so I wish to share the notice with you.

Municipalities in Westchester County affected by the Con Edison gas moratorium (in blue at left) are now eligible for

increased incentives for clean energy alternatives. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), the Department of Public Service (DPS), and the New York Power Authority (NYPA) are providing incentives and programs through the Clean Energy Action Plan to lower energy costs for consumers, support economic development, and engage consumers through an awareness campaign.



Information is provided below on the \$250 million available to help consumers and businesses.

Residents

- **NYSERDA:** Clean heating & cooling options and rebate information.
- **NYSERDA:** Information for residents and homeowners on how to reduce their energy costs by making their homes more efficient.
- **Con Edison:** Smart Solutions for Natural Gas includes non-pipeline solutions and alternatives for residents.
- **NYSERDA:** HeatSmart Westchester, a NYSERDA-funded campaign, is interested in working with communities on campaigns to increase clean heating and cooling for residents and small businesses. Municipalities and residents can learn more about this program by reaching out to Nina Orville at Nina@AbundantEfficiency.com or by calling (914) 693-6222.

Multifamily, Commercial, & Industrial Customers

- **NYSERDA:** Clean heating & cooling options and incentive information for multifamily, commercial and industrial customers.
- **Con Edison:** Equipment incentives for multifamily buildings.
- **Con Edison:** Incentives for commercial and industrial customers.
- **NYPA:** Low-cost financing services for its customers for retrofitting of heating systems with clean energy alternatives.

Additional Questions?

- NYSERDA's regional Community Energy Advisor is available to respond to questions from residents about non-

Prior Posts of Continued Relevance (cont.)

The Town Board established the Traffic Safety Work Group in 2014 to promote and encourage street and highway traffic safety. The TSWG is comprised of the residents of the community appointed by the Town Board, the Director of Planning, the Public Works Commissioner and the Police Chief or his designee.

The TSWG meetings bimonthly and its meetings are open to the public. Please see the Town's website at [Traffic Safety Working Group](#) for additional information.

My thanks to Sergeant Patricia McGraw of the Bedford Police Department for participating in the April 15 meeting of the TSWG and for preparing the following meeting minutes:

Attendance: Chris Burdick – Town Supervisor, Jeff Osterman – Planning Board, Kevin Winn – Highway Dept., Patricia McGraw – Police Dept., Drew Marchiano, Michael Weisburger

Speed Boards: We presently have 8 speed boards around town. Two of these boards (Cherry St/Park Ave and Pound Ridge Rd/Seminary Rd) are permanent (hard wired). Two more (Cherry St/Reyburn Rd and Bedford Center Rd/Succabone Rd) will be made permanent in the near future. The remaining four boards will be rotated around town.

Data collection of speeds from the boards continues to show the effectiveness of decreased speed even with the board being up for a long time frame.

Speed Studies: Eight studies have been conducted year to date.

Safety Equipment:

- Two additional radar units for patrol cars for enforcement have been ordered.
- One additional radar recorder (for speed studies) has been purchased.
- Two additional speed boards were purchased earlier this year making the total number of speed boards eight.

Consideration for Speed Humps on Babbitt Rd: Babbitt Rd has many adult and children pedestrians due to having an elementary school on it and close proximity to the train station and bus stop. The group is evaluating speed calming options. At this time, the speed board on Babbitt Rd (30 mph zone) has decreased speeds of drivers. The 85th percentile prior to the speed board was 35mph for both lanes. Post speed board, the 85th percentile is 27 mph for southbound lane (facing the board) and 31 mph for northbound lane. The police department will keep this board at this location and will continue to monitor the data over time. At this time, there is no immediate plan for implementing speed humps due to the effectiveness of the speed board.

Rt 117 and Green Lane/Con Edison gas line project/Village of Mt Kisco water line project/117 town border line: The roadway at Rt 117 and Green Lane was paved by Village of Mt. Kisco. The water main work is almost complete and curbing repairs are to be done by mid-May. In addition, Con Edison will be doing curb to curb paving and roadwork. The Bedford Planning Department and Village of Mt Kisco Planning Department are set to have a meeting to discuss the intersection at Rt 117 (on the border) near Foxwood Circle. The intersection will be modified to make entrances directly opposite each other.

Bedford Hills Fire Department crossing concerns: A pedestrian was recently hit (not seriously injured) while crossing near the fire department. The traffic safety work group has been evaluating this area and ways to improve upon safety. One change that has already been made was to eliminate two parking spots opposite the fire department. Future steps included striping the entire area in front of the fire department, adding LED blinking lights when there is a fire call, adding flashing lights to the existing stop sign (off of northbound Rt 117 into Depot Pl) and putting in a rapid rectangular flashing beacon in the cross walk which can be activated by pedestrians.

