

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – July 2018

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 (315-673-3112) or email (marboard@twcny.rr.com) the Village Office.

Informational Meeting At Marcellus Free Library – Highland Drainage Study – the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Highland Drainage Study, a study authorized by the Village Board in January 2018, and recently completed by Village Engineers, MRB Group. In light of the flooding that has occurred in the Village, the Board hired the MRB Engineering Firm to conduct a drainage study for the area of Highland Drive - which basically affects most, if not all of the neighboring properties on Second Street, Meadow Street, Reed Street, Reed Parkway and First Street. The firm built off a drainage study conducted back in 1997, would consider changes in the areas upland of Highland Drive and develop potential improvements for the Village to consider. MRB was hired to perform a topographical survey of the storm system and immediate surrounding area on the west side of Highland Drive and the Reed Parkway storm systems, set up a base map of the Village's storm sewer system, conduct a hydrologic analysis of the contributing watershed area to determine the peak flow rate during the 2-, 5-, 10- and 50 year storm events at various inflow points into the Highland-Reed drainage system, and create a hydraulic model of the Highland-Reed drainage systems, and determine the impacts to the system under the peak flow rates. The study would also develop alternatives to control the flow to and along Highland Drive and elsewhere in the drainage system along Reed Parkway and mitigate the overflowing during heavy storms that causes drainage issues for residents. MRB would also estimate probably material and construction costs for each of the potential improvements. It should be noted that this is just a study, a necessary first step, which will lead, hopefully, to the development of long term operation and maintenance requirements for all property owners in the area. This is a problem that has affected many Village residents for a number of years – Marcellus lies in a valley and all storm water when it leaves the surrounding hills greatly affects those who live at the bottom of the valley. In addition, the storm water damages private property, not public rights of way. The Board expected a completion of the drainage study by the spring of 2018, at which time residents would be notified, costs determined and options provided.

MRB Group Representatives conducted the presentation with the results of the study followed by questions and final comments:

- (1) From MRB Group – Tom Fromberger
- (2) From MRB Group – James Janulis
- (3) From Village of Marcellus – Jim LaRose
- (4) From Village of Marcellus – John Holmes
- (5) From Village of Marcellus – Mallory Reedy

A number of residents had comments to make.

Final Comments – this is an ongoing study and that night's meeting was a first step to address the situation

Village Clerk Resignation – the Mayor made a motion, with much great regret, to accept the resignation, after almost 23 years as full time Village Clerk, of Dawn O'Hara and to accept her request to remain as a part-time employee, at a current salary of \$25.75 per hour while a replacement is being trained.

New Village Clerk Appointment – with much pleasure, the Mayor also made a motion to appoint, with Board approval, Charnley Abbott as full time Village Clerk at an hourly salary of \$17.00 per hour. Charnley comes to us from the private sector and the Board is most fortunate to have obtained her services. She has worked with Dawn during the month of July, learning the duties of the Village Clerk and transitioning into the position. Her appointment

will include a probationary period of 3 to 6 months, as determined by the Board, after which the position will become a permanent and salaried one, which salary will be determined following the provisional phase.

Proclamation – Dawn O’Hara – a motion was offered by Trustee Sara N. Tallman, who moved its adoption, seconded by Mayor John P. Curtin, to wit: WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus would like to recognize the outstanding achievements of Dawn O’Hara during her 23-year tenure as an employee and as Clerk of the Village of Marcellus and, WHEREAS, the leadership of Dawn O’Hara is evident in the many accomplishments that have occurred in the Village of Marcellus during her tenure and, WHEREAS, the guidance and advice of Dawn O’Hara, during the terms of three Village Mayors and seven Village Administrations, will continue to be evident in many of the projects that have been and will continue to be realized in the Village of Marcellus and, WHEREAS, the contributions of Dawn O’Hara to this community, both as a public servant and as a person, should not go unrecognized in the Village of Marcellus, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus commends Dawn O’Hara for the tireless service she extended to her community and to mankind.

Create New Police Positions – a motion was made and approved to create, at the request of Police Chief Wicks, another Police Sgt. position and to create another Police Officer position in the Marcellus Police Department.

Police Officers – New Hires– the Mayor made a motion to appoint, with Board approval, three new officers to the Marcellus Police Department, including Officer Andrea Bastedo who will serve as a Village Sergeant and as a School Resource Officer at Lyncourt School District, following her retirement and a distinguished career at the Onondaga County Sheriffs Department. Officer Jerome Pristash will serve as a Village Patrolman and as a School Resource Officer at Onondaga Central School District, following his retirement and a distinguished career with the New York State Police. Also, Officer Karen Munroe will serve on Village Patrol and as a School Resource Officer at KCH Elementary School in the Marcellus School District, following her retirement and a distinguished career at the Onondaga County Sheriffs Department. These appointments will be effective on August 6, 2018 and at a rate of \$20.64 per hour for Sergeant’s position and \$18.04 per hour for patrol. Lyncourt School District as well as Onondaga Central School District will determine the rate per hour as a School Resource Officer and will also provide the salary for each officer. Officer Munroe’s salary as an SRO will be \$28.00 per hour. As part of the shared services mandate, our Police Department is assisting the school districts noted with police administrative responsibilities, and supervision particularly in matters related to any criminal activity. Our Police Department has the ability to facilitate this, providing such services that would not be otherwise available to them.

