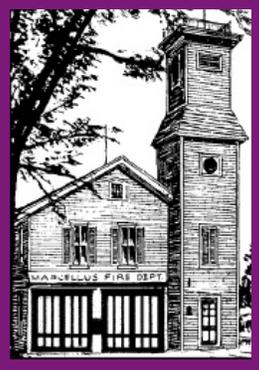


*Marcellus Village
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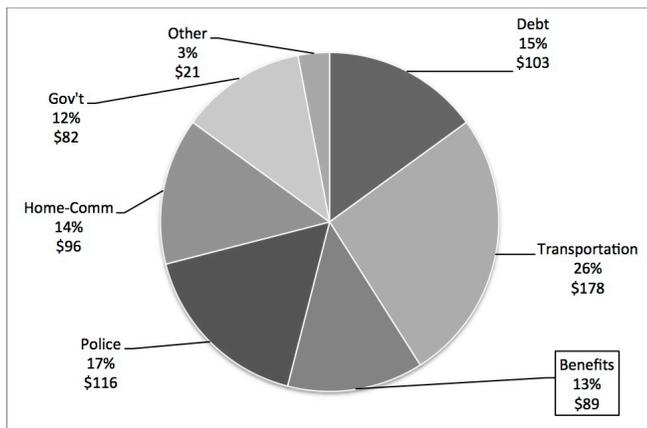
Please take the time to read the letter that accompanies this newsletter regarding the coronavirus and its impact on the operation of your Village government.

Dear Village Residents,

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees will take place on April 6, 2020, and includes appointment of officials, establishing meeting dates, as well as designating official newspapers and depositories. Also, a public hearing to consider the tentative budget of the Village for the next fiscal year will take place on April 6, 2020. Approval of the final budget is scheduled to take place at the next regular Board meeting on April 27, 2020.

The Budget

This proposed budget maintains the Village tax rate at \$6.85 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, and will generate approximately \$2,600 in additional revenue for the Village, due to an overall increase in the total taxable value of properties in the Village. This proposed Village tax levy also will not exceed the NYS Tax Cap Limit. Although the NYS Governor has eliminated the Village's allocation of State Aid to Municipalities, and has frozen the Village's allocation of State Transportation Aid at current year levels, the Village is grateful to Onondaga County for extending the Village Infrastructure Improvement Program (VIIP) agreement between Onondaga County and the Village. This program has been extended for another ten years, and includes multiple increases in the amount of financial assistance to the Village. The Village greatly values the work performed by its employees, and will be providing employees a 3% raise in this new budget. Through the continuing efforts of the Village departments to operate as fiscally conservative as possible each budget year, departmental costs have been controlled. This has benefited the Village in offsetting the cuts in State funding, as well as



the increasing costs of unfunded mandates by NYS such as pension costs and health insurance. However, a year ago the Village was

forced to issue a \$100,000 Bond Anticipation Note (B.A.N.) in order to pay for the emergency storm water drainage repairs to West Main Street. The Village as a whole is already saturated in debt, especially after the costly NYSDEC mandated upgrades to the Village's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Therefore, the Village Board of Trustees has decided to pay off this B.A.N. upon maturity in September 2020. Consequently, the proposed General Fund budget for the Village's fiscal year ending May 31, 2021 shows a deficit of \$(62,069.76). The unappropriated fund balance, however, will enable us to comfortably deal with the deficit. The pie chart indicates how funds from a \$685 tax on a \$100,000 home will apply.

Sewer Fund

The very costly upgrades to the Village's Wastewater Treatment Plant as mandated by the NYSDEC, in the amount of \$8 million, have now been completed. The \$5.2 million interest free construction loan from the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) has now entered repayment. The annual cost to the consolidated sewer system users in the Village, Town and School District for the debt service on this EFC loan will be \$173,000. In anticipation of this EFC loan repayment event, the Village has already increased the minimum sewer rate per unit from \$75 to \$100 (a 33.33% increase), which became effective with the April 1, 2019 billing. This additional sewer usage revenue will serve to build up the Village's Unappropriated Sewer Fund Balance. This is essential, not only to be able pay for this EFC debt service over the next 30 YEARS, but also to cover the increased costs of running the Village's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Based on this, the Village's proposed Sewer Fund budget shows a \$74,075 budget surplus for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2021.

Increase In Sewer Rates

To offset excessive sewer rates, the Village has been successful in securing some funding, including several WQIP awards of \$80,000 and \$1,000,000, and a EPG grant of \$30,000, as well as zero (0%) percent financing from the Environmental Financing Corporation. Additional funding to help meet the DEC mandate was also obtained from a SAM grant of \$250,000. However, sewer rate increases hve been necessary and this has resulted in a minimum quarterly sewer rate, for Village sewer users, of \$100 per quarter and a minimum annual cost of \$400 – an average annual cost of about \$548. Keep in mind that this is an **average estimate**, since sewer rates are based on water usage in the Village. The annual cost for outside users (Town and School District) is anticipated to be \$686, given that outside users pay an additional 25% over that of the average Village sewer user – an increase of about \$160.00 per year, beginning in 2020. In order to prepare our Plant for operation into the 21st century, these increases, while hefty, are unavoidable.

