

Supervisor's actions led to woes

To the Editors:

With the town supervisor's attempt to cancel the fire-works and cut key services including the school youth officer, residents are beginning to focus on the depth of Lewisboro's financial woes and wonder why neighboring towns are not suffering to the same degree.

The answer can be found in a recent front-page article in *The Record Review* praising Bedford's proactive fiscal management.

According to the article, in early 2008 as the subprime mess unfolded, Bedford Town Supervisor Lee Roberts immediately took action. Anticipating a severe drop in

revenues, she worked closely with fellow board members and department heads to institute significant spending cuts and a modest tax increase for 2009. Bedford's comptroller is quoted saying, "We anticipated the problems stemming from the economy rather than reacting to them."

In contrast, Lewisboro's budget process was haphazard and secretive.

Additionally, Town Supervisor Edward Brancati was distracted by his ill-fated plan to obtain Legacy funds for Cross River — a proposal which even he ultimately voted against.

His preliminary budget contained a record tax increase

and was filed well past the legal deadline, much too late to be properly evaluated. A bipartisan portion of the board objected to the process and Town Board members Peter DeLucia and Al Perruzza voted against adoption, warning that none of the necessary cuts had been made.

Add in the approximately \$180,000 in interest income lost due to the supervisor's inattention, and the tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees he incurred without the Town Board's knowledge or consent, and one begins to understand why Lewisboro taxpayers suffer alone.

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