

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – August 2016

Since the minutes from our regular monthly Board meeting are not formally approved and posted on the Village website until the following month, it seems that our residents might be more fully informed of Village affairs by having regular updates posted on our website sooner, rather than later. To that end, it has been decided to provide our readers with some monthly updates, and if there are any concerns or a need for more information, please call (673-3112) or email (marboard@twcny.rr.com) the Village Office.

Fixed Monthly Cell Phone Stipend – the Board approved a motion to offer a fixed monthly cell phone stipend of \$30.00 per month, for full-time employees only. The reasoning behind this motion is to have full time employees of the Village carry one phone rather than carry two phones, one for the Village and one for personal use.

Resolution Authorizing Sale of WPCP Truck and Plow Attachment – the Board also approved a resolution that authorizes the sale of the 2004 WPCP F-250 Truck and Boss Plow attachment by Auctions International

Charter Communications Cable Franchise Agreement – the Board once again tabled the Charter Communications Cable Franchise Agreement, because of the change in ownership from Time Warner Cable, and until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of a new agreement, with Charter Communications.

Announce BAN for Lower Mill Demolition – the Board announced the sale of a \$100,000 Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) to finance the demolition of unsafe structures on the property at 71 North Street in the Village of Marcellus has been finalized. The demolition project should begin quite soon, and should take less than a week to complete. After the demolition, Village Treasurer Provvidenti will invoice Vito W. Lucchetti/Crown Mill Restoration, LLC for the cost of the demolition expenses. If Mr. Lucchetti does not pay the invoice, it will be re-levied to his Village property tax bill, which will come out in June 2017. If Mr. Lucchetti does not pay the Village tax bill with the re-levied expenses of the demolition by October 2017, the Village taxes will be re-levied to the Town and County taxes which will be mailed in January of 2018. If Mr. Lucchetti does not pay the Town and County taxes, the County will make the Village whole in April 2018.

Police Department Announcements – the Board also announced that Village Police Officer Raymond Herrick will soon be stepping down as School Resource Officer, but his replacement has not yet been selected. Officer Herrick will continue to serve as an SRO until his replacement is finalized, after which Officer Herrick will continue to serve as a patrol officer with the Police Department. Chief Hicks is also in the process of hiring a new officer for the department and that announcement will be finalized at next month's Board meeting.

Authorize Mayor to Accept Water Infrastructure Grant – last Monday, Governor Cuomo's office announced that \$14.6 Million would be provided in grants to support for Central New York Water Infrastructure Improvements. In addition to grants, the State is also providing interest-free and low-interest loans to further reduce the cost of infrastructure projects. The Village of Marcellus was fortunate to be awarded \$1,379,900 in grant funding and \$4,139,700 in loans. This will help the Village upgrade its Waste Water Treatment Plant and address the phosphorus removal mandate levied against the Village. The total estimated project cost of this mandate is \$5,600,00 and the grant will provide 25% of the cost, once the project is complete. We are most grateful for the funding and will continue to look for additional funding in order to pay for the remaining cost of the mandated project. The Board authorized the Mayor to acknowledge and accept the grant award as well as provide the milestone information requested, pending approval by the Village engineer.

Resignation of Kurt Field as Deputy Codes Enforcement Officer – the Board approved a motion to accept with regret, and because of health-related issues, the resignation and retirement of Kurt Field as Deputy Codes Enforcement Officer, effective September 7, 2016. Kurt has been an employee of the Village for almost ten years and he has done an outstanding job for our community. His years of service are most appreciated by the Village Board and by the residents of the community, which we all serve. In addition, the Board approved a Proclamation commending Kurt Field for his many years of tireless service to the Village of Marcellus.

Lower Mill Demolition – information on this demolition project has been recorded in previous monthly update and rather than repeat the same information, we urge residents to check the website for those updates.

Trucks in the Village – it appears that the trucks, which have been coming through the Village for the past two years have stopped, and we are grateful for this.