Village Green (Rt 22): Some concerns have been raised about the safety/visibility of making a left turn off of southbound Rt 22 onto Village Green. Different plans in changing the road configurations have been considered. However, it is likely that changing the road configuration may cause traffic backup issues due to the high volume of traffic. Presently the visibility at this left turn does meet traffic code. This is a state road and any suggestions would have to be made to the state department of transportation.

We are looking into accident history and will do a radar recorder speed study in the area as well to obtain further data.

In addition, we are considering adding a rapid rectangular flashing beacon and LED lighting in the present crosswalk near the theater to enhance pedestrian safety. Pedestrians are strongly encouraged to use the crosswalks. There is one near the theater and the post office.

Other Concerns: One member brought up the issue of vehicles making U turns in the area of the Bedford Village Fire Department causing safety concerns. The police department will monitor this concern.

Vacancy on the Traffic Safety Work Group: There is presently a vacancy on the Traffic Safety Work Group. Please contact the Supervisor's office if interested at supervisor@bedfordny.gov with a resume and cover letter/e-mail.

Update: The Sewer Project/ Present Project & Looking Ahead to Phase II

The Town is proceeding well on the first phase of providing sewers, which we refer to as Phase I. Phase I will provide sewers to the neighborhood business districts of Bedford Hills and Katonah and to Katonah Elementary School, property of St. Mary's Church and to Bedford Park Apartments (these are known as the original upgrade sites). Our engineers, Woodard & Curran, are on schedule for completing the design and construction plans this summer.

In conjunction with its design work, Woodard & Curran, also has reviewed and updated the estimated project costs set forth in the Map, Plan and Report and found that such costs remain within the projected budget.

Please also refer to the "Sewer District Annual Report 2018" in the Town's 2018 [Annual Report](#) which provides background on the creation and scope of the sewer district, the Town's planned operation of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and other aspects of the project.

The launch of the Phase I hinges on the "registration" within New York City of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Town and the City. The process entails acceptance of the document by the New York City Council and we do not anticipate any problem in its ultimate approval or registration. The IGA is the source of \$13 million in funding for the project, so it's essential that it be in place before we bid out the \$21 million construction project.

The registration process began in June of 2018. It's a long process. At one point we thought it might be completed in January 2019 and we'd be going out to be in February 2019, but it has taken longer and likely will not be completed until late spring/early summer.

Following registration of the IGA, we would go out to bid, however the summer is the peak season for construction work and so doesn't place us in an ideal competitive environment. We also do not want to disrupt the business districts with construction in November or December.

As such, the anticipated project schedule now is as follows:

- Complete design, regulatory approval, and IGA - August 2019
- Receive bids for Construction Work - November 2019
- Start Construction - Spring 2020
- Complete Construction - Fall 2021

So a few words about Phase II. Why would we consider the next phase of the sewer project if we haven't started Phase I?

When we went out to the community to explain Phase I, we pledged that it was just the first step in providing sewers for all of the areas of Bedford Hills and Katonah which need them. We know too well that the process for building a sewer system is long and arduous. It is years between the initial planning through to the system being operational for the property owners. As such, in the Fall of 2018 the Town Board decided we should get started on the next phase.

We commissioned Woodard & Curran to prepare a [Preliminary Engineering Report](#) which centers on Bedford Lake Apartments/Lakeside at Bedford off of Haines Road. This property is the last of the DEP upgrade sites – one which DEP has slated for a new wastewater treatment plant. We have initiated discussions with DEP that rather than DEP proceeding with building a new plant, the Town would replace it with the "alternative upgrade" comprised of connecting the property to the sewer system. This is precisely the approach embodied in Phase I with an alternative upgrade of the three original upgrade sites mentioned above. DEP was receptive to the concept and discussions are ongoing, which is the cornerstone of any Phase II as it is the primary source of funding.

While the alternative upgrade for Bedford Lake Apartments/ Lakeside at Bedford would be a benefit for the property owners, DEP and the Town, we wish to do more under Phase II.

We need to identify areas which meet a number of criteria:

- Houses on smaller lots with cesspools or septic systems prone to failure.
- Commercial properties with septic systems prone to failure.
- Proximity to existing sewer lines and otherwise cost effective for connecting to the Phase I system.
- A successful referendum among the property owners; i.e., property owners which are willing to pay the costs of connecting to the sewer main and would support the sewer rents likely to be charged.

To help identify the area or areas, we are sending a straw poll to property owners of areas which meet the criteria mentioned above. This week, we are sending a straw poll to the denser areas of Katonah not included in Phase I.

