

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – June 2017

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.

Informational Meeting At Marcellus Free Library – Sewer Upgrades – the purpose of the meeting was to discuss, with sewer users in the Village and Town, the DEC mandate requiring the Village to upgrade its sewage treatment plant so as to reduce the amount of phosphorus in its effluent and to consider the next steps to be taken in order to fund this upgrade. The Village has already spent over \$300,000 to fund a design for the upgrade and has increased the sewer rents significantly within the last year. Letters were sent to residents interested in attending this meeting, and several of our local representatives, as well as our plant operators and engineers, were on hand to field questions and offer some suggestions in an attempt to find additional funding to pay for the mandate – estimated to cost in excess of \$5.5 million. We began with background information on the history of the Onondaga Lake TMDL for phosphorus, by Greg Crysler and Ryan Riefler, Village Treatment Plant operators. Jim Oberst, our Engineer from MRB Group then explained what has transpired since the TMDL mandate was leveled at the Village in 2012, as well as funding opportunities explored and next steps to be taken by the Village. Our plant operators as well as our engineer had some general comment as to what our next steps might be and this was followed by some comment by representatives from Sen. De Francisco's Office, Assemblyman Finch's Office and County Legislator Michael Plochocki. This was followed by questions from members of the public and adjournment. Additional information will also be available in a newspaper article to be printed in next week's edition of the Eagle-Observer.

Regular Meeting – followed the Public Information Meeting

NYS Workers Compensation Alliance Agreement – 7/1/17 – 6/30/18 – a motion to renew the Workers Compensation Agreement with the NYS Workers Compensation Alliance for the time period, July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 at a cost of \$26,667.00 was approved.

Paul Street Sidewalk Project – following bid openings on June 21, 2017, and a review of those bids by B & L Engineering, a motion to award the bid for completion of the sidewalk project on Paul Street to Salt Springs Paving Corporation at a cost of \$35,800.00 was approved.

Village Insurance Proposals – the Board decided to renew the Village Insurance proposals with the Reagan Companies of Marcellus and a motion to award the contract for Village Insurance in the amount of \$26,941 to the Reagan Companies was approved, representing a decrease of \$20.00 from last year. This also includes a 4% upgrade on property values including the addition of the Platt Road Pump Station, now a responsibility of the Village. In addition, the Village's 3-year crime coverage policy to the Reagan Companies was locked in for an additional three years at a cost of \$386.00.

Williamson Software Contract – a motion to approve annual software support contracts with Williamson Law Book Company for municipal accounting (\$1,018.00), tax billing (\$434.00), refuse/sewer billing (\$949.00), and payroll (\$949.00), totaling \$3,350.00, was approved, representing a 2% increase over last year.

Website Design Contract – North Shore Solutions – a motion was made and approved to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with North Shore Solutions, which company designs, set up and hosts the website for the Village of Marcellus, as well as provide training for Village office staff to operate the website once it goes live. There is an increase in the software leasing part of the contract, which costs \$477.75 per year, a 5% increase.

School Resource Officer Contract – a motion was made and approved to authorize the Mayor to sign the School Resource Officer Agreement between the Village of Marcellus and the Marcellus Central School District. The School District and the Village have determined that it is in their mutual best interests to enter into this Agreement to continue to provide for the assignment of three officers of the Marcellus Police Department to serve as School Resource Officers in the Marcellus Central School District. A copy of the agreement is on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement – a motion to again table the Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of the agreement, with Spectrum Cable was approved.

Budget Modifications for May 2017 – a motion to table budget modifications until next month's Board meeting was approved.

Informational Meeting – on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank those who were able to attend and participate in the public information meeting regarding our sewer upgrade and the phosphorus removal mandate that was concluded prior to our regular Board meeting. The meeting was most informative and it provided some insight as to what has transpired in the past, how things stand at present, and how we continue to address the issue in the future. I might also note that we have a meeting planned for later this week with Reginald Parker and others at the local DEC to discuss some of the items mentioned this evening, in an attempt to search for additional funding for the mandated upgrade to our treatment plant.

