

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – August 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.

Continue New Police Positions – a year ago, the Board created, at the request of Police Chief Wicks, a total of six (6) Special Patrol Officer positions. The work involves responsibility for maintaining order and providing security in public buildings, schools and courtrooms. Persons employed in this class shall have all of the powers of a peace officer, as set forth in section 2.20 of Criminal Procedure Law, when performing the duties of protecting property or persons on such premises. The work is performed under general supervision of the Police Chief. Persons employed by the Village of Marcellus as Special Patrol Officers will be assigned, for the most part as School Resource Officers and will be able to obtain 211 waivers for the purpose of meeting the needs of the school districts and would therefore not be subject to the \$30,000 salary cap levied against retired officers. A motion was approved to continue to utilize five (5) of the Special Patrol Officer positions created in the Marcellus Police Department again this year.

A Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of a Motion to Extend the Village's Credit Limit – a motion was made to approve the following resolution:

Whereas, economic conditions in the region have changed significantly since the last credit card limit was established between the Village of Marcellus and its depository, Solvay Bank, and

Whereas, the cost of materials and supplies required by the Village's various departments has risen considerably, and

Whereas, there is abundant need to purchase materials and supplies on a more immediate basis, rather than wait for a regular monthly board meeting for claims to be audited, and

Whereas, The Board of Trustees already authorizes payment in advance of audit of claims for such items as public utility services postage, freight and express charges, and

Whereas, all such credit card claims must be presented at the next regular meeting for audit and the claimant and the officer incurring or approving the claims are jointly and severally liable for any amount the Board of Trustees disallows.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus authorizes the adoption of a motion to raise the credit limit for the Village of Marcellus credit card account with Solvay Bank, and to authorize the issuance of new credit cards that will be associated with this account. The current credit limit for the Village with Solvay Bank is \$5,000, distributed evenly between two (2) cards. This motion would set the limit at \$10,000, with two (2) cards, each with a \$5,000 limit, issued to the Village Mayor and to the Village Treasurer, to be used for Village of Marcellus business.

Green Gateway Project – a motion was made and approved to accept the Transfer of Tax Delinquent Properties to the Village of Marcellus for Park Purposes.

Whereas, Onondaga County is the owner and holder of the tax sale certificates on the tax delinquent parcel identified as tax parcel 001.-01-01.1, consisting of approximately 1.9 acres in the Village of Marcellus; and

Whereas, the Village of Marcellus seeks to acquire such property for the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to establish a Solar Park Green Gateway project at the former Lower Crown Mill site in the Village; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that for a consideration of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000), the Onondaga County Executive and the Chief Fiscal Officer are authorized to execute deeds to acquire the above referenced parcels by tax deeds and to transfer such parcels to the Village of Marcellus for park purposes; and, be it further

Resolved, that any and all unpaid interest and penalties on such parcel shall be discharged.

Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the 2019 Onondaga County, NY Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – a motion was made to approve the following resolution:

Whereas, all jurisdictions within Onondaga County have exposure to natural hazards that increase the risk to life, property, environment, and the County and local economy; and

Whereas, pro-active mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

Whereas, The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) established new requirements for pre and post disaster hazard mitigation programs, including the preparation of Hazard Mitigation Plans; and

Whereas, Onondaga County, with a Planning Partnership of Onondaga County municipalities, has gathered information and prepared the 2019 Onondaga County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (the “Plan”), in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

Whereas, the Partnership has completed a planning process that has engaged the public with opportunity for input and public comment, assessed the risk and vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards, developed a mitigation strategy consistent with a set of uniform goals and objectives, and created a plan for implementing, evaluating and revising this strategy; and

Whereas, THE VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS has reviewed the Plan and affirms that the Plan will be updated no less than every five years;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS:

Adopts in its entirety, the 2019 Onondaga County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (the “Plan”) as the jurisdiction’s Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and resolves to execute the actions identified in the Plan that pertain to this jurisdiction.

