

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE BOARD
OF THE VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS HELD ON
FEBRUARY 24, 2014 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: John P. Curtin, Mayor See List
Sally Tallman, Trustee
Jeff Brown, Attorney

ABSENT: Patrick W. Cox

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 January 2014. The bills on Abstract Sheets #009 for General Fund in the amount of \$24,205.42, Sewer Fund in the amount of \$10,374.94, and Capital Funds in the amount of \$14,780.63 were audited. The bills totaled \$49,360.99. The Board received the Police Report for January 2014 from Police Chief Robert Wicks. The Board also received the Building Inspectors Report for the month of January 2014 from Building Inspector Bill Reagan. The Board acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Town Board meetings for January 2014. The financial statements as submitted by Village Treasurer Nino Provvidenti for January 2014 were given to the Board for their review. Trustee Tallman made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the consent agenda. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

ELECTION

RESOLUTION: Trustee Tallman made a motion to approve and publish an election resolution designating the following: (a) The polling place for the Village election is the Village Hall, located at 6 Slocombe Avenue, Marcellus, NY (b) The election will take place on March 18, 2014. Polls will open at 12:00 o'clock noon and close at 9:00 p.m. (c) The names and addresses of the candidates nominated for the office of Mayor, a four year term, are: John P. Curtin – 12 First Street, Marcellus, NY (d) The names and addresses of the candidates nominated for the office of Trustee, a four year term, are: Patrick W. Cox – 19 Reed Parkway, Marcellus, NY (e) There will be no propositions to be voted upon at this election. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the resolution. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**AWARD BID –
SEWER
WORK:**

Trustee Tallman made a motion to award the bid for the final component of the Sewer Consolidation Project to North Country Construction for a total amount of \$261,750, which will include the base bid and the alternate bid for the North Street crossing. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on awarding the bid. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**INCREASE # OF SEWER UNITS –
19 NORTH ST:**

With the addition of a new business at 19 North Street, Trustee Tallman made a motion to approve a change in the number of sewer units charged from 5 units to 6 units for that property. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the increase in sewer units. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**AUTHORIZE B & L
COMMUNITY DEV.**

GRANT APP.: Trustee Tallman made a motion to table authorizing Barton & Loguidice Engineers to complete the 2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application on behalf of the Village. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on tabling the approval to designate B&L to work on the application. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

BUDGET

MODIFICATIONS:

Trustee Tallman 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 Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the budget modifications. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

EDWIN H. GRANT – PROCLAMATION:

Trustee Tallman read a Proclamation and made a motion to approve the Proclamation recognizing the life and achievements of Edwin H. Grant, former Trustee of the Village of Marcellus. Ed passed away on December 26, 2013 and will be greatly missed. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the Proclamation. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

ANNOUNCE VILLAGE:

MEETINGS:

Trustee Tallman made note of the list of meetings scheduled for March 2014, which was provided for residents. She noted that the second meeting of the Olde Home Days Committee, 2014, will take place on Thursday, March 6, 2014 in the Village Board Room. She also mentioned that two public hearings will be scheduled prior to the regular Board meeting in March, and that there will be several budget meetings planned for March as well. In addition, she mentioned that the Annual Meeting and Tentative Budget Hearing will take place on Monday, April 7, 2014 in the Board Room.

Updates by the Mayor:

Mayor Curtin provided updates on the following subjects:

- a. Police Updates – Mayor Curtin informed residents that Chief Wicks wanted to make sure that all residents continue to lock their autos and houses. Last year around this time, both in the Village, but also on the outside, on the periphery of the Village in particular, there were burglaries – particularly into unlocked automobiles, and property (GPS, other electronics and pocketbooks) were stolen. Virtually all of the thefts had taken place because autos were left outdoors and unlocked. If cars are locked, the thieves usually move on. It was also noted that there are only two sheriff's patrols at night, covering the entire southern and western parts of the county. Village officers are to be commended for their efforts in providing police service, not only for Village residents, but also for those who live on the border of the Village but do not village taxes. The Marcellus PD retrieved much of the stolen property and returned it to the rightful owners, and has not had to deal with the burglaries as it did last year. However, the Chief urges residents continue to be vigilant.

In addition, Mayor Curtin informed residents that Chief Wicks wanted to make residents aware that an additional layer of security for the Marcellus Central School District is in the process of being installed, called the "Raptor System". The Raptor System is an identification system whereby a visitor presents a picture ID, which is then scanned and indicates to the school and its administrators if there are any potential issues for violence from individuals who are visiting the school. The system also prints out a sticker which identifies the visitor and where the visitor is going or should be going on their visit. Together with a School Resource Officer in each school building, this makes the MCS the most secure school district in the county.

- b. Flushable Wipes – At last month's board meeting, Mayor Curtin mentioned that products called "flushable wipes" were recently introduced to the market. The Treatment Plant operatives 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 these wipes do not break down and will create sewer backups. If you 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, residents will most likely 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 Village Board seems to address at every Board meeting. It is a major concern and The Board continues to urge residents to be more aware of the problems associated with grease in the sewer system. The Treatment Plant operators urge residents to scrape grease and food scraps from cooking surfaces into a container and put them in the trash or compost them. Do not put grease, fats or oils of any type down the drain or garbage disposal. Do use baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids – and then empty them in the trash for disposal. There continues to be an increase of calls from residents who have had sewer backups, and the backups 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 1st to April 1st so that the highway crew can plow snow.

