

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – October 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.

Re-levy of Unpaid Village Taxes – the Board approved a motion to re-levy all unpaid Village Taxes, as of November 1, 2016, to the County of Onondaga for payment.

Request to Waive Sewer and Refuse Penalties – having received a written request from the manager for some residential property apartments on North Street, indicating that the transition to a new management company caused confusion and resulted in the inability of the management company to submit a timely payment for sewer and refuse billing, the property manager requested, on behalf of the property owner, that the refuse penalty as well as the sewer penalty, which had already been paid, be refunded back to the owner's account. Because of these extenuating circumstances, and because the Board wishes to ensure the property owner of the Village's interest in and concern for sidewalk improvement and dumpster installation at the residential apartments in the near future, a motion was approved to refund the penalties to the property owner.

Update Schedule D – Health and Dental Benefits Plan – the Board approved a motion to amend Schedule D, Health and Dental Benefits for employees of the Village of Marcellus, to wit: “. . . part time employees will contribute 100% to health and dental costs EXCEPT part time employees with 25+ years of continuous service will contribute only 50% of single health and single dental costs.” The actual costs for health and dental coverage are outlined on a newly developed Schedule D form and will be available for public inspection in the Village Office when this plan goes into effect on November 1, 2016.

Resolution – Establish Department of Public Works – a motion to pass a resolution to establish a new Village Department of Public Works was approved. The new Department, which will begin operations as of November 3, 2016, will come about as a result of the consolidation of the Highway Department and the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The new Department of Public Works will result in some cost savings as well as more efficient use of equipment and personnel.

Create New Positions – Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent of Public Works – a motion to create two new positions for the new Department of Public Works – a Superintendent of Public Works and a Deputy Superintendent of Public Works was approved. Both positions will have duties enumerated in appropriate job descriptions, which are available for public inspection in the Village Office.

Appointments – DPW Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and Part Time Laborer – the Board approved the Mayor's appointment of Greg Crysler to the position of Superintendent of Public Works and James LaRose to the position of Deputy Superintendent of Public Works. Both appointments included a slight increase in salary, reflecting the fact that more duties and responsibilities have been added. It was also noted that the position and duties of WPCP Operator will remain static, as will that of Motor Equipment Operator and both of these latter positions will come under the supervision of the new Department of Public Works and its Superintendent. In addition, the Board proposed the hiring of a part-time laborer, who will assist, as needed and as directed by the Mayor, in the operations of the Village. To the position of part-time laborer, the Mayor appointed Kathy Welsh, who will continue to perform her duties as part time crossing guard as well as additional responsibilities assigned by the Mayor, the salaries for each position remaining as they are.

Charter Communications Cable Franchise Agreement - a motion to again table the Time Warner Cable Franchise Agreement until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of the agreement, with Time Warner Cable was again approved by the Board.

Reminder – Closing of First Street for Halloween – a motion was approved to again close First Street between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Halloween for trick-or-treating, subject to conditions on October 31st, which is a Monday. It was also noted that the Marcellus Fire Department will sponsor cider, cookies, apples and coffee at the Marcellus Police Department, 6 Slocombe Avenue. In addition, a Halloween Costume Parade, with prizes, will take place at the point, beginning at 7 p.m. and that Village merchants will be opened extended hours, with treats for kids of all ages.

Reminder – No Parking – November 1st to April 1st – the public should be aware of the fact that as of November 1, 2016, 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, 2017. Is there a second?

Reminder – Village Polling Places – please note that polling places in Marcellus changed four years ago. In 2012, the Board of Elections redrew the Town of Marcellus election district lines to create two districts entirely within the Village. Those 2 districts (ED3 and ED4) will vote at the high school auditorium. Residents living outside the Village will vote at the Fire House. All residents were notified by mail by the Board of Elections, but some may not realize the change is now permanent. Election Day is November 8, 2016 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and we urge all residents to vote.

Leaf and Brush Pickup – brush pickup ended on October 10th and if any residents have missed the deadline, they are welcome to utilize the Village composting site behind the Village Hall. Leaf pickup extends from October 17th to November 7th. With weather permitting, the Highway Department may continue leaf pickup beyond the November 7th deadline, since many trees have not yet dropped their leaves. Please remember to keep leaves in the Village right of way, between the sidewalk and the road, and out of the street where they sometimes end up clogging the catch basins.

Compost Project – continues to be very successful and please remember that composting continues all year round even though the demand obviously lulls through the fall and winter. Some residents might want to secure compost this fall, since it can be stored outside, without cover, through the fall and winter for its intended use next spring.

Tree Stumps and Plantings – while there will be no more tree removals in the Village this year, several tree stumps have been removed, and new trees have or will have been planted in various locations throughout the Village in recent days.

