

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – April 2020

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 the Village Office (clerk@villageofmarcellus.com).

ANNOUNCEMENT

As of March 17, 2020, all Village meetings are closed to public attendance for the safety of all concerned. Authority to make the adjustment was provided by Governor Cuomo's March 13, 2020 Executive Order to temporarily suspend Open Meetings Law to allow for public bodies to hold public meetings without public attendance. However, if anyone wishes to listen to what transpires at public Board meetings, please check the Village website for the Zoom schedule (<https://www.villageofmarcellus.com>) and passwords. In addition, the minutes to the Board Meetings are recorded and summaries of the meetings are available on the Village website (<https://www.villageofmarcellus.com>) under News, Mayor's Updates, for those so interested. Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Cuomo has issued an Executive Order now delaying Village elections statewide until after June 1, 2020. 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. We have already posted a letter of information on the Village website, to keep you informed of matters related to the operation of the Village during this health crisis, a hard copy of which was also sent by mail to our residents earlier along with the Village newsletter.

Adopt 2020-2021 Budget and set the Tax Rate – there have been no changes made to the tentative budget that was approved at the Annual Meeting on April 6, 2020, and a motion was made to approve the 2020-2021 Village budget and to set the Tax Rate at \$6.85 /\$1,000 assessed valuation

Proposal – W-M Engineering for Annual Storm Water Report – a motion was made to authorize the Mayor to sign a proposal from W-M Engineering to prepare the Annual Storm Water Report at a cost not to exceed \$500.

Change May Board Meeting – because our regular May Board meeting happens to fall on Memorial Day, a motion was made to change the date of that meeting from the 4th Monday of the Month, May 25th, to the 3rd Monday of the month, May 18th.

Intermunicipal Agreements with Onondaga County – a motion was made to authorize the Mayor to sign Intermunicipal Agreements with Onondaga County regarding both the Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Operation and Maintenance Charges and the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System.

Amendment to WWTP Engineering Agreement – a motion was made to authorize the Mayor to sign Amendment #5 to the Engineering Agreement with MRB Group for the WWTP Improvement Project. This will be a no cost change amendment, reallocating existing funds between tasks. We might note that the project has proceeded quite smoothly, that engineering oversight has been exceptional, and that coordination of all work activities has enabled the plant to operate 24/7 while meeting permit requirements. In addition, there remains a healthy contingency of over \$300,000. Being able to conserve much of the contingency to date speaks to the quality of the design plans and contractors as well as the considerable involvement by the Village on the project

Annual Storm Water Report – a motion was made to table the Annual Storm Water Report until the May Board Meeting, when W-M Engineering will have completed it.

Utility Bills – as a result of the ongoing health crisis and the fact that the Village Office has been closed and the work hours for the Village staff reduced by order of the Governor, the Board during its workshop meeting, felt that the deadline for payment of the utility bills for sewer and refuse that residents received this month be extended another 2 months. The original bill was due on 4/30/20. This is because the fiscal year for Onondaga County ends on 5/30 and any outstanding utility charges are re-levied onto the Village Tax Bill. Due to the circumstances mentioned above, the Village Board approved a proposal that the payment deadline for utility bills is extended to 6/30/20 and that penalty charges for late payment of said bills will not accrue until after the June 30, 2020 deadline. If there are any questions regarding this matter, please call the Village Office at 315-673-3112.

School Resource Officer Contracts – a motion was made to table until the next Board meeting the School Resource Officer Agreements between the Village of Marcellus, the Marcellus Central School District, the Lyncourt Union Free School District, and the Onondaga Central School District

Charter Communications Cable Franchise Agreement – a motion was made to again table the Charter Communications Cable Franchise Agreement until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of the agreement, with Charter Communications.

Community Development Main Street Grant Contract – a motion was made to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract between the Village of Marcellus and Onondaga County, whereby the County has agreed to support the Village Main Street Project, which project includes the repaving of two public parking lots as well as a commercial building façade component that will restore, repair or replace the facades of thirteen (13) buildings. Please note that Village property owners submitted thirteen building façade applications and all were approved. The County has also agreed to commit funds for use in connection with the County’s goal of improving Village infrastructure County-wide, the funding for this project not to exceed \$288,654 to be paid on a schedule specified in purchase orders issued by the County. The Village, which has been designated the project contractor, agrees to maintain sufficient documentation to reasonably support the use of Grant Funds consistent with the terms and conditions of this agreement, which agreement is available for public inspection in the Village Office.

Authorize Windstream Contract – a motion was made to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Windstream Company wherein Windstream Company would provide Internet and phone service to all departments (including the Office, Police and WWTP) in the Village of Marcellus, said contract to remain in effect for two years, beginning April 1, 2020. The anticipated savings from that provided by our current provider is estimated to be over 40% and two Village employees, Officer Jeff Fortino and Village Clerk Charnley Abbott, have been largely responsible for researching this agreement facilitating its implementation. The Board would like to thank them for all of their efforts. With the Village Attorney having negotiated successfully the terms of the agreement, with Windstream Company the contract is on file for public inspection in the Village Office.

