

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

PRESENT: John P. Curtin, Mayor See List
Sara N. Tallman, Trustee
Patrick W. Cox, Trustee

ABSENT: Jeff Brown, Attorney

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

CONSENT

AGENDA: The Village Clerk submitted the minutes of the regular board meeting for the month of October 2014. The bills on Abstract Sheets #006 for General Fund in the amount of \$79,405.77, Sewer Fund in the amount of \$35,864.02 and Capital Funds in the amount of \$36,085.71 were audited. The bills totaled \$151,355.50. The Board received the Police Report for October 2014 from Police Chief Robert Wicks. The Board also received the Building Inspectors Report for the month of October 2014 from Building Inspector Bill Reagan. The Board acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Town Board meetings for October 2014. The financial statements as submitted by Village Treasurer Nino Provvidenti for October 2014 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.

PROCLAMATION –

BOB CRYSLER: Trustee Tallman made a motion to approve a Proclamation recognizing the outstanding achievements of Robert E. Crysler and extended sympathy on behalf of the Board to Bob's family at his recent loss. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the Proclamation. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

APPROVE WQIP

FUNDING: Trustee Cox made a motion to accept funding from the NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Project, in the amount of \$80,000, the monies will be used for the Village of Marcellus Waste Water Treat Plant-Phosphorus Removal mandate. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the WQIP Funding. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

APPROVE MEMORIAL

BENCH: Trustee Tallman made a motion to approve the placement in the Village of a memorial bench, purchased by family members in memory of William D. Johnstone, similar to those approved in the past. The Highway Chief, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, will make the decision as to the location of this bench, and the Board thanked the Johnstone family for their generous donation to the Village. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the bench. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

CHANGE DEC.

BOARD MTG.: Trustee Cox made a motion to change the December regular Board meeting from December 22, 2014 to December 15, 2014, because of the Christmas holiday. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on changing the board meeting. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All 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 Trustee Cox. 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 TREE

LIGHTING: Trustee Cox announced that the annual Marcellus Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 4, 2014 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall and then moving uptown to the Point for the lighting of the Village Christmas Tree. There are many different activities and participants in this year's ceremony and a flyer was available for residents who wanted to pick one up.

**ANNOUNCE
VILLAGE**

MEETINGS: Trustee Tallman announced that the Village Clerk had printed copies of future meeting dates of the Village for the benefit of residents. She asked residents to make note that the Village Office would be closed on Thursday, December 25th for the Christmas holiday and on Thursday, January 1st for the New Years' Holiday.

**Updates by the
Mayor:**

Mayor Curtin provided updates on the following subjects:

- a. No Parking – November 1st to April 1st – the public should continue to be aware of the fact that as of November 1, 2014, no parking is allowed on any street in the Village of Marcellus from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m. so that the Highway Department can plow snow. The no parking ban will remain in effect until April 1, 2015.
- b. Sewer Consolidation Project – the final phase of the project was completed earlier this year and the Board has made final payment to the contractor. With that done, the Board will proceed to scheduling a final consolidation project meeting, which should involve compilation of all expenses involved and then forwarding the results to the NYS DOS for payment of the \$600,000 grant awarded to the Village in 2012. This should help to reduce what the State Comptroller calls “fiscal stress” for the Village.
- c. Compost Project – the Village received an update from the NYS DEC regarding the funding that was to accompany the Compost Project. The project began in the summer of 2010 with a testing and feasibility study that called for the conversion of bio-solids (sludge) from the WWTP to composting. In January 2011, engineering studies and resolutions were approved, as well as an application to the NYS DEC for a recycling grant that would pay for half of the cost of building the composting facility – approximately \$400,000. The Board was told at the time that processing of the grant would take three to four years. Mayor Curtin announced that the Village had been notified last week that the process seems to be coming to a favorable conclusion and that the grant monies would be available soon. The Board is grateful to the DEC for the processing of the grant, and equally grateful to the Treatment Plant Operators, Greg Crslyler and Ryan Riefler, whose ideas for the project first spearheaded Village interests. The Board also extended thanks to MRB Group, in particular Brian Romeiser and Jim Oberst for their dedication to the task and for all of the efforts they extended on behalf of the Village residents.
- d. Highway Work – in recent weeks, the highway department has been very diligent in picking up leaves, long beyond the cut-off period. The Board received some very nice compliments from residents for their efforts and they appreciate the response. With the coming of the winter snows, the memorial benches and pedestrian signs have been removed until spring by the department. The Department will also put up and decorate the Village Christmas Tree at the Point, ready for lighting on the 4th and the Christmas decorations will soon be put up as well. The Board thanked members of the Highway Department for all of their efforts as the Village prepares for the winter months, knowing how especially dedicated they are with the removal of snow and ice.
- e. Sump Pump Redirection Program – which will help the Village to reduce the amount of inflow and infiltration into the Treatment Plant, continues. Some residences in the Village, approximately 20, have not yet been inspected despite the efforts of the inspectors to make contact with them to arrange for evening and/or Saturday inspections. Another letter to these residents will soon be sent from the Village Attorney, encouraging them to schedule an inspection. In addition, the Board approved an amendment to the sewer law at its last meeting, which will levy surcharges or fines on those property owners who refuse to comply. These surcharges could double the sewer rent each quarter, until an inspection takes place. The Board urged property owners who have refused an inspection to contact the Village Inspector, John Holmes at 414-8299 or the Village Office (673-3112) to arrange for an inspection and avoid the surcharge on their sewer rents each quarter.
- f. Health Care Costs – continue to rise, and both the Village and its employees will be required to pay, on average, an increase of about 13% for coverage, beginning in January 2015. However, coverage is not as good as it has been, particularly in the area of co-pays.
- g. Pension Costs – for next year have been projected by the Village Treasurer to be within the allotted budget amounts, a decrease of approximately 5% increase over last year.
- h. Creekwalk – right-of-way (ROW) acquisitions by NYSDOT for the project are moving forward and should be secured within the next several months. The Village will end up owning the ROW after acquisition by the NYSDOT. Unfortunately, because of delays, all rights-of-way will not be secured until May 1, 2015, which means that construction of the trail will be delayed until the spring.
- i. Cemetery Wall – a wall on the Maple Street side of the Village cemetery collapsed because of heavy rains during the summer. The Village crew was able to secure the site until repairs could be made. They were completed by the Town Highway Department several weeks ago, and an amazingly perfect repair was done. The Board commended the Town Highway Department and its

