

## Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – October 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.

**Re-levy of Unpaid Village Taxes** – Is there a motion? – Trustee \_\_\_\_ – a motion was made and approved to re-levy all unpaid Village Taxes, as of November 1, 2018, to the County of Onondaga for payment

**Appointment of Village Clerk – Charnley A. Abbott** – after having completed a probationary period of three months, which began in July 2018, the Mayor made a motion to appoint Charnley A. Abbott to a full time position as Village Clerk, at an annual salary of \$35,000. This appointment will be reconfirmed as a three-year appointment at the Annual Meeting in April 2019.

**Resolution – World Polio Day** – October 24, 2018 is being recognized worldwide as Rotary World Polio Day. In recognition of that, a motion was made and approved to pass a resolution recognizing October 24th, 2018 as Rotary World Polio Day and to support Rotary International efforts to polio eradication until the world is certified polio-free. On this World Polio Day, the Board encourages our own Marcellus Rotary to do everything it can, to raise the funds, raise the awareness, and be the inspiration to end polio now. For those interested, Rotary has prepared a brief Q & A outlining some of the basics, a copy of which has been prepared for our residents.

**GML 239 Report of Final Action – Site Plan – 34 North Street** – a motion was approved to support the proposed action with regard to the Onondaga County Planning Board's Approval of Site Plan approval for the property at 34 North Street in the Village of Marcellus, for the expansion of parking at the apartment complex as well as the installation of a dumpster corral area, to be enclosed by a 6' tall wood fence dumpsters with comment that the OCPB encourages the applicant to provide additional landscape screening at the front of the proposed asphalt area, and to retain as much of the existing tree cover along the eastern lot line as is practical and to ensure approvals from the NYS Electric and Gas Corp. and NY Telephone Co. are obtained, allowing for construction over the existing easement.

**Comp Alliance Participation** – a motion was approved to authorize the Mayor to sign the revised Participation Agreement with New York State Municipal Workers' Compensation Alliance for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, and that a signed copy of the Agreement be returned to Comp Alliance.

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

**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 Wednesday. We might also note that the Marcellus Fire Department will sponsor cider, donuts, apples and coffee at the Marcellus Police Department Garage, 6 Slocombe Avenue. In addition, a Halloween Costume Parade, with prizes, will take place at the point 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, 2018, 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, 2019.

**Reminder – Village Polling Places** – it should be noted that polling places in Marcellus changed six 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 two 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 6, 2018 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and we urge all residents to vote.

**Announce Village Meetings for November 2018** – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. Please make note that First Street will be closed to traffic on Halloween, October 31st, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, that the Village Office will be closed on Monday, November 12th in honor of Veterans' Day and that the Veterans Day ceremonies will take place on Monday, November 12th, at 11:00 a.m. at the Point. In addition, the Village Office will be closed on November 22nd and 23rd for the Thanksgiving Day holidays. Also, the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Friday, November 30th, in the Village, at the Point. This is a change from previous years when the tree lighting took place on a Thursday.

#### **Updates – Mayor and Board**

**Leaf and Brush Pickup** – brush pickup ended on October 8th 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 15th to November 18th. After November 6th, residents may collect leaves into large brown paper leaf bags and place the bags at the curb for pickup, weather permitting – please note that only these leaf bags will be picked up after November 19th. Residents may also drop off brush and leaves anytime at the Village compost site, located next to the Highway Department garage. Please remember to keep leaves in the Village right of way, between the sidewalk and the road, and out of the street where they might end up clogging the catch basins and lead to flooding.

**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.

**Parking Projects** – recently two parking lot projects have been or will be completed in the Village. A new library parking lot has been created across from the Marcellus Free Library on Maple Street, providing additional space for library patrons. The Village has been instrumental in helping Andrew Aupperle, President of Siteworks, Inc. of Marcellus to complete this project, which included some Village roadwork as well. Siteworks is to be commended for its professionalism, attention to detail and genuine cooperation with the Village in completing this project. Another parking lot extension is that associated with the North Street Apartments on Paul Street. This extension not only adds more parking at the apartment complex, but also calls for the installation of refuse dumpsters for the apartments at 34 North Street, a significant improvement over the use of individual trash cans, especially on garbage pickup days.

**Trees** – some tree removals have been or will be done, along with some trimming. Some tree plantings are expected to take place in the fall, but the locations have not yet been determined.

**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.

**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. Beginning in October, and for duration of about five weeks, this will involve 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. We also hope to add six (6) new historic lampposts, with LED type fixtures, to several streets in the Village – 3 on Chrysler Street, and 3 on Paul Street. The Village continues to be most appreciative of the NYSEDA award as well as the efforts of our Village employees in helping to both secure this funding and coordinate the construction project itself. The average annual energy savings for the Village as a result of this project is estimated to be in excess of \$20,000.

**Police Report** –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.

**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 have explained the reasons for these rate increases, attributable mostly to the unfunded phosphorus removal mandate imposed by the NYSDEC. Our hope had been that additional funding would not be necessary, but we have determined that a substantial rise in sewer rates will be forthcoming in January 2019.

**Veterans' Day** – commemoration will take place at 11 a.m. on November 12th, at the Village Point, and we ask residents to take time out and offer thanks to all veterans for the service they have and continue to provide us. Also, there will be no trash delay because of the Veterans' Day holiday.

**Update on WWTP Upgrades** – the \$7.7 million treatment plant upgrades mandated by NYSDEC to remove phosphorus from the plant's effluent continues to be 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.

**Village Taxes** – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present, including penalties, totaling over \$25,000 from 17 property owners, a figure similar to previous years. Of the over \$25,000 in taxes yet to be paid, about 32% or \$8,330.00 is from one property owner and another from a second owner totals \$3,268.00 or 13%. The Village will eventually be reimbursed by the County for these tax evaders, but must wait a year before that reimbursement happens. In the meantime, the responsible taxpayers in the Village will continue, as they have in the past, to be responsible for the irresponsible. Property owners may continue to pay unpaid taxes to the Village until October 31, 2018, when they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.

**Parking** - as we approach the winter months, we again 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.

**Highland Flooding** – following our public information meeting in June, regarding the drainage on Highland Drive and related streets, the Village's first step was that recommended by MRB Group. Earlier this month, the Village D.P.W. and the Town Highway Department, in a coordinated Intermunicipal activity, began opening the ditches and replacing the driveway culverts along the west side of Highland Drive with uniform 15" pipe. This will, hopefully, prevent storm water from jumping the ditches and flooding those properties below and allow storm water to move quickly to the 24" catch basin at Reed Parkway. We have made property owners aware that the ditches must absolutely remain open to allow the water to move north to Reed Parkway. With the construction complete, the area has also been hydro-seeded and it is possible that driveway repairs may be made before the onset of winter. If this is not possible, the driveways will be repaired in the spring, at which time, this section of Highland Drive will be reconstructed as well. At this time, unfortunately, we are unable to address the storm water and natural springs that overflow into the drainage area behind Meadow Street. Much of this water comes from an area beyond the Village limits and will require a joint effort involving the Village and the Town and town property owners.

**Christmas Tree Lighting** – this year is being planned for Friday, November 30, 2018 at the Point. This is a change from previous years, when the lighting was on a Thursday, and is a request from local merchants. We also are on board with this especially since this is not a school night and more residents will be able to participate.

**Legal Notice – Garbage Hauler Contract** – bids for this contract will be received by the Village Board on November 13, 2018 and opened on that date, at 11 a.m. in the Village Board Room. Copies of the specifications and the contract, which shall be for 36 months (from December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2021), are available for public viewing in the Village office.