If the survey results are positive, then we'll consider other areas in Bedford Hills and Katonah.

Prior Posts of Continued Relevance (cont.)

Town's Triple A Bond Rating Reaffirmed

I am pleased to report that late last week S&P Global Ratings reaffirmed the [Town of Bedford's AAA bond rating](#), which is the highest rating available. Fewer than 3% of municipalities in the Nation have the benefit of this highest rating. The rating was issued in connection with the Town's upcoming bond issuance in connection with the 2018 to 2019 portion of the Town's ten year Capital Plan for years 2018 through 2027 which the Town Board adopted in December of 2017. Capital Plan which the Town Board adopted in December. The triple A rating is important to the credit markets and therefore has a direct impact on the interest rate which the Town pays on its bonds. With the highest rating, our interest costs are tens of thousands of dollars less than those municipalities with lower ratings. My thanks go to Comptroller Abraham Zambrano, our Departments and my colleagues on the Town Board in following fiscally prudent and conservative budgetary principles and management of the Town's finances.

\$1 Million NYS Grant for Sewer Project

We are very grateful for a grant award of \$1 million toward our sewer project. Governor Cuomo announced the award on December 18 under the Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Quality Improvement Program. The project is described in the award: "The Town of Bedford will construct a sewage collection system consisting of six miles of sewer main and three sewage pump stations. This project will reduce the amount of nutrients entering the Upper New Croton Reservoir, a drinking water supply for New York City." Please see below for an update on the sewer project.



Spring/Summer Brochure
For the full brochure please
[click here](#)

Prior Posts Of Continued Relevance (cont)

Update on Cell Towers and Wireless Communications – Moving Ahead in 2019

As we move into 2019, the Town Board will be evaluating the wireless communication needs of the Police Department as well as those of the Fire Departments and the Katonah Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps. We also wish to consider the public safety needs of the general public in light of deficiencies in wireless service in certain areas of town.

We will not do this in vacuum, but rather in concert with the public safety agencies as well as Westchester County which historically has been at the center of addressing wireless communication needs for the County and municipalities.

The County is recipient of federal funds which in part finance projects to address such needs. In particular the County is in the process of implementing a major upgrade to the County's communications system which will include public safety agencies throughout the County (including those in the Town of Bedford).

We also need to consider the overlay of federal law. We need to recognize that the Federal Communications Act and orders of the Federal Communications Commission largely pre-empt municipalities in decisions regarding the siting of cell towers as well as other wireless facilities.

What this means is that municipalities are left with a sliver of authority. We need to consider how best to exercise it.

It is apparent that we have both a challenge and an opportunity. A challenge in light of the existing and anticipated applications of wireless carriers, such as AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon, and tower developers serving the carriers to site cell towers within the town to advance their quest for 5G service.

An opportunity to the extent that we can identify locations, such as existing tower sites and municipal property, that may have the least impact on residential communities. With the carriers and tower developers knocking on the door of our towns, it is apparent that we might at least attempt to accomplish the following:

1. Before the edicts of the Federal Communications Act and Federal Communications Commission's orders

overtake us, let's see whether we can find common ground (literally and figuratively) with the carriers/developers on sites which work for them and work for us or at least have less adverse impact than if they were to go about selecting such sites on their own. . .

2. If we can find common ground with carriers/developers, it is possible that the cost of new facilities (towers/antennae) will be borne by them in whole or in part while also providing revenue sources.
3. Partner with the County to combine all wireless telecommunications needs on existing and prospective towers:
 - a. Emergency services, as needed:
State, County police, fire, ambulance.
 - b. Cell service as proposed by carriers/developers – let's recognize that this is a public safety need for us and not simply revenue source for them
4. NYS, County and our towns potentially may benefit by averting protracted and expensive battles with carriers/developers; providing needed cell service for our communities; having a modicum of control over the sites and perhaps avoiding siting forced upon us in residential neighborhoods; reducing expense to the County, municipalities and public safety agencies.

This will not be easy, but we believe it is preferable to be pro-active in addressing these issues than reactive. As to the former, we have a better chance of having at least a modicum of control as well as the possibility of funding sources to finance wireless equipment for our public safety agencies as well as providing improved wireless service for the community, which itself is a public safety matter and not simply a matter of convenience.

I expect the process will be frustrating, time-consuming and difficult. It also at least at times, will be politically difficult because inevitably there will be some unavoidable adverse impacts.

I do, however, strongly feel it is worth a try.

Prior Posts of Continued Relevance (cont.)

