**Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – July 2019**

 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 (clerk@villageofmarcellus.com) the Village Office.

**Public Hearing – Special Use Permit – Property at #17 North Street** – a Public Hearing was held by the Board of Trustees prior to the Regular Board Meeting on Monday, July 29, 2019 to enact a proposed Special Use Permit, which would allow the property at #17 North Street to be reconstructed as multiple dwelling in the Village Center. All interested parties had the opportunity to be heard at the scheduled hearing, and copies of supporting documents are on file at the office of the Village Clerk. At present, the property is zoned for office use and this change of use requires the Village Board to issue a special permit for a multiple dwelling in the Village Center. The applicant’s site plan calls for four apartments (two 2-bedroom units and two 1-bedroom units) at 17 North Street. The applicant met with the Village Planning Board on July 17, 2019 for site plan review, and the Planning Board approved those plans, subject to the review and issuance of a special permit by the Village Board of Trustees. While the Village Board would prefer that some of the property at 17 North Street be converted into commercial space in the Village Center, we are conscious of the fact that there was no interest on the part of any commercial firm to relocate, despite efforts by the owners to solicit new businesses. There were no comments from the public, after which the Public Hearing was closed and the Regular Meeting was opened.

**Special Use Permit – Property at #17 North Street** – having reviewed the application for a special permit, as well as the site plan approval by the Village Planning Board, and noting that the application conforms to those standards in a manner appropriate to the particular circumstances, in addition to all applicable standards prescribed in the rules and regulations of a special permit process, a motion to grant a special use permit to the owners of the property at #17 North Street to complete the remodeling of said property as outlined in the site plan application for a multiple dwelling in the Village Center, as required by the Village Code was made and approved.

**Resolution – Removal and/or Replacement of Storm Water Drainage Pipes on West Main Street – Deemed Dangerous and Unsafe** – a Resolution was approved, authorizing the Village of Marcellus Department of Public Works to immediately cause the removal and/or replacement of the storm water drainage pipes on a portion of the southern side of this road (also known as County Rt. 41), from #15 West Main (the Grange) west to the Village line. The Board of Trustees has decided that this is a public emergency and that the Village will need to remove and/or replace 1,000’ of drainage pipes or remove the collapsing pipes and leave this an open ditch, similar to that on the northern side of the road, that the conditions on the shoulder of the road at this time present a “clear and imminent danger to the life, safety or health of any person travelling by auto on this stretch of the road as well as hazardous conditions for those whose property abuts this road on the southern side, unless the storm water drainage pipes are removed and/or replaced as soon as possible,” and that a public emergency exists, permitting the Village to immediately retain a contractor to remove and/or replace the storm water drainage pipes without conducting competitive bidding, bypassing the usual procurement policy of the Village. The Village Board of Trustees approved this resolution and awarded the bid for removal and/or replacement of the storm water drainage pipes to North Country Contractors at a cost of $100,000.00.

**SEQR Resolution and Negative Declaration for Removal and/or Replacement of Storm Water Drainage Pipes on West Main Street Project** – a resolution was approved determining that the removal and/or replacement of storm water drainage pipes on West Main Street in the Village of Marcellus constituters a Type II action under the New York State Environmental Review Act and will not have a significant effect on the environment and require no further environmental review.

**Approve Bond Resolution for Removal and/or Replacement of Storm Water Drainage Pipes on West Main Street** – a Bond Resolution was approved authorizing the issuance of $100,000 serial bonds to finance Removal and/or Replacement of Storm Water Drainage Pipes on West Main Street. In addition, the public should know that the bond resolution is not subject to permissive referendum because the length of borrowing will not exceed five years. The drainage project should begin this summer or fall, and should take less than a week to complete, if the County can provide traffic control for that length of time. The financing should be available within a month.

**Parking on Scotch Hill/Sheehan Road** – the Board has received several complaints regarding cars that frequently park on the northern side of Scotch Hill, known as Sheehan Road in the Town. There have also been several reports of near accidents caused by traffic being forced to leave the designated travel lane due to the location of parked vehicles. In the early morning hour, Scotch Hill is a major route of travel for school busses, further adding to the problem of visibility and lack of room for safe vehicular traffic during the school year in particular. In addition, residents of Scotch Hill Road have expressed concern about exiting their own driveways for fear that they will hit parked cars or be struck by a vehicle travelling down the hill. Up to this point, the Village has taken the position that the southern side of the road has always been in the Village and the northern side of the road has been in the Town, preventing the Village from addressing the problem directly. After having discussed the issue with the Town Board and Town Supervisor, we have received notice from the Town that the road, which is also a County road, is in the Village and that it would be up to the Village to deal with any traffic or parking issues on that road. We examined the annexation map of 1906, and it appears from the described property, that Scotch Hill Road was included within the annexation boundary described and approved following a special election for annexation on 24 April 1906. The Village attorney also consulted with NYCOM to investigate the legality of the matter. We received assurance that the Village Board is legally entitled to set and enforce the speed limit on County roads which run through the Village, as well as impose parking restrictions on County roads that run through the Village. A motion was made and approved to have the Village Police enforce the 30 mph speed limit currently in effect on Scotch Hill Road as well as prohibit parking on the northern side of Scotch Hill Road, as it is already prohibited on the southern side of the road, from North Street east to Dublin Road.