WWTP Construction Observation Amendment – MRB Group – a motion was approved to authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement to amend the Construction Observation Contract with MRB Group, which company has been awarded the bid for construction observation services at the WWTP, MRB is requesting this amendment in order to continue to provide these services on an as-needed basis. The request would be an increase of \$35,000 (estimated, hourly as needed), based on four (4) months of construction observation, and would also involve relocating some existing funding from the special inspections testing line item of the budget. Presently the overall project budget contains a contingency amount of almost \$400,000, which is still very strong for the later phase of the project.

Sidewalk Contract – CNY Masonry LLC – a motion was approved to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with CNY Masonry LLC, which company has been awarded the bid for the construction of approximately 675 lf of new concrete sidewalk along the north side of Chrysler Street, from North Street (NYS 174) to the end of the street. Bids were opened on August 9, 2019 and CNY Masonry submitted a bid of \$10,968.75, which will consist of forming and setting the forms of the sidewalk for a concrete pour, pouring and leveling of 4" of Portland cement concrete in the proposed sidewalk and a broom finish, any edge treatments and a cure and seal treatment of the new sidewalk. The bid did not include any preparation work, pavement removal, earthwork excavation, work at driveway locations or any landscaping within the right-of-way, all of which will be performed by the Village of Marcellus D.P.W.

IMA with Town for Highway and Related Services – a motion was made to approve a continuation of an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Marcellus whereby the Village of Marcellus shall, following prior authorization from the Mayor, authorize its D.P.W. Superintendent to make a positive or a negative determination, on a case by case basis, a request made by the Town Highway Superintendent, to offer assistance in the form of Village personnel, materials and/or equipment. This Agreement has had a term commencing on August 27, 2018 and ending on June 30, 2019 ("initial term"). The parties shall then have the right to extend this Agreement for an additional term upon the mutual agreement, in writing, of all parties prior to the expiration of the initial term. Both the Village and the Town reserve the right to terminate this agreement for convenience, at any time, upon thirty (30) days written notice. Further details of the IMA are available for public inspection in the Village Office.

Request to Adjust Village Fees and Utility Charges – we have received a oral request from the property owner at 17 North Street, asking that the Board consider adjusting the Village Special Assessment fees and unpaid utility charges that were never paid to the Village by the previous property owner and had been re-levied to County taxes for payment. Having purchased the property at public auction, the new property owner was then assessed and paid the Village Special Assessment fees, including the Vacant Dwelling Registration Fees as well as unpaid sewer and refuse charges, which were three years in arrears, at a time when the new property owner did not even own the property. Because of this situation, a motion was made and approved that the Board forgive the Special Assessment fees and those pro-rated sewer and refuse

charges levied upon the new property owner for the time period during which the new property owner did not even own the property. Since the new property owner has already paid the fees and the utility charges that were in arrears, a motion to provide a appropriate credit for utility charges to the new property owner was also approved.

Announce Village Meetings for September 2019 – Trustee _____ – 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 Labor Day, September 3rd, and that there will be a one-day delay in trash pickup that week. We also note that the Fall Trash Days are scheduled for Fridays, September 27th and October 4th 2019, from 8 am to 3 pm and on Saturdays, September 28th and October 5th 2019, from 8 am to Noon each day. The schedule will also be posted on the Village and Town websites. The trash transfer station is located on the Town property, across from the Town Highway Garage on the East side of Lee Mulroy Road. A user fee will be charged to offset the cost of this service. Permits may be purchased at the Town Clerk's Office, 24 East Main Street, Marcellus, New York during regular office hours, Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:30 pm. For more information on trash, please call the Highway Garage – 315-673-3127, and for Permit Information, call the Town Office – 315-673-3269 Ext. 1

Updates –

West Main Street Drainage Project – having approved a Resolution, authorizing the Village of Marcellus DPW 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, and having also declared this action to be a public emergency 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 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. The Board also approved a resolution determining that the removal and/or replacement of storm water drainage pipes on West Main Street in the Village of Marcellus constitutes 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. The Board also approved a Bond Resolution 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. Plans were finalized by the Village engineer, MRB, and submitted to the County DOT for its comments. When the County DOT provides its comments, the drainage project should begin by the end of August and should take less than a week to complete, if the County DOT can provide traffic control for that length of time.