- e. Snow Plowing – of village streets and sidewalks by the highway department has again been exemplary. The Board would like to commend members of the department for all of their dedicated work, often in miserable conditions, often while the rest of the village sleeps. Their dedication to task is truly excellent.
- f. Creek Walk Project – continues to move ahead. The Right of Way maps have been delivered to NYSDOT, which will order appraisals of the properties. The engineers have finished up all of the lingering environmental issues and finalized the Design Report and submitted it to the NYSDOT, which will most likely have some comments to make. Once that is done, the NYSDOT will give the Village the okay to make the Design Approval Request Memo. Once Design Approval is granted, the NYSDOT will have a green light to make offers to the property owners. The Board anticipates that all of the Rights of Way will be acquired by August 2014, and the project being put out to bid in September 2014.
- g. Village Elections – two offices have been designated to be filled for the Village elections to take place on March 18, 2014. Four-year terms for Mayor and Trustee will be on the ballot on 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 on Village Election day.
- h. Budget – the Village Board has begun work on its 2014-15 Budget. At first glance, it appears that things are still somewhat stagnant at the Village level. In January, Village residents received their County and Town tax bill and that bill reflected, as last year, a tax reduction for Village residents, on average about \$30 for a house valued at \$100,000 in the Village. The County, similar to last year, was able to drop County taxes because the County, slashed by more than half, the sales tax revenue that used to go to the Village. The County was then able to pass on those tax savings to Village property owners in the form of reduced County taxes. Ever since, the Village has had to make up for the revenue taken by the County and then passed onto Village property owners in the form of reduced County taxes. The County has added some VIP monies to the Villages this year, but the Board is not hopeful that it will offset totally an increase in Village taxes. In addition, there is no guarantee that the VIP increase will continue each year.
- i. Property Tax Cap – the Budget is also complicated by the property tax cap of 2%, another State mandate. At the March Board meeting, the Board will probably vote to override the tax cap. Having learned from the experience of several towns, it is best to override, if only to protect the Village from penalty. Should the adopted budget vary from the actual budget, resulting in a tax hike of more than 2 percent, the Village would be responsible for a host of penalties for violating the governor's tax cap. The Governor has also proposed a property tax freeze if the Village stays under the tax cap and moves towards consolidation. However, it is unlikely that The Board will be able to stay under the tax limit and there are several reasons for this, including the fact that Village assessments are down about \$200,000 and exemptions have gone up about \$200,000. This means a decrease in Village tax revenue of about \$2,000. The Board has certainly moved towards consolidation, particularly with the sewer project with the Town and the Board expects this to continue somewhat. Yet, there are still too many variables in the Governor's tax proposal for the Village to adopt such a plan. In addition, the savings, according to NYCOM, would be quite minimal.
- j. Time Warner Cable TV – is raising its monthly prices and will be reflected on the next billing statement. Some residents may have received notice of this by U.S. Mail. The Village Clerk printed a hand-out that summarized the price changes, some of which might be significant for some Time Warner Cable TV users. The Board urged residents to take note of the changes.
- k. LGE and Orange Street Pump Station – bids for the final major construction phase of the sewer consolidation project were opened in mid February and the bids were much more cost effective than the previous bid. The final phase of 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. Having awarded the final component of the project to North Country Construction, the Board expects that construction will take place in the early spring, including the North Street crossing during the April 21st school break.
- l. Town Sewer Easements – The Board has been able to secure virtually all of the easements in Town Sewer District #2 and thanked the WWTP operators for their assistance in accomplishing this. The Board is also in the process of examining which easements in Town Sewer District #1 need to be acquired, in anticipation of taking over control and responsibility of the consolidated sewer district – possibly by the end of December 2014.
- m. Water Bills – the development of a new billing system at OCWA did not cause a delay in obtaining the consumption readings for the Village and residents will still have until the end of March to pay their sewer and refuse bills. However, there may be some confusion and misunderstanding when the final bill of the year becomes due at the end of April, providing residents only a month to pay this bill. 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 so as to accurately determine sewer usage costs.

- n. Olde Home Days – June 6th, 7th and 8th – the first meeting was held on January 16, 2014. The next meeting will be held on March 6, 2014 in the Village Board Room at 7 p.m.

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 asked the Board for an estimate as to the cost of having one of the Village WPCP employees obtain the easements for the Town of town sewer district properties needed for the Village/Town Sewer Consolidation Project. Mayor Curtin estimated that the cost would most likely be around \$500. Supervisor Paul also let the Board know that at the last Town Board Meeting, in her updates, she informed residents of the town about the importance of keeping F.O.G (Fats, Oils and Grease) out of the sewer system. 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 7:17 p.m.

Dawn M. O'Hara, Village Clerk