Fixed Monthly Cell Phone Stipend – a motion was made and approved to offer a fixed monthly cell phone stipend, for full-time employees only, in an amount to be determined per month. The reasoning behind this motion is to have full time employees of the Village carry one phone rather than carry two phones, one for the Village and one for personal use.

SEQR Resolution – Chrysler Street Upgrades – a motion was made and approved to authorize the Mayor to sign a short environmental assessment form, and a resolution determining that the upgrades proposed by the Village on Chrysler Street, relative to the installation of new historic LED lampposts, the construction of new sidewalk and the construction of a pathway extending from the end of Chrysler Street to the proposed library parking lot, all of which would occur within the Village right-of-way in the Village of Marcellus, New York, constitutes a Type II Action under the NYS Environmental Quality Review Act, will not result in any significant adverse impact on the environment, and thereby requires no further environmental.

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

Budget Modifications for May 2018, Fiscal Year End 2017-2018 – a motion was made and approved to approve budget modifications requested by the Village Treasurer transferring revenues and appropriations in the General Fund.

Updates – from the Mayor and the Board

Treatment Plant Upgrade – the \$7 million treatment plant upgrade mandated by NYSDEC to remove phosphorus from the plant's effluent is well underway. Construction of two new clarifiers, a new UV tank, a new head works building and modifications to the control building are in progress and on schedule. The financing package includes a \$5,202,600 short term (30 year), interest-free hardship loan and a \$1,379,900 WIIA Grant (formerly called a NYS Water Grant) along with an \$80,000 WQIP #11 grant, a \$1,000,000 WQIP #14 Grant and an anticipated \$250,000 SAM Grant. In anticipation of this expense, the Village Board has increased the sewer rents significantly within the last two years. Having raised sewer rents to offset the cost of design and construction will enable the Village to meet the mandated requirements for phosphorus removal. However, in January 2019, we anticipate another sewer rent increase of approximately 30%. This will mean a minimum quarterly sewer rate, for Village sewer users, of \$98.25 (from \$75.00) and an annual cost of \$541.39 (from \$413.13). The annual cost for outside users is anticipated to be \$676.74 (from \$516.41). In order to prepare our Treatment Plant for operation well into the 21st century, these increases, while hefty, are unavoidable.

Brush Pick-up – as was mentioned at earlier meetings, the Village Board and DPW are continuing the policy begun last year, for the 2018 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 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.

Creek Walk Benches – recently, the Village of Marcellus became the recipient of five (5) wooden benches that were constructed as a service project by members of the Rotary Youth International. The Village is most grateful for the generosity of Rotary International and its youth leadership group. The benches have been placed strategically along the Village creek walk (Fred's Trail) and are not only a practical amenity to the trail, but offer an aesthetic addition to this nature walk. If some residents are not familiar with Fred's Trail, we urge them to click on the Village website and then on Village News.

Code Enforcement and Officer – inspections continue for house renovations, sheds and decks and unlicensed vehicles. In addition, several properties have been cited for lack of property maintenance including uncut grass, unsanitary dog deposits as well as some buildings in need of repair or painting.

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 (315-673-4491) 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 have been reconstructed this summer – as well as micro fiber treatment on South and Reed Streets and perhaps Bradley and Park Streets. 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 and Main Street and Chrysler Street, if funds are available for the latter.

Trees – some tree removals have been or will be done on the Creekwalk trail and on Kelly Avenue. Some tree plantings are expected to take place in late summer or early fall, but the locations have not yet been determined.

Planning Board – met recently to discuss a lot line adjustment and Site Plan Review

Olde Home Days – we would like to thank the Olde Home Days Committee for its generous donation of \$1,000 to the Village and its beautification fund. As it has done for a number of years, the OHD Committee, following a successful celebration, donates funds to both the Village and the Town of Marcellus for all of the efforts that both municipalities extend in helping to ensure a successful event. On behalf of the Village Board, we again thank the OHD Committee for its generosity as well as for all of the time and effort that members of the Committee, past and present, put forth in helping to keep this notable celebration as successful as it has been for the last two decades.

Other – Trustee O’Hara thanked residents and the Town Board for its help in conducting a very successful “Teal There’s A Cure” race. Mayor Curtin also announced that, after a lengthy conversation with the NYSDOT, a number of the iridescent/fluorescent signs on North Street, which seem to have caused more concern than providing safety crossings, will be removed – perhaps half of them.

Announce Village Meetings for August 2018 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of 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 continue to be 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.