New Business in the Village – Grand Opening – Summer of 2020



Look for an early summer opening of a new business in the Village at 4 E. Main St. called *Gretchen's Confections*, specializing in handcrafted chocolates, baked goods, coffees and soups. It will offer a chocolate shop and café, and also feature a production kitchen. We welcome this new Village business, a long vacant site on Main Street.

Property Tax Cap

The property tax cap of 2%, another State mandate, complicates our budget and at its March meeting, the Board had intended to override

the tax cap. Our inability to conduct a public hearing to do that caused the Board to table the override. Since we expect to stay under the property tax cap, the override becomes irrelevant at this point. However, the tax cap compounds the budget process and makes it difficult to plan ahead.

Village Election

Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order on March 17th delaying Village Elections statewide until the April 28th State Primary. The Executive Order also calls for any elected official holding such position to remain in office until such time as a new election is held. Therefore, Trustee Sara Tallman and Trustee Tim Manahan will remain in office until such time as a new election takes place. We expect that voting for two trustee positions will take place on April 28th and two candidates have filed petitions including current



Trustee Manahan and Chrysler Street resident John (Jack) Murphy. We would also thank outgoing Trustee Sally Tallman, whose steady advice and dedicated service was exceptional during her eight-year tenure on the Village Board as well as her 15 year tenure on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Board Appointments



At its Annual Meeting, the Village Board will appoint Richelle Schettine to a 5-year term as a member of the Village Planning Board – from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2025. In addition, the Village Board will reappoint Kay Kershaw to another 5-year term as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals – from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2025. We are very grateful to Richelle and Kay for their willingness to serve, without compensation, on these Boards.

Trash Transfer Site

The trash transfer site for Village and Town residents will take place on Fridays, April 24th, May 2nd and May 8th, from 8 am to 3 pm and on Saturdays, April 25th, May 2nd and May 9th, from 8 am to Noon. The fee schedule remains the same as last year. A permit is required and obtained at the Town office. Tires as well as items with Freon, such as refrigerators, air conditioners or dehumidifiers require an additional fee. Some items are not accepted including garbage, recyclables, hazardous waste, and contractor debris. There will also be an Electronics Waste Disposal with trash days this year, which will require a special fee, as well as a Shred Day. There will be no cost to the residents for the shredding.

Main Street Grant Proposals Approved!

The Onondaga County Community Development Division reached out to the Village to apply for the Onondaga County Village Main Street Revitalization and Beautification Grant Program. This program enabled elected officials to work with local business owners to develop proposals that would positively impact Main Street and Village Center areas. This revitalization would involve aesthetic improvements, business creation/retention and beautification 14 proposals were completed by interested business owners and returned to the Village, combined into one application and submitted to the County at the end of January. The Board was notified in mid March that the proposals, totalling almost \$300,000 were approved by the County and that the revitalization work can soon begin.

Clean The Village For Earth Day – MAYBE?

The Village of Marcellus hopes to again participate in an Earth Day Clean Up on Thursday, April 23, 2020. KCH Elementary School will

participate in this event and we welcome any individuals or groups to join us in helping clean the Village of litter lying along the roadsides. If interested in participating, we will meet in front of the Village Hall (about 1:30 p.m.) to distribute bags and gloves. This annual event is subject to change or cancellation because of the current health crisis and the many concerns that the school district will have.



Brush Pick-up



With the arrival of spring and a need to clean up before Memorial Day and Olde Home Days, brush pick-up will start soon. With Board's approval, the DPW is going to continue a policy initiated in 2018. Brush may be placed at the curb on Saturdays and Sundays for pickup on Mondays from April 1st to May 6th. Also, during summer months (June, July and August), brush may be placed at the curb on Saturdays and Sundays for pickup on the first Monday of each month during those summer months.

Police Resignation and Appointments

At its March Meeting, the Village Board accepted the resignation with regret of Officer Shawn Broton, who had been employed as a School Resource Officer at the Onondaga Central School District. The Board also appointed Officer Darren McLaughlin as a School Resource Officer at the OCS District, following his distinguished career with the Onondaga County Sheriffs Department. In addition, the Board approved the appointment of Captain Bernie Podsiedlik as Interim Chief of the Marcellus Police Department.



Olde Home Days Still On!

"Olde Home Days 2020" is planned for June 5th, 6th and 7th in the Village and in Marcellus Park, despite the current health crisis and honoring MCS Transportation Employees. A fun filled weekend is planned.

Utility Bills

The utility bill that residents receive this month is the last bill for our fiscal year. Please note that if a resident's bill is not paid by April 30, 2020, it will be re-levied to the tax bill for June 1, 2020. If those bills for tenants who pay their own utilities are not paid by April 30, 2020, these will be re-levied onto the property owner's taxes for June 1, 2020.



Notice of Sign Placement

Soon, the Highway Department will re-install pedestrian crossing signs on Main Street in the Village. The signs are placed in the road, near the crosswalks, warning motorists that all vehicles must yield to pedestrians who are walking in the crosswalk – a New York State law.

Some Reminders

The Village Office is closed on Good Friday, April 10th and will be closed on Memorial Day, May 25th.



There will be a one-day delay for trash collection because of Memorial Day. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and we hope you enjoy a beautiful spring and summer.

John P. Curtin, Mayor
Sara N. Tallman, Trustee
Timothy P. Manahan, Trustee
Charneley A. Abbott, Clerk
Nino J. Providenti, Treasurer
Jeffrey D. Brown, Attorney