 **Parking Restrictions** – a motion was made and approved to update the 2012 Village of Marcellus Parking Restrictions in the Village Code so that they reflect the changing character of the Village. In particular, the 2-hour parking restrictions will be changed from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., to 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. effective August 1, 2019.

**School Resource Officer Contracts** – the Mayor was authorized to sign the School Resource Officer Agreement between the Village of Marcellus and the Lyncourt Union Free School District and with the Onondaga Central School District, whereby the School Districts and the Village have determined that it is in their mutual best interests to enter into this Agreement to provide for the assignment of three officers of the Marcellus Police Department to serve as School Resource Officers in the Lyncourt Union Free School District and Onondaga Central School District. A copy of the agreement is on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

**Fixed Monthly Cell Phone Stipend** – a motion was made and approved to continue 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.

**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.

**Announce Village Meetings for August 2019** – 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.

**Updates – Mayor**

**West Main Street Drainage** – the storm water drainage pipes on this County Road will need to be replaced this summer. While the road belongs to the County (Rt. 41), the Village has been told that the area on either side of the highway is the responsibility of the Village. We have decided that this is an emergency and we will need to replace 1,000’ of drainage pipes or remove the collapsing pipes and leave this an open ditch, similar to that on the northern side of the road. This is a very expensive project for the Village, one that requires the Village to secure bonds in order to pay for it. Our engineers have completed the survey and base mapping, and have put together plans including the existing utility information, maintenance and protection of traffic plan and detail & notes sheets, per the direction from the County. They are also running some calculations to verify the pipe sizing requirements. Once the televising info from Jamko is received, we should be able to wrap things up and have a set of plans to review and then submit to the County. We are hopeful that the County will assist the Village by providing road closure and detours on this well traveled road but there is no guarantee.

**Sidewalks** – last year at this time, we informed residents of its intention to finish some amenities to the Village right of way on Chrisler Street this summer. The overhead cobra streetlights on Chrisler Street have been replaced with new historic lampposts that have LED components similar to those that presently line North, South and Main Streets in the Village. This summer, the Board proposes to reconstruct the entire Village-owned sidewalk on the north side of Chrisler Street, from North Street to the end of the street, including that portion from where it presently ends at #9 to the end of the street. Next year, we hope to reconstruct the entire Village-owned sidewalk on the south side of Chrisler Street, from North Street to the end of the street, including that portion from where it presently ends at #12 to the end of the street, thus completing a pedestrian loop of the entire street. It is also our hope that in the near future, a pedestrian trail might be created at the end of Chrisler Street, on Village owned property, which would connect with and provide access to the Marcellus Free Library. Also, per the DPW Superintendent’s schedule, some new sidewalk will be installed elsewhere pending budgetary considerations.

**WWTP Upgrades** – to the plant are still going on, with an anticipated conclusion by the end of September 2019. While it has been a year of construction, we did not experience much inconvenience or interruption in the plant’s operation. There have been several change orders to the project, the most recent being involving electrical construction with Myriad Construction and HVAC with King & King Mechanical, the cost for both of which has been absorbed by the contingency portion of the budget. Funding for the project can only come from sewer rate increases and those rates were increased 30% recently. This increase has brought the average annual rate up to $541.39 – a quarterly increase of about $25.00, or an annual increase of about $100.00. This is an average estimate, since sewer rates are based on water usage in the Village. For Town sewer users the increase will be even more astronomical, given that outside users pay an additional 25% over that of the average Village sewer user. An average town sewer user will pay approximately $676.74 annually, an annual increase of about $128.00, beginning in 2020.

**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.

**Message from County Legislator** – Julie Abbott-Kenan, our 6th District County Legislator, recently sent an email to the Village that at the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting of the County Legislature, held on July 10, 2019, sale of the property for the former Crown Mill site and future site of what we hope to be the Village Gateway Project, was unanimously approved! She then reported that it was moved forward to the "Ways & Means" Committee on Friday, July 12th, and that it was unanimously approve there as well. It is now on to the full legislature, probably in August for it approval. We are excited to see this project moving forward, the collaboration for which, between the Village the School and the County, has been extraordinary. At our August Board meeting, we hope to be able to provide a summary to Village residents of what the Board and others have been working on since 2016 – a project that we hope will result in an environmentally positive gateway to our Village.

**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.

**Trees** – some tree removals have been or will be done on Reed Street and Main Street and 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 for Site Plan Review of #17 North Street as well as for #4 East Main Street.

**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, I 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, the Village Police Department and the Town Board for its help in conducting a very successful “Teal There’s A Cure” race on July 4th.