

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – September 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.

WWTP Appointment – the Board appointed Mallory Reedy as a WWTP operator, replacing Ryan Riefler, beginning September 18, 2017, at a current hourly salary of \$22.76.

Stormwater Resolution - CNYPDB – Storm Water Management Program – the Board also approved a Resolution Supporting Participation in the CNY Storm Water Coalition Staff Services and Education Compliance Assistance Program, pertaining to the requirements of the New York State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Storm Water Phase II General Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), a copy of which is on file in the Village office for public inspection. The one-year Agreement to participate will cost the Village of Marcellus \$3,600, a cost that is strongly opposed by the Village Board and will be addressed by the Mayor in his updates.

Maple Street Extension – Street Dedication Resolution – the Board also approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Village of Marcellus is the owner of a certain parcel being a ten (10) foot wide strip of land approximately 600 feet long along upon which the Maple Street Extension in Lot No. 15 of the Town of Marcellus currently traverses but which was never dedicated as a formal part of the street, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Marcellus has made an irrevocable offer of dedication of the aforementioned parcel in order for it to become a formal part of the Maple Street Extension, and

WHEREAS, the Village Attorney has reviewed the proposed dedication and determined it to be in proper form for acceptance by the Village Board,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the dedication of land to become a formal part of the Maple Street Extension as proposed, the Village Clerk is authorized to pay any necessary expenses incident thereto and the Village Attorney is hereby directed to process the aforesaid dedication.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

Mayor Curtin Voting Aye

Trustee Tallman Voting Aye

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Leaf and Brush Pickup – the fall brush and leaf pickup dates were approved as following:

Brush pickup for 2017 will extend from Monday, September 25th to Monday, October 9th and leaf pickup will extend from Monday, October 16th to Monday, November 6th.

After November 6th, residents may collect leaves into large brown paper leaf bags and place the bags at the curb for pickup. Residents may also drop off brush and leaves anytime at the Village compost site, located next to the Highway Department garage.

Methodist Church Nursery School Emergency Off-Site Shelter – the Board approved a request by the director of the Marcellus Methodist Church Nursery School to designate the Village Hall as its emergency off-site shelter, should the need arise.

MRB Proposal – Highland Drive Drainage Improvements – the Board tabled for another month the proposal for professional services, the study phase, related to Highland Drive drainage improvements.

Resolution Opposing Elimination of Deductibility of State and Local Taxes – the Board approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Congress is giving serious consideration to eliminating the federal income tax deduction for state and local taxes; and

WHEREAS, this deduction, which has been in place for more than 100 years, is heavily utilized by residents of our community and our State; and

WHEREAS, New York residents already pay more into the federal treasury than the federal government returns to New York; and

WHEREAS, the state and local tax deduction is a fundamental principle of federalism and without it our residents would be faced with double taxation as they would be forced to pay federal income taxes on the taxes they pay to state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, this federal cost shift onto local governments would place extreme pressure on municipal budgets, including diminished revenue for essential local government investments, including public safety and public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, increased federal taxation and reduced municipal services will harm our local housing market, decrease home values and erode our local tax base,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Village of Marcellus expresses its strong opposition to any tax reform proposal that would eliminate the State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction and urges Representative John Katko to join us in publicly opposing any such proposal.

Resolution Authorizing Sale of DPW 2007 Ford F-550 Dump Truck – the Board approved a motion to authorize the sale of one piece of highway equipment, the F550 Truck (2007) through the Auctions International site. There are several reasons for selling this equipment including the fact that it is outdated, in great need of repair and is no longer of any use to the department.

Closing of First Street for Halloween – the Board approved a motion 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 Tuesday this year.

Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement – the Board agreed to table the Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of a new agreement, with Spectrum Communications.

Budget Modifications for August 2017 – the Board approved budget modifications requested by the Village Treasurer transferring revenues and appropriations in the General Fund and Sewer Fund for August 2017.

Creekwalk – the Village Creek Walk along Nine Mile is now officially open, and a ceremony was held on Saturday, September 16th, in the rear of the McClurg parking lot, to dedicate what is now called “Fred’s Trail” in memory of former Mayor Fred Eisenberg. It was a well-attended gathering featuring live music, free water and ice cream, and food for sale, combined with excellent weather conditions. There were a number of sponsors that were thanked for the event, as well as a number of individuals and groups that helped to make the trail a success. Scott McClurg and company employees were most significant in organizing the celebration and we would like to publically thank them. The entire Eisenberg family was in attendance and all of them were most pleased. If any residents are interested in more information about the trail, please check the Village website, <http://www.villageofmarcellus.com/creekwalk-news.html>, where a short movie showing the extent of the path can be viewed. The Village is now waiting for reimbursement funding from NYSDOT and that is expected soon.