Superintendent, Don MacLachlan, for all of their efforts in helping to preserve this historic site in the village.

- j. Coon's Pond Outfall Pipe Cover – at the last Board meeting, a village resident inquired about having the cover on the Coon's Pond Outfall Pipe more tightly secured, lest there be an accident. The highway crew was able to do this in recent weeks and the Board thanked them for taking care of this.
- k. No Thru Signs on Reed Street – at the last Board meeting, a village resident inquired about having “No Thru Signs” erected on Reed Street, to discourage motorists from using Reed Street as a by-pass from the traffic on Main Street. More motorists have been using the street for this purpose and the resident was concerned about safety, particularly for school children who use the route. The highway department erected two such signs.
- l. Village Clock – Bill Reagan, the Code Enforcement Officer, was able to change the time on the Village Clock to reflect Daylight Savings Time. However, he also filed a report with the Village that indicates a serious need to have the tower itself professionally cleaned of debris and pigeon feces and to have the tower secured from pigeons finding access into it.
- m. Planning Board – the Board met recently to discuss and approve a Site Plan Review in relation to the establishment of a mixed use building at 3 East Main Street.
- n. Grease Traps – as the holiday season approaches, the Treatment Plant Operators continue to urge residents to become more aware of the problems 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 – disposals 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 composts them. Do not put grease, fats or oils of any type down your drain or garbage disposal. Mayor Curtin also advised residents to 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 was an increase of calls from residents who had sewer backups, and they were attributable, for the most part, to grease buildup and blockage.
- o. Drainage Issues – on October 29, 2014, an informational meeting was held at the Marcellus Fire Station for both Village and Town residents to discuss some of the drainage and flooding issues that continue to result from heavy rains in the community this past summer. Representatives from the Village and the Town, Onondaga Soil & Water Conservation, Code Enforcement Officers and an engineering firm (MRB) attended to offer thoughts on the drainage situation and potential solutions to the flooding that occurs in the Village following heavy rains. It was noted that there will not be an easy fix to the drainage issue, and it will require the full cooperation of those residents whose properties are affected by the heavy rains. Most of the areas of great concern are on private property and, neither the Village nor the Town is able to provide much assistance without proper easements. There was good attendance at the meeting and many were able to express their own concerns regarding the situation. The meeting concluded with the caution that solutions to the drainage issues in the Village would not be easily found or inexpensive. The Village and its engineer will attempt to seek grant monies for an overhaul of the dated Drainage Study and will request some help from Onondaga County to help mitigate several problems areas. Obtaining substantial grant monies seem to be the only way to bring about long term beneficial results.
- p. Old North Street – the Board is still waiting for the attorney for Daniel's Grill to complete all necessary legal work to transfer, at an appropriately-appraised value, the property that is now owned by the Village to Daniel's Grill.
- q. Trees and NYSEG – foresters from NYSEG were in the Village recently to trim some of the trees that are in the electrical wires. In some cases, it was necessary to remove several trees since the trimming would have left them totally ruined.

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. 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 9:08 p.m.