The Police Station Solar-Topped Carports

The plans for the Police Station had long included carports to extend the life of police vehicles and reduce police officer time in making them ready for operation in inclement weather. We initially reasonably believed the carports would be financed through third party solar developers.

Due to a change in tax and state incentive programs through the Public Service Commission, the financial viability for such projects in NYSEG service area disappeared. As a result, the Town is moving ahead with the carports at a cost of \$302,436. The carports will have solar panels as roofs. If the Town had elected to proceed with carports without solar panels, the cost would have been approximately \$250,000 or about \$52,000 less.

It should be noted, however, that the Town will receive a credit estimated at \$18,067.50 from NYSERDA reducing the difference to about \$34,400. It is estimated that the solar panels will generate over 60% of the electricity needs of the station.

The Supervisors March Report click to read

MARCH 2019
Supervisor Chris Burdick's February Report
April 2, 2019



Reusable Bag Law Now in Effect

The Town's Reusable Bag Law took effect on April 1 with a 10 cent charge on either single use plastic or single use paper bags. It applies to Shoprite, DeCicco's, Key Foods, Pier 1, Kohl's and CVS. An out of town resident who may not be familiar with the law wanted to know what happens to the 10 cent fee. First, the background. Each of the grocery stores in Bedford has been an enthusiastic participant in the Town's in-store advertising efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate single use plastic and paper, both of which are deleterious to the environment. Each of the grocery stores participation has been significant, including training of staff, considerable staff time, the distribution of free reusable bags to their customers, banners and other postings, and other efforts to get the word out. To date the grocery stores have distributed an estimated 2,000,000 reusable bags. We also received generous contributions from Houlihan Lawrence, Bedford Village Business Association, and State Farm enabling us to distribute some additional 2,000 free reusable bags. The total number of reusable bags distributed exceeds 2,000,000. Stores are asked to collect the 10 cent fee to pay for the cost of the bags and defray the costs incurred with their participation. Bedford 2020 and the Reusable Bags Task Force is continuing to give away free bags and they are available at various locations throughout Town including Town Hall, libraries and tabling events being held. We truly don't want anyone to pay a dime, but rather use the reusable bags. So please put them in your car so you have them handy on your way shopping this weekend. Late breaking news: New York State's just adopted budget includes a provision to ban single use plastic bags and to allow counties and large cities the option of imposing a 5¢ fee on single use paper bags. This law does not go into effect until March 1, 2020. Meanwhile, the Town's law is in place so Bedford is doing its part to reduce the needless waste.

Late breaking news: New York State's just adopted budget includes a [provision to ban single use plastic bags](#) and also to allow counties and large cities the option of imposing a 5¢ fee on single use paper bags. This law does not go into effect until March 1, 2020. Meanwhile, the Town's law is in place so Bedford is doing its part to reduce the needless waste.

Photo credit: <http://bedfordvillagebusinesses.com/> | Photo: Pacifico Cohen - Gary Ann Sudler

The Supervisors April Report click to read

APRIL 2019
Supervisor Chris Burdick's March Report
MAY 1, 2019



Town Board Considers Allowing Bed & Breakfasts

As some of you may have read, a resident proposed to the Town Board at our April 23 meeting the adoption of a local law under which the Planning Board would have the authority to issue a special permit for bed and breakfasts operating in the town. The Board voted to postpone this action. The members of the Town Board expressed interest, and the concern has remained support from business and community groups. While there are reasons to proceed, we also need to exercise caution to avoid adversely affecting this wonderful character of Bedford. We must also consider potential noise, traffic and parking problems, and take care that we don't end up with absentee landlords who turn their houses into transient short-term rentals with no regard for their neighbors. Future study is proposed, and a local law could address a paucity of places to stay in town (there are a single one in Bedford), allow homeowners a way to help pay their high property taxes, and support our hotel businesses and cultural organizations. What do you think? My town Board colleagues and I would like to hear from you.

Town Clean Up Days are Friday May 3 and Saturday May 4.
[Click here for details](#)

Town Events this weekend



The Great Bedford 5K Annual
RUN for the HILLS
5K Run, May 4th, 2019



SPRING CLEAN UP
TAG SALE
Friday & Saturday, May 3 & 4
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
www.bedfordvillage.org

The Supervisors' Show - May Edition

Bed & Breakfasts

A Resolution for Action on Climate Change

Sewer Update with Kevin Winn



The Supervisors' Show - Late May

Environmental Achievements

Buxton Gorge

Americian Legion Commander, Tom Cieslinski



I welcome suggestions and comments to my monthly reports, my weekly newsletter and my news to the community.

Best regards,

Chris Burdick
Chris