School's Open – we continue to ask residents to please watch for school children walking and remember that there are pedestrian crossings on Main Street, as well as 20 mph speed limits in school zones and a 25 mph speed limit on First Street, a route that is heavily traveled by schoolchildren. Please slow down. Tickets will be issued for speeders.

Police Report – within the past month, several thefts in the Village were reported and residents became concerned. Some of our officers have conducted an investigation that is expected to result in the arrest of two juveniles, who are believed to be responsible for the thefts. The Chief also believes that the criminal activity

has ended for now. We would like to compliment our department and its officers for the fine work that they do on behalf of our residents and non-residents. In addition, the Chief continues to encourage residents to call the Police Department if they have any concerns about solicitors or contractors they may employ. The Police Department would be happy to do background checks so as to alleviate these concerns.

Call 911 – Chief Wicks again reminds residents, especially at a time of year when mischief makers are more active, that it is essential that they report incidents of crime or vandalism in their neighborhoods by calling 911. Sometimes, residents are not making these calls because they feel that an issue might not warrant it. Some might be calling the Police Department and will often listen to an answering machine because the officer is out on patrol. Residents must call 911. If you are still not satisfied, please contact the Village Office during business hours, at 673-3112, and express your concern. Residents should also be aware of the fact that First Street will be closed to traffic on Halloween, October 31st, from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Creek Walk Finally Under Construction – recently, the NYSDOT extended approval for the use of what is called force account work for construction of part of the creek walk trail, by the Village. This work involved the clearing and grubbing that was necessary, excavation, installation of drainage pipes, the placement of millings and stone dust for the trail itself, the installation of signage, railings and plantings. The Village and Town of Marcellus negotiated and signed an Inter-municipal Agreement and work began in early October, with the hope that much of this work might be completed in the fall of 2016. An eight-foot wide section of the trail which will require a retaining wall to be built, along with asphalt paving, concrete work and pavement striping will be competitively bid in the winter of 2017. The construction that has taken place in the last month is truly remarkable, and the Village is most grateful not only to our own highway and treatment plant operators, but also to the Town of Marcellus and its highway department for all of the help that has been extended. This will not only help to reduce the cost of constructing the trail but it also serves as another excellent example of inter-municipal cooperation between the Town and the Village. It might also be noted that, during the past construction season, Village employees have reciprocated by helping Town employees during the construction of the Brewer Road bridge, sewer repairs in the Town Park, the complete re-roofing of one of the rest rooms in the Town Park and most recently, the assistance provided by our plant operators to locate and correct a flooding problem in the Town Park. This spirit of cooperation has always been evident in the past, but it has often been unrecognized. On behalf of the Village of Marcellus and its residents, the Board of Trustees would like to convey its appreciation and gratitude to the Town and its employees for the spirit of cooperation and collaboration created by the creek walk project between our town municipalities. Thank you, most sincerely.

Utility Bills – Following the most recent delivery of Village utility bills, we have received a number of comments regarding the increase in sewer rates. The Board would like to explain the reasons for what appears to be a significant increase in the rates charged each quarter. Rather than publish a rather lengthy explanation in this newsletter, we urge residents to check the Village website to read a letter of explanation. http://www.villageofmarcellus.com/uploads/5/3/9/5/53954069/sewer_increase.pdf If a resident has no access to the Internet, please call the Village Office (673-3112) and a copy of that letter will be mailed.

Veterans' Day – commemoration will take place at 11 a.m. on November 11th, at the Village Point, and we ask residents to take time out and offer thanks to all veterans for the service they have and will continue to provide us.

TMDL and Phosphorus Removal – in mid-September, the Village of Marcellus was fortunate to be awarded \$1,379,900 in grant funding and \$4,139,700 in loans to 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. We are grateful for the funding and will continue to look for added funding in order to pay for the remaining cost of the mandated project.

Village Taxes – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present, including penalties, totals approximately \$21,500 from 16 property owners, a figure similar to that in 2015. Unpaid taxes can continue to be paid to the Village until October 31, 2016, when they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.

Code Enforcement and Officer – several properties have been cited for lack of property maintenance including some buildings on Main Street. Fortunately, a responsible property owner has recently purchased 20-22 West Main Street and a new roof has already been installed on what has been a disgraceful blight on Main Street for far too long.

Planning Board – has not met recently due to few issues being considered.

Announce Village Meetings for November 2016 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. Please make note that the Village Office will be closed on Friday, November 11th in honor of Veterans' Day and in addition, the Village Office will be closed on November 24th and 25th for the Thanksgiving Day holidays, and that the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 1st, in the Village, at the Point.