Parking on Scotch Hill/Sheehan Road – the new parking restrictions on Scotch Hill (Sheehan Road) as well as the 2 hour parking limits on various parts of Village Streets approved by the Board at its July meeting have been working

very well, according to feedback from area residents and the Marcellus Police Department. Several warning tickets were issued and those seemed to have been most effective.

Another Message from our County Legislator – Julie Abbott-Kenan, our 6th District County Legislator, provided notice on August 6, 2019 to the Village that a resolution was passed unanimously by the Onondaga County Legislature approving a transfer of the lower mill property to the Village. Legislator Abbott-Kenan also noted that the County Law Department is working on the deed, and the County Finance Department will contact the Village and arrange for payment. The County will then file the deed in the name of the Village.

Village Gateway Project – For the benefit of our residents, we would like 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. Printed copies of this summary are provided for the benefit of residents and are available in the Village office, as well as on the Village website (click on <http://villageofmarcellus.com> and then on News, then Village News, then Village Gateway Project. In addition, an article appears on Syracuse.com that highlights the project for those so interested.

Striping of Crosswalks – we would note that the NYSDOT is expected to complete its striping of crosswalks on North Street (Rte. 174), prior to the start of school. Also, please note that a pedestrian crosswalk has been installed on the east side of the Main Street Bridge, This not only helps to provide pedestrian safety for the creek walk, from Station Lane to Limerick Street, and has also helped to slow down traffic entering the Village from East Hill. We might also note that the Village has painted its crosswalks and parking spaces this week, prior to school opening.

Code Enforcement and Officer – building inspections, pools and decks, and several properties have been cited for lack of property maintenance.

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.

Sidewalks – because of the decision to reconstruct the sidewalks on the north side of Chrisler Street, budgetary constraints have limited the desire of the Village Board to add other sidewalk repairs in this year's budget.

Street repairs – because of the need to complete the W. Main Street Drainage project, budgetary constraints have limited the desire of the Village Board to add other street repairs in this year's budget.

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

School begins – begins next week and we urge residents to be aware of the fact that there will be students walking to school, particularly on First Street. Also, the State DOT will begin 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.

Village Taxes – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present, including penalties, totals \$24,006, from 40 property owners, a figure somewhat less than previous years. Property owners may continue to pay unpaid taxes to the Village until October 31, 2019, when they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.

V.I.P. Monies – infrastructure grant payments received by the Village of Marcellus from Onondaga County, as part of the Village Infrastructure Improvement Project have totaled \$180,450 this year, with no increase, as was the case last year. While this represents about half of what the Village used to be provided, until the County took the sales tax revenue from the Villages back in 2010, half is better than nothing. What is of more concern is the fact that the V.I.P. ten-year program, which was to end for the Villages in 2020, was renewed for another ten (10) years, until 2030. For this, we are grateful that the County has agreed to continue the program.

Highland Flooding – it appears that the Village's efforts, as recommended by MRB Group regarding the drainage on Highland Drive and related streets – namely, opening the ditches and replacing the driveway culverts along the west side of Highland Drive has been successful. Preventing storm water from jumping the ditches and flooding those properties below and allowing storm water to move quickly to the 24" catch basin at Reed Parkway seems to be working. Property owners should be aware that the ditches must remain open to allow the water to move north to Reed Parkway. Other storm 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.

Planning Board – did not meet in August since there were no issues or concerns requiring that it meet.

Marcellus Grange #464 Quilt Trail 2019 – residents and visitors might enjoy a self-walking tour through the Village of Marcellus, starting at the Grange on West Main and then looking for quilt board signs on homes and businesses. Kay Kershaw knows the route and has painted the signs (quilts).

Letter in Support of Baltimore Woods – recently the Village was asked to write a letter of support for Baltimore Woods' application to assist with the expansion of the existing Baltimore Woods Preserve by 90 acres. The Board did this and it is grateful for the opportunity to support the expansion of one of our local parks.

Other – we would like to make mention that the Marcellus Central School District is celebrating a Grand Opening of The Marcellus Senior High School on Saturday, September 7, 2019. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and wandering tours. After a long construction period, we know that Superintendent Brantner and the entire staff and students at MCS are most grateful to be back to normal. Go Mustangs!