Creekwalk – we continue to consult with our engineers and NYSDOT to determine if part of the trail could be constructed at this time, and the remainder constructed when more funds become available. The Board is also looking into having some of the highway department members, from both the Village and the Town through an Intermunicipal Agreement, complete some of the work involved, particularly the clearing that is necessary. The Board and Village residents remain hopeful that construction might begin this fall, provided new funding can be obtained and Village/Town employees can be utilized so as to reduce cost. If some residents are not familiar with the project, we urge them to click on the Village website <http://villageofmarcellus.com/> and then on Village News.

Code Enforcement and Officer – several properties have been cited for lack of property maintenance including some buildings on Main Street.

Compost Project – compost continues to be available for residents and if any residents cannot pick up compost during normal business hours, please call the Treatment Plant (673-4491) to make an appointment with one of the operators. The operators are available to answer questions and to help load compost for residents.

Sidewalks – per the Highway Chief's recommendations, repairs have or will be made to selected areas on South Street, Bradley Street and First Street pending budgetary concerns.

Street repairs – acting upon the highway chief's recommendations, repairs to Austindale Avenue and Orchard Street have been reconstructed. Budgetary constraints have limited the desire of the Village Board to add other street repairs in this year's budget.

Trees – some tree removals and stump removals have been or will be done on South, and Bradley Streets, and perhaps another on Orchard Street, along with some trimming. Some tree plantings are expected to take place in late summer or early fall, but the locations have not yet been determined.

School Begins – in two weeks, and we urge residents to be aware of the fact that there will be students walking to school, particularly on First Street. Also, the State DOT will begin operation of the flashing lights on North Street and the Village Police Department will be even more vigilant in their enforcement of the traffic laws on that street.

Some Striping of Crosswalks – on Village streets (by the Village), as well as the Village parking lots and some parking spots on North Street will take place soon. Road striping on North Street (by the State) and on Main Street (by the State) will not take place this year as this does not fit into their schedules.

Village Taxes – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present, including penalties, totals \$37,633.96, from 26 property owners, a figure slightly more than last year. Residents may continue to pay unpaid taxes to the Village until October 31, 2016, when they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.

V.I.P. Monies – infrastructure grant payments received by the Village of Marcellus from Onondaga County, as part of the Village Infrastructure Improvement Project have totaled \$180,450 this year, with no increase, as was the case last year. While this represents about half of what the Village used to be provided, until the County took the sales tax revenue from the Villages back in 2010, half is better than nothing.

Paul Street Project sidewalks – Community Development has notified us that our sidewalk project on Paul Street will be eligible for some funding. The project will include the construction of 450 feet of new concrete sidewalk along the north side of Paul Street, between North Street (NYS 174) and Austindale Ave. Minor drainage improvements such as cleaning existing drainage pipes and replacement of catch basin grates are also included. The new sidewalk would eliminate a gap in the existing Village sidewalk system by connecting to existing sidewalks at North Street and Austindale Ave. Pedestrians, including Seniors who live at Nine Mile Landing and school children now have no choice but to walk on the pavement of the roadway. It is expected that design would take place over the winter of 2016 and construction completed by July 2017.

TMDL and Phosphorus Removal – the Board continues to address the DEC mandate to remove phosphorus from the WWTP effluent to a 1.0 mg/L (12 month rolling average) limitation, which will require extensive and very expensive upgrades to the existing WWTP. The Village Board has increased the sewer rents significantly within the last year, and it is expected that the sewer rate increases will begin to offset the cost of design while the Village continues to search for new funding for the project.

Planning Board – has not met recently due to few issues being considered. The Paul Street Project appears to be on hold at present.

New Business in Town – we again welcome a new business in the Village called Senshi Dojo and located upstairs at the Ja Spa Fitness Center, 16 W. Main Street. There are classes for kids and adults, which teach Ninjutsu as well as other forms of martial arts and self-defense, and are currently held on Monday, Thursday and Saturday. For more information, please click on <https://senshidojo.sites.zenplanner.com/page.cfm>

Announce Village Meetings for September 2016 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. Please note that the Village Office will be closed for Labor Day, September 5th, and that there will be a one-day delay in trash pickup that week. We also note that the Fall Trash Days are usually scheduled for the last weekend in September and the weekend in October (Oct 2nd and 3rd), from 8 am to 3 pm each day. However, the Town Board has not yet approved this schedule. When approved, this will be posted on the Village website.