Brush Pick-up – as was mentioned at earlier meetings, the Village Board and DPW are going to try something new for the 2017 Brush Pickup. Spring brush lasted from April 3rd to May 8th. During the summer months (June, July and August), brush may also be placed at the curb on Saturdays and Sundays for pickup on the first Monday of each of those summer months. Village residents should not to put yard waste out to the curb for pick-up until then. They are welcome to bring debris to the compost pile next to the Highway garage. Also, please do not sweep yard debris into the road. This often causes storm sewers to become obstructed.

Olde Home Days – similar to last year, was again not as successful as in the past, primarily due to the lousy weather that was experienced on the last day of the celebration. Last month we thanked a number of people for their efforts in helping to beautify the new Village flower boxes in time for Memorial Day and Olde Home Days. We also thank our Highway Department for the work they did in helping to beautify the Village in time for these special events, as well as the Village Police Department, to whom we give much credit for no vandalism or other serious problems during the weekend.

Creek Walk Project – following the opening of bids on April 12, 2017, a bid was awarded at the Board's April meeting to complete the remaining work on the construction of the Creekwalk to JL Excavation of Chaumont, New York with a base bid in the amount of \$113,328 and a Alternate Bid #2 in the amount of \$9,502 for a total of \$122,830. A pre-construction meeting was held on May 4, 2017 with all parties involved and the contractor was able to start construction soon after Olde Home Days. This part of the project should be completed by the end of June, with some final items, such as fencing and plantings to be completed in the summer. I would also note that this company is probably one of the finest construction firms with which we have dealt. In addition, the cooperation of Scott McClurg and his employees in rendering help to the contractors and to the Village has

been outstanding, and we would like to publically thank them. 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 – Building and Pool Permits – residents should be aware of the need to obtain permits if any rehabilitation or new construction takes place. This includes the addition of a pool (2 feet and above), or a fence or a deck, or new steps to a residence. Permits are required, as is an inspection by the Code Enforcement Officer. Permits and more information can be found by checking with the Village Office (673-3112) or with Bill Reagan, our CEO (430-7927).

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.

Street and Sidewalk Repair, Tree Removal and Plantings – per the D.P.W. chief’s recommendation, Wilson Drive and Dunlap Avenue will be reconstructed this summer – probably late summer – as well as the corner of First and Slocombe. Budgetary constraints have limited the ability of the Village Board to add other street repairs in this year’s budget. Also, sidewalk repairs will be made to selected areas on South Street, First Street and Bradley Street, and the removal of several trees on South and Bradley Streets, some tree plantings are expected to take place in late summer or early fall, but the locations have not yet been determined.

Paul Street Project sidewalks – with many thanks to the efforts of the office of Sen. DeFrancisco, our sidewalk project on Paul Street will be funded. 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 construction will be completed this summer.

Lost Bicycles – residents should be aware that the Police Department often finds bicycles in the woods and stores them above the Police Garage, waiting for someone to claim them. When go they unclaimed, they are usually donated to agencies that offer them to needy children. If you or a child has lost a bicycle, contact the Police Department to see if it is in Police storage.

Planning Board – at its next meeting (July 19th) will meet with representatives of the Marcellus Free Library to discuss site plans and other issues related to the construction of a new parking lot across from the Library.

Summer Community Events – Thursday nights, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., a series of summer concerts are held during June, July, and August at Marcellus Park Annex. There is a full list of concert listings and other events and programs available on the Town website at Marcellusny.com or call the Marcellus Parks and Recreation Department (673-3269, ext. 2) for more information.

Announce Village Meetings for July 2017 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. I would make special note of the July 4th holiday, which will be celebrated on Tuesday, July 4th, and on which day, the Village Office will be closed. In addition, there will be a delay in trash pickup that week. Also, the Teal There’s A Cure Run/Walk will take place on the 4th of July, beginning at 10 a.m. in Marcellus Park. The Village-wide Garage Sale will take place on Saturday, July 8th and there is no

permit needed on that day for Village residents. A reminder to residents that July is Battery Collection Month. Residents should place old alkaline batteries into special yellow bags and place them on top of a closed trashcan or trash bag. Do not place the battery bags in the blue bin. There are a number of Summer Community Events at Marcellus Park – Thursday nights from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at the Annex Pavilion. Concerts are free and appropriate for the entire family.