Street repairs – selected portions at the corner of First and Slocombe and Meadow Street and parts of the Village parking lot were recently paved. Asphalt repairs to Wilson Drive and Dunlap Avenue were scheduled to be completed in later September. However, we were notified last Thursday that the contractor is now unable to complete the repairs during this construction season. This has been attributed to a backlog of paving operations all summer, not just by the contractor we hired, but it seems as if it is a universal problem with all such companies. We have been assured that the first project that he will schedule for the spring of 2018 will be the paving of Wilson and Dunlap. We sincerely apologize, as did the contractor, for this delay and hope that the residents of Wilson Drive and Dunlap Avenue will understand the reasons for it.

Sidewalks – per the D.P.W. Chief's recommendations, repairs have or will be made to selected areas on South Street and other streets pending budgetary concerns.

Trees – some tree removals have been or will be done on South and Main Streets, and perhaps another on Chrisler and Paul Streets, along with some trimming. Some tree plantings are expected to take place in late summer or early fall, but the locations have not yet been determined.

Parking - as we approach the winter months, we remind residents that there is no overnight parking (from 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.) on Village streets from November 1st to April 1st. If ticketed by Village Police, the fee will be \$35.00. We urge residents to use the Village parking lots for any overnight parking situations.

Paul Street Sidewalk Project – the construction of 450 feet of new concrete sidewalk along the north side of Paul Street, between North Street (NYS 174) and Austindale Ave is now complete, along with minor drainage improvements such as cleaning existing drainage pipes and replacement of a catch basin by Village D.P.W. The new sidewalk eliminates a gap in the existing Village sidewalk system, connecting existing sidewalks at North Street and Austindale Ave. Pedestrians, including Seniors who live at Nine Mile Landing and school children once had no choice but to walk on the pavement of the roadway. We are pleased that the project is complete and thank the offices of Sen. John De Francisco for helping the Village of Marcellus to secure funding for it.

Highland Flooding – earlier, the Board tabled a proposed study of the Highland Drive drainage project, until more funding can be secured. The Board is very much aware of the potential for more flooding in the area, particularly after the severe rains of this past summer. We continue to be hopeful that funding might become available so as to address what has been an on-going concern for decades for those living on Highland Drive as well as those affected properties lying below.

Clean Energy Community – as was mentioned at an earlier Board meeting, the Village of Marcellus has been designated a Clean Energy Community by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). A \$100,000 grant has been reserved for the Village of Marcellus to implement clean energy projects this fall and winter. This will include a retrofitting of several existing Village lights, including the historic lights on Main, North and South Streets as well as the coach lights on Kinderwood Drive to direct wire LED type fixtures. Other LED lighting retrofits have already or will occur in the Village Hall, the Village garage and the Water Pollution Control Plant. The Village is delighted not only with this designation and continues to be most appreciative of the tireless efforts of former employee Ryan Riefler in helping to secure this funding.

NYSDEC Grant - \$16,000 – also mentioned at an earlier meeting, the Village was notified by the NYSDEC that it has been awarded a rebate of \$16,000 for its infrastructure application relative to the 2016 Municipal Zero-emission Vehicle Rebate Program and the installation of an Electric Vehicle charging station in the Village parking lot. This grant money has not only enabled the Village to install an EV charging station in the lot, but also to add lighting, cameras and asphalt paving to the site. Since this is a 20% match, the Village will accomplish about \$20,000 worth of

work for a \$4,000 investment and we again credit and congratulate Ryan Riefler for his continued efforts on behalf of the Village and its residents.

Household and Hazardous Waste – Do not pour hazardous waste or grease down the drain. Household hazardous waste products (such as paints, cleaners, oils, and pesticides) dumped down the drain are most often not removed by the wastewater treatment process. Harmful chemicals from these wastes end up in rivers, creeks, and lakes where they can eventually enter the natural food chain. Additionally, pouring hazardous waste down the drain can endanger the health of municipal workers, disrupt the treatment process, and accumulate pollutants in aquatic ecosystems. Residential users can rid their homes of dangerous chemicals lurking around by dropping off such waste at four location in the County, 6:30 am to 6:00 pm, WITH AN APPOINTMENT. Appointments must be made (315-453-2866) five days in advance of your drop-off date. We also remind residents to cover garbage cans since those uncovered often attract crows and other pests. Washing out garbage cans and recyclable bins every so often, also helps promote a healthier environment.

