

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE BOARD  
OF THE VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS HELD ON  
JANUARY 27, 2014 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** John P. Curtin, Mayor See List  
Patrick W. Cox, Trustee  
Sally Tallman, Trustee

**ABSENT:** Jeff Brown, Attorney

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Curtin opened the regular board meeting at 7:00p.m.

**CONSENT**

**AGENDA:** The Village Clerk submitted the minutes of the regular board meeting for the month of December 2013. The bills on Abstract Sheets #008 for General Fund in the amount of \$24,251.96, Sewer Fund in the amount of \$12,843.83, Capital Funds in the amount of \$201,483.16, and Trust & Agency in the amount of \$154.25 were audited. The bills totaled \$238,733.20. The Board received the Police Report for December 2013 from Police Chief Robert Wicks. The Board also received the Building Inspectors Report for the month of December 2013 from Building Inspector Bill Reagan. The Board acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Town Board meetings for December 2013. The financial statements as submitted by Village Treasurer Nino Provvidenti for December 2013 were given to the Board for their review. Trustee Cox made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the consent agenda. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**IMA WITH COUNTY –  
STORMWATER**

**MGMT:** Trustee Tallman made a motion approve a renewal agreement with Onondaga County whereby the County will provide some or all of the services specified in the Agreement to assist the Village of Marcellus in complying with its obligations to develop and implement a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) pursuant to the Village of Marcellus General Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements. Mayor Curtin noted that a copy is on file in the Village Office for public inspection. The Agreement, which is no cost to the Village, will go into effect upon execution by the County Executive and continue until December 31, 2018, or until terminated without cause by either party upon 90 days written notice of the party's intention to terminate. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the agreement. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**CNYRPDB –  
STORMWATER**

**PROGRAM:** Trustee Cox made a motion to approve a Resolution supporting participation in the CNY Storm Water Coalition Staff Services and Education Compliance Assistance Program, pertaining to the requirements of the New York State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Storm Water Phase II General Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). A copy is on file in the Village office for public inspection. The one-year Agreement to participate will cost the Village of Marcellus \$3,600. The cost is strongly opposed by the Village Board and was addressed by the Mayor in his updates below. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the agreement. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**RESOLUTION – NYSDOT  
ABANDON OLD**

**NORTH ST.:** Trustee Tallman made a motion to accept Title by Abandonment of Old North Street, as depicted on the Abandonment Map 110, Parcel 139 in the Village of Marcellus. Whereas the NYSDOT desires to abandon Old North Street which is no longer needed by or useful to the State to the Village of Marcellus, the Village of Marcellus has agreed to accept ownership, jurisdiction, maintenance and responsibility of all lands as depicted the Abandonment Map 110, Parcel 139. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the resolution. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**REVIEW EMPLOYEE**

**HANDBOOK:** Trustee Cox made a motion to approve a review by the Village Board of the Village of Marcellus Employee Handbook. A copy is on file in the Village Office for public inspection. The Handbook went into effect on February 1, 2013, and it was decided that the Board would conduct a review each year upon its anniversary. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the review of the employee handbook. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

## RESOLUTION – EFC

### APPLICATION :

Trustee Tallman made a motion to approve a resolution whereby the Village Board of Trustees authorized the completion of an EFC application to finance the acquisition, construction and installation of improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Village of Marcellus, relative to upgrades necessitated by the unfunded TMDL mandates for phosphorus removal and required by NYSDEC. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the resolution. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

## BUDGET

### MODIFICATIONS:

Trustee Cox made a motion to approve budget modifications requested by the Village Treasurer transferring revenues and appropriations in the General and Sewer Funds. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the budget modifications. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

## ANNOUNCE

### VILLAGE:

### MEETINGS:

Trustee Tallman made note of the list of meetings scheduled for February 2014, which was provided by the Village Clerk. She also noted that the Village Offices would be closed on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> for the Presidents' Day Holiday and that the second meeting of the Olde Home Days Committee, 2014, would take place on Thursday, March 6, 2014 in the Village Board Room.

## Updates by the

### Mayor:

Mayor Curtin provided updates on the following subjects:

- a. Storm Water Management Program - Participation in the Storm Water Management Program offered by the CNY Regional Planning Board costs the Village \$3,600 each year. The \$3,600 cost of the one-year Agreement to participate is strongly opposed by the Village Board. There are 31 municipalities participating including the Town of Clay with over 58,000 people and the Village of Marcellus with under 2,000 people. Yet, all 31 municipalities pay the same \$3,600. That amounts to about \$8 for every resident of Marcellus and 18 cents for every resident of the Town of Clay. The Board has protested this seemingly unfair agreement in the past, and will continue to object to the fee in the future, but at present, the Board is somewhat obligated.
- b. Flushable Wipes – products called “flushable wipes” have been recently introduced to the market. The Treatment Plant operators have indicated that the wipes are not “flushable” and are causing sewer backups in the village on residential properties. A review by Consumer Reports confirmed that the wipes do not break down and will create sewer backups. The Board has had several recent examples of such backups in the village, particularly at day care businesses and at senior housing units. Other individuals are using the wipes for facial cleansing and throwing them in the toilet, where they do not break down. To view the Consumer Reports video online, go to [consumerreports.org](http://consumerreports.org) and search “Are flushable wipes flushable?” The Board mentioned that if residents are using these wipes, please do not flush these wipes down the toilet. They should be discarded into the trash. If the wipes are flushed and cause a sewer backup, the resident will probably need to contact a plumber since the backup will occur on residential property.
- c. F.O.G. (Fats, Oils, Grease) – in the waste water is a topic that the Board seems to address at every Board meeting. It is, however, a major concern and the Board continues to urge residents to be more and more aware of the problems associated with grease in the sewer system. Grease will stick to household and sewer pipes, and over time, grease buildup can block pipes and cause sewage backups. Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system – they only shred solid material into smaller pieces. The operators urge residents to scrape grease and food scraps from cooking surfaces into a container and put in the trash or compost them. Do not put grease, fats or oils of any type down your drain or garbage disposal. Do put baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids – and then empty them in the trash for disposal. In recent weeks, there has been an increase of calls from residents who have had sewer backups, and these have been attributable, for the most part, to grease buildup and blockage.
- d. No Parking – The Board continues to alert residents that there is no parking on any of the Village streets, from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m., from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> so that the highway crew can plow snow.
- e. Snow Plowing – The Board also wanted to alert independent snowplow operators that it is illegal to plow or shovel snow or ice during snow removal operations upon a village sidewalk or other public way. While most of the independent snow plow operators in the Village comply as much as possible with the law, there are some who need to be reminded that if a driveway is being plowed, that snow CANNOT be plowed into the street. NOR can the snow be plowed out of a driveway, across the street and into the village right-of-way across from the plowed driveway.

