

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – November 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.

Stormwater Resolution - CNYPDB – Storm Water Management Program – the Board 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.

Garbage Hauler Contract – Award 36-Month 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 will be for 36 months (from December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2021), available for public viewing in the Village office. The Board approved a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a 36-month contract, beginning December 1, 2018 and ending November 30, 2021, with Superior Waste Removal Company for refuse and recycling pickup with in the Village of Marcellus, subject to review and approval of the insurance requirement. The three-year cost of this contract was bid at \$306,000.00.

Onondaga County DOT Fuel Purchase Contract Renewal – Municipal Resolution – a motion to approve a contract amendment extension for three years with Onondaga County DOT for the purchase of fuel from Onondaga County DOT for the Village of Marcellus vehicles through December 31, 2021 was passed by the Board.

Employee Drug Testing – a motion was made to approve a contract with Lakeshore Employee Testing Services, to perform drug and alcohol testing for commercial drivers who are employed in the Village Highway Department at a cost of \$55.00 per employee and authorize the Mayor to sign said contract.

Contract for transfer of the Olde Home Days Project to the Marcellus Rotary Club – a motion was made to authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement whereby the Village agrees to have the Marcellus Rotary Club and The Rotary Club of Marcellus Foundation, Inc. take over title to and management of the Olde Home Days. In addition, the Village will transfer the current financial balance, which the Village retains in the name of the Olde Home Days Committee, to Marcellus Rotary and further agrees to transfer all rights and title the Village may have to the Marcellus Rotary to the “Olde Home Days” and “Duck Race” including all signs, duck costumes and all other assets pertaining to said events.

Annual Maintenance Permit with NYSDOT – the DPW Superintendent (and/or his designee) was authorized to complete and sign the appropriate forms in order to acquire the annual maintenance permit with the NYSDOT.

Change December Board Meeting – a motion was approved to change the December regular Board meeting from December 24, 2018 to December 17, 2018, because of the Christmas holiday.

Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement – the Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement was again tabled until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of the agreement, with Spectrum Communications.

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

Announce Christmas Tree Lighting November 30, 2018 – the annual Marcellus Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Friday, November 30, 2018 beginning at 6 p.m. in the Village, at the Point. This is a change from previous years when the tree lighting took place on a Thursday. There are many different activities and participants in this year's ceremony and a flyer has been prepared for residents who wish to pick one up.

Announce Village Meetings for December 2018 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. Please make note that the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Friday, November 30th, in the Village, at the Point, that the Village Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 25th for the Christmas holiday. In addition, the Village Office will be closed on Tuesday, January 1st for the New Years' Holiday.

Updates – Mayor and Board

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. 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.

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 extended 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. With snowstorms that may occur, any leaves that are still in the Village right-of-way, between the sidewalk and the road, will remain there until the snow melts and the DPW has an opportunity to remove them. That might not be until the spring of 2019. Residents are welcome to bag their leaves and bring the bags to the compost site at the rear of the Village Hall.

Other DPW Work – in recent weeks, the DPW has been very diligent in picking up leaves, long beyond the cut-off period. We have received some very nice compliments from residents for their efforts and we appreciate the response. With the coming of the winter snows, some of the memorial benches and pedestrian signs have been removed until spring by the department. The Department have also put up and decorated the Village Christmas Tree at the Point, ready for lighting on the 30th and the new Christmas decorations have been put up as well. The Board would like to thank members of the DPW for all of their efforts as we prepare for the winter months, knowing how especially dedicated they are with the removal of snow and ice.

Health Care Costs – continue to rise, but not as much as in previous years, and both the Village and its employees will be required to pay, on average, an increase of about 2% for health coverage and 0% for dental

coverage, beginning in January 2019. Coverage is similar to last year, with little increase in premiums, but some increase in deductibles.

Pension Costs – for next year have been projected by the Village Treasurer to be within the allotted budget amounts. At this time, there appears to be no increase in pension costs for next year.

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.

Planning Board – the Board did not meet in November but it does plan to meet in December to discuss several items, including a request by the Marcellus Methodist Church to replace its outdoor sign with a new LED sign. Planning Board approval for the use of dumpsters and expansion of parking at the North Street Apartment complex on Paul Street, has allowed this project to begin, but weather has prevented it from being completed.

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 – within the past month, several thefts from cars parked in the Village and Marcellus Park. The Chief continues to warn residents that cars should always be locked, even in ones driveway, and anything in the car's interior that might attract the attention of a thief should not be visible. If thieves view something in a car is worthwhile taking, they will and have smashed car windows. So, please lock your car doors. 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. Also, if there are any snowbirds that would like to have their properties checked while they are out of town, please notify the Police Department.

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 several 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.

Grease Traps – as the holiday season approaches, our Treatment Plant Operators continue to urge our residents to become more aware of the problems with grease in our sewer system. Grease will stick to household and sewer pipes, and over time, grease buildup can block pipes and cause sewage backups. Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system – they only shred solid material into smaller pieces. The operators urge you to scrape grease and food scraps from cooking surfaces into a container and put in the trash or compost them. Do not put grease, fats or oils of any type down your drain or garbage disposal. Do use baskets or strainers in

sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids and then empty them in the trash for disposal. During the holidays, there always seems to be an increase of calls from residents who have had sewer backups, and these have been attributable, for the most part, to grease buildup and blockage.

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. Also, because of the increase in tipping fees at OCRRA, and an increase in the trash hauler contract, the Board anticipates a modest increase in the quarterly cost of refuse pickup for residents.

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.

Christmas Decoration Project – it is with much gratitude that we express, on behalf of our Board and our residents, many thanks to former Trustee Bob Wilson for organizing and leading our recent Village Christmas Decoration Project. Bob contacted a number of businesses, organizations and individuals in the community, asking for donations to help fund the purchase of 30 new Christmas decorations with LED lights. While some were major gifts from businesses and individuals, there were also a number of smaller gifts, and we wish to express many thanks to everyone who was so generous to the Village and to Bob's appeal. Installed on the telephone poles by our DPW department last week, we invite you to take notice of them when you are Main, North and South Streets. We are sure that you will agree they provide much community pride and create a mood that makes people feel good about how our Village looks. As many already realize, if you want a job done and done well, give it to Bob Wilson. Bob has been so very instrumental throughout his long involvement with the Village and we once again express our sincere gratitude to him in particular.

Library Parking Project – last month, we also expressed our thanks to Andrew Aupperle, President of Siteworks, Inc. of Marcellus whose company created a new library parking lot across from the Marcellus Free Library on Maple Street. Siteworks was commended for its professionalism, attention to detail and genuine cooperation with the Village in completing this project. In addition to this, we would also like to express our thanks, on behalf of our Village and residents, to the U.S. Postal Service and our local Postmaster, Scott Gratien, for arranging to have a new postal service drop box, with an arm extension, installed in the new parking lot, next to the Library Return Box. A similar drop box was once located in the Village, and we are sure that residents welcome its return. It is through the cooperation of so many that our community continues to be so special.

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 adamantly protest this seemingly unfair agreement.