A Shred-O-Rama – will be held this fall, on Saturday, October 7, 2017 (8 am - noon) at the NYS Fairgrounds - Brown Parking Lot, across the street from Gates 3 & 4 on State Fair Blvd. Residents can bring their confidential papers to be shredded at no charge. Five box limit per vehicle. Boxes should be medium-sized and easy to lift (measuring roughly 10" x 12"x 15") to keep attendees and staff safe from lifting injuries.

Repair Plans - owning a home has its challenges and dealing with emergency repairs is definitely one of them. Not knowing who to call or how much the repair will cost can be overwhelming and frustrating. Home-Serve USA is a company that offers Emergency Repair Service Plans that protect the property owner from expensive repairs that are not typically covered by basic homeowners insurance, a local utility or a municipality. As your home ages, so does the exterior water service line that brings fresh water to your house and to the drainage system that removes sewage from your house to the Village sewer main in the street. If these lines fail, repair or replacement can be expensive and most basic homeowners insurance doesn't cover repairs to the water and sewer lines on your property. Home-Serve offers an exterior Water Service Line coverage as well as an exterior sewer line repair plan. If you are interested, we urge you to contact Home-Serve at 1-888-752-6740 or info@homeserveusa.com

School has begun – we urge residents to be aware of the fact that there are students walking to school, particularly on First Street. Also, the State DOT has begun operation of the flashing lights on North Street and the Village Police Department will be even more vigilant in their enforcement of the traffic laws on that street.

Striping of Crosswalks – on some Village streets (by the Village) has taken place, fortunately before school starts. Road striping on Main Street (by the County) has taken place, as well as that on North Street (by the State).

Village Taxes – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present, including penalties, totals \$122,0619, from 25 property owners, a figure significantly larger than last year because of demolition costs associated with the lower Crown Mill and one property owner. The demolition costs alone totals over \$93,500 in unpaid taxes from this one property owner. Residents may continue to pay unpaid taxes to the Village until October 31, 2017, when they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.

Close on EFC Financing for Mandated Phosphorus Removal and WWTP Upgrades – at its August meeting, the Board authorized the Mayor to close on EFC financing for the mandated phosphorus removal and WWTP upgrades. This will involve getting the funding lined up with our Bond Counsel, Paul Reichel, with the Environmental Facilities Corporation and closing on the loan by September 14, 2017. This was done. This closing date will guarantee that the Village will be able to obtain interest free financing for a 30-year loan of \$4,220,100 as well as an EFC grant of \$1,379,900 for a total expenditure of \$5.6 million. We continue to look for more funding from other revenue

streams so as not to overburden Village, Town and School District sewer users with hefty sewer rents. Having the design package in place, plans for the WWTP upgrade project call for bids to be solicited and received in November, with a review and awarding of those bids in December 2017. Construction should begin the spring of 2018, and completion of the project should take about a year.

Utility Bills – the Board realizes that residents of the community, particularly its sewer users, are very concerned about the potential for increased sewer bills. We have received a number of comments regarding the increases in sewer rates and the concern that they will continue to rise. We think that we have explained the reasons for these rate increases, attributable mostly to the unfunded phosphorus removal mandate imposed by the NYSDEC. Our hope is that additional funding will NOT be necessary to further escalate the cost of sewer usage, than they are at present, but this will depend on our ability to secure more funding.

Thank You To Our Employees – the Village would like to thank all who participated in the work they did on the flower boxes this year, particularly Village employee Kathy Welsh, and our highway crew, whose attention to their care all summer was exceptional and enabled all in the community to enjoy their beauty. In addition, we call your attention to the green space on the corner of Scotch Hill and North Street. Village treatment plant employees continue to address landscaping there and provide another advertisement of the benefits that natural fertilizer can bring. Compost is mixed in with the plantings in the flowerbeds and broadcasted over the lawn area –showcasing the use of compost to the residents of Marcellus and its visitors. It looks just great!

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

Storm Water Management Program - Participation in the Storm Water Management Program offered by the CNY Regional Planning Board costs the Village \$3,600 each year. The one-year Agreement to participate costs the Village of Marcellus \$3,600, a cost that is strongly opposed by our Village Board. There are 31 municipalities participating, including the Town of Clay with over 58,000 people and the Village of Marcellus with under 2,000 people. Yet, all 31 municipalities pay the same \$3,600. That amounts to about \$8 for every resident of Marcellus and 18 cents for every resident of the Town of Clay. We have protested this seemingly unfair agreement in the past, and we will continue to object to the fee in the future, but we are, at present, somewhat obligated.

Announce Village Meetings for October 2017 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. Please note that the Village Office will be closed for Columbus Day, October 9th, **BUT** that there will be **NO** delay in trash pickup that week. The brush and leaf pickup dates are also listed on the handout, and there is another reminder that First Street will be closed from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Halloween, Tuesday, October 31st.