- f. LGE and Orange Street Pump Station – bids for a major construction phase of the sewer consolidation project will be opened in mid February. Last fall, bids were deemed too costly and needed to be rebid. The project will include replacement of 8-inch diameter sanitary sewer with approximately 1,000 feet of new 12-inch and 300 feet of 15-inch diameter sewer, as well as replacement of a duplex grinder pump station off Orange Street. The Board hopes that new bids will be more cost effective and that construction of this major phase of the project will take place in the early spring.
- g. Town Sewer Easements – The Board was able to secure virtually of the easements in Town Sewer District #2 and thanked the WWTP operators for their assistance in doing this. Knowing the location of these easements will enable the Village to more properly address concerns about sewer infrastructure in the Town as well as any repair or construction issues when the consolidation of the sewer districts takes place in the near future.
- h. Creek Walk Project – continues to move ahead. Village engineers have been working with the surveyor and the NYSDOT to complete Right-of-Way maps as well as working to complete the Final Design Report. There was a bit of a curveball thrown at the engineers recently in that there is a relatively new environmental directive concerning the Northern Long-eared Bat (not to be confused with the Indiana Bat) – a new Threatened & Endangered Species. The engineers had to follow new instructions and submit a synopsis of the project to US Fish & Wildlife Service to get their concurrence that there will be no impact. This has tended to slow progress on the Design Project, although the Board is still hoping for that to be finalized by February 15, 2014 and all Rights of Way to be acquired by August, 2014, with the project being put out to bid in September, 2014.
- i. Village Elections – two positions have been posted for the Village elections to take place on March 18, 2014. Four-year terms for Mayor and Trustee will be on the ballot that day. The polls at the Village Hall will be open from Noon to 9:00 p.m. The Board urged residents to take the time to cast their ballots that day.
- j. Old North Street – after almost 50 years in the making, Old North Street will finally be abandoned by the State of New York to the Village of Marcellus. Most residents have probably been unaware of the fact that the street was not Village-owned, although the Village has maintained the street continuously since 1966 when North Street and Nine Mile Creek were re-routed by the State. 47 years later, this plan will soon be complete.
- k. Village Flags – in recent weeks, 50 new American flags have been donated to the Village for installation on Village poles in the spring, before Memorial Day. Contributions totaling over \$1,500, from four (4) local businesses and one individual, as well as a substantial contribution from Valley Forge Flag Company of Pennsylvania. The Board thanked not only Valley Forge Flag Company and the Marcellus American Legion, which has worked with that company for a great many years, but also the local businesses and individual who chose to remain anonymous. Mayor Curtin announced that the residents of the Marcellus community are most grateful for their generosity.
- l. Water Bills – The Board is concerned that residents of the Village will not be receiving their sewer and refuse bills as early as they have in the past – in January. The development of a new billing system at OCWA has meant a delay in obtaining the consumption readings for the Village. The delay will probably extend into February, although residents will still have until the end of March to pay their bills. This situation often leads to some confusion and misunderstanding when the final bill of the year comes due at the end of April, providing residents only a month to pay the invoice. All of the uncertainty stems from the fact that the Village no longer reads its own meters and must rely instead on OCWA to provide consumption figures to accurately determine sewer billing.
- m. Olde Home Days – June 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> – the first meeting was held on January 16, 2014, and the next meeting will be held on March 6, 2014 in the Village Board Room at 7 p.m.
- o. Other – Mayor Curtin informed the public that the Village had received notice that from Onondaga County Division of Community Development that the Village had been denied for funding.

After concluding with his updates, Mayor Curtin asked if there were any comments from the Board. There were none.

**Items from the Floor:**

Mayor Curtin asked if there were any items from the floor. Town Supervisor Mary Jo Paul informed the Village Board that she would ensure that the information regarding wipes not being flushable be added to the Town Website. Supervisor Paul thanked Mayor Curtin for arranging to have the Village Engineer attend the next town board meeting to update the Town Board and the town taxpayers on the status of the Creek Walk Project. She also thanked the Board for obtaining the sewer easements for the town properties involved in the Village/Town Sewer Consolidation Project, instead of having the Town pay a very large sum of money for a title company to obtain them. Supervisor Paul informed the Village Board that the Town Board is considering building a new or renovating the current town hall, as well as Highway Garage. She asked if the Village would be interested in combining the Village Offices and/or Highway Garage with the

Town Offices/Highway Garage. Supervisor Paul mentioned that the Town will form a citizen's committee to research those options and anyone interested in sitting on the committee should contact the Town. Mayor Curtin asked if there were any further items from the floor. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Tallman made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried. Mayor Curtin thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

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Dawn M. O'Hara, Village Clerk