Announce Village Meetings for May 2020 – a list of Meeting Dates for the month of May has been published. Included is a list of dates for the meeting of the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals, as well as an announcement of the change in the Town Trash Days schedule. Also included is a notice that the Village Office will be closed on Monday, Memorial Day, May 25, 2020, and that the Olde Home Days Celebration originally planned for June 5th, June 6th, and 7th in the Village and in Marcellus Park has been canceled due to the continuing health crisis throughout the nation. Finally, so that it can be given proper advertisement, the Village Board has decided that the annual Village-wide Garage Sale will be scheduled this year for July 11th.

Updates – Mayor

Utility Bills – If there are any questions regarding this matter, please call the Village Office at 315-673-3112.

Code Officer and Fire Inspection – fire inspections and rental inspections continue, along with vacant house registrations, code violations being issued for litter and rubbish piles, as well as change of occupancy at several sites.

Pedestrian Signs and Benches – have been re-installed on Main Street and elsewhere by the Highway Department. The flags are also displayed in time for Memorial Day.

Compost at the Treatment Plant – will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, residents are able pick up compost but they should also be aware of the fact that construction at the plant still might hinder their ability to pick it up. It would be best for residents to call the treatment plant ahead of time (315-673-4491) to determine when it would be most convenient to pick up compost.

WWTP Upgrades – to the plant have been completed, for the most part. While it has been a year of construction, we did not experience much inconvenience or interruption in the plant's operation and we expect substantial completion by May 15, 2020.

Olde Home Days – unfortunately, has been canceled.

Clean Energy Community – Having been designated as a “Clean Energy Community,” the Village of Marcellus used its award of \$100,000 grant to implement clean energy projects, which included a retrofitting of 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 occurred in the Village Hall, the Village Garage and the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Village has also been able to replace the three wooden coach lights on Orchard Circle recently with new historic lights, which are also LED retrofits.

Sidewalks – last year, the Board approved the extension of the Village-owned sidewalk on Chrysler Street, from where it ended at #9 on the north side to the end of the street, and this year, the Board wanted to extend the sidewalk from where it ends at #12 on the south side to the end of the street, thus completing a pedestrian loop of the entire street. The Board, because of budgetary concerns and other sidewalk issues in other areas of the Village, might have to delay that work on Chrysler for another year. Per the DPW Superintendent’s construction schedule, some new sidewalk will be installed elsewhere pending budgetary considerations.

Creek Walk – Fred’s Trail has reopened and the public has made good use of the walkway during this present health crisis. At first glance, it appears that the winter weather has not caused much damage to the trail. There were some hardy people who braved the elements to walk the trail this winter, although it was not officially open. We welcome the spring as well as those who will take advantage of this gem in our community. If some residents are not familiar with the project, we urge them to click on the home page of the Village website <http://villageofmarcellus.com/> and then on Village News.

Street repairs and Tree removals – per the DPW Superintendent’s schedule, repairs will be made to First Street, which saw some serious damage over the winter and some fiber micro paving on Reed Parkway and Maple Street, pending budgetary considerations. We are not sure if CHIPS money

will be available this year because of State and Local budget deficits. We are hopeful that the drainage cut on West Main Street, resulting from the installation of 1,000 feet of storm water pipe by the Village in January, will be paved by the County during its planned re-paving of Main Street this spring/summer. Also tree removals are planned, per the DPW Superintendent's schedule, pending budgetary considerations.

Flower Boxes – the new flower boxes that were constructed three years ago by Kyle Denka as part of his Eagle Scout project have weathered very well. They will be filled again this year, using compost from WWTP, giving a good indication of the value of the compost. Kathy Welsh will again be instrumental in the plantings in these boxes using flowers that she has both grown from seed as well as some that she will or has purchased.

Earth Day Cleanup – the Village were hopeful that an Earth Day clean up of the Village in April, an annual event that involved students from Heffernan Elementary School would again take place. Unfortunately this event has been cancelled, another victim of the pandemic presently sweeping across the country.

Spring Brush Pickup Dates – the Village Board and DPW will to continue the same policy as last year for the 2020 Brush Pickup. Brush may be placed at the curb on Saturdays and Sundays for pickup on Mondays from April 6th to May 4th. In addition, 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 month during those summer months.

Town and Village Trash Days – the Town of Marcellus has announced the 2020 dates for the Trash Transfer Stations and they have been changed, because of the health crisis, from the spring, to the summer, as follows:

Fridays: July 10, 17, 24, 2020	8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Saturdays: July 11, 18, 25, 2020	8:00 am to noon

This will also include E-Waste electronic recycling and a Community Shred Day, the latter to be held on Saturday July 25, 2020, from 8:00 AM to Noon. There will be a limit of 5 Boxes per vehicle, and this will

be held at the Marcellus Town Highway Garage. Permits are required for the Trash Days and are issued through the Town of Marcellus Clerk's Office. The rates are \$20 for a passenger vehicle, \$35 for a pickup truck, \$45 for a trailer, \$10 for a one-time passenger car, \$3 for tires and \$15 for anything with Freon (such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners or dehumidifiers). The cost for Electronics Waste Days will be \$40 for televisions and monