

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – November 2015

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.

A Public Hearing and Local Law No. 3 of 2015 – was held prior to the regular Board meeting on November 23, 2015. The public hearing was held to allow all interested parties the opportunity to be heard regarding Local Law #3 of 2015, amending Article VII of the Marcellus Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 250-16, Residential District Class RC, which will amend Chapter 250 (Zoning) of the Code of the Village of Marcellus, the Zoning Map, so as to accommodate the construction of a new parking lot across the street from the Marcellus Free Library. The proposed law will permit libraries and library parking lots in RC Districts, subject to Site Plan Review. Local Law #3 also proposed a zone change of vacant property located at 27 Maple Street, tax map no. 004.-02-12.3, owned by Two Plus Four Construction Company, Inc., from RA to RC, to allow for a proposed library parking lot. The vacant property is in the process of being sold to the Marcellus Free Library, and it is on this site that a new library parking lot would be constructed. This was followed by approval of a SEQR Resolution for Amending Chapter 250, Zoning, noting that this change would not result in any significant adverse impact on the environment, and requiring no further environmental review. The Village has assumed the role of lead agency, and then prepared a negative declaration with respect to the change in zoning. The Board then adopted Local Law #3 of 2015 unanimously, contingent on a review by the Onondaga County Planning Board.

Award 36-Month Hauler Contract – the Board also authorized the Mayor to sign a 36-month contract, beginning December 1, 2015 and ending November 30, 2018, with Superior Waste Removal Company for refuse and recycling pickup with in the Village of Marcellus. The three-year cost of this contract was bid at \$273,456.00.

Reed Parkway Drainage Agreement Amendment – the Board also approved an amendment to the Reed Parkway Drainage Agreement, the details of which are on file in the Village Office, whereby the property owners at 7 and at 9 Reed Parkway and the Village agree to share the cost of repairing a pipeline in the rear of the properties, a precedent having been set by a Village Board decision in May 1969 to repair the same pipeline following a petition by then property owners Lyndon Bishop and Charles Barry

Change December Board Meeting – the Board approved a motion to change the December regular Board meeting from December 28, 2015 to December 21, 2015, because of the Christmas holiday.

Christmas Tree Lighting December 3, 2015 – it was also announced that the annual Marcellus Tree Lighting Ceremony would take place on Thursday, December 3, 2015 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 has been prepared for residents who wish to pick one up.

Village Meetings for December 2015 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. Please make note that the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 3rd, in the Village, at the Point, that the Village Office will be closed on Friday, December 25th for the Christmas holiday. In addition, the Village Office will be closed on Friday, January 1st for the New Years' Holiday.

No Parking – November 1st to April 1st – the public should continue to be aware of the fact that as of November 1, 2015, there is no parking 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. This no parking ban will remain in effect until April 1, 2016.

Switch to Solvay Bank - is now complete

Increase in refuse rates (from \$41 to \$45) as well as the sewer rates (from \$51 to \$63/quarter – will become more evident with January billing

Solar and/or Battery Power – the Board is looking into this as part of Intermunicipal Agreement with Town and School – particularly for our Treatment Plant

Creekwalk – the trees, possible nesting areas for the Northern Long-eared Bat, in back of McClurg's were cut on November 11th. We should now be able to bid the project during the winter and construct in the spring of 2016

Compost Project – continues to be very successful – treatment plant cannot keep in stock. Composting continues all year round. It can be stored outside, without cover, through the winter for use next spring.

Scotch Hill Project – we would thank Onondaga County Community Development for having awarded a Grant of \$47,000 for the sidewalk project on Scotch Hill. The sidewalk reconstruction project was awarded to Nu-Crete Inc., and the project is now complete. We would like to thank Scotch Hill and Village residents for their patience and understanding during the project, as well as apologize for any inconvenience that the work may cause. We would again like to thank several residents on Scotch Hill for their assistance in helping us to secure funding for this most worthwhile project, helping to beautify this important gateway to our Village.

TMDL and Phosphorus Removal - we had a visit from SUNY ESF Professor Neil Murphy and five of his students last Friday. As part of their senior thesis project, they have agreed to help the Village work on some solutions to the phosphorus removal mandate at the plant. They were given a tour and an explanation of what is going on, and they will have return visits as well. We are excited that their young minds are working for us (at no cost). More to come on this

New businesses - North Street Diner is coming to town – do not know the new owner, nor when it will open – everyone seems excited, however – site plan review by Planning Board will be necessary.

Highway Work – in recent weeks, the highway department has been very diligent in picking up leaves, long beyond the cut-off period. We have received some very nice compliments from residents for their efforts and we appreciate the response. With the coming of the winter snows, the memorial benches and pedestrian signs will or 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 3rd as well as the Christmas decorations. The Board thanks members of the Highway Department for all of their efforts as we prepare for the winter

Health Care Costs – continue to rise, and both the Village and its employees will be required to pay, on average, an increase of about 10% for coverage, beginning in January 2016. However, co-pays appear to be identical to last year, and the Treasurer budgeted an amount to cover the increase.

Pension Costs – for next year have been projected by the Village Treasurer to be within the allotted budget amounts, a decrease of approximately 8% over last year, and attributed to fewer police officer contributions by the Village.

Grease Traps – as the holiday season approaches, our Treatment Plant Operators continue to urge our residents to become more aware of the problems with grease in our 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 you 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 use baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids and then empty them in the trash for disposal. During the holidays, there always seems to be 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.

Prescription / Drug Drop-Off Box – Chief Wicks would like to announce that a prescription/drug drop-off box, similar to a mailbox, is now located in the lobby of the Village Hall and is available for use by any residents who would like to dispose of any prescription or other drugs anonymously. The County Health Department will stop by monthly to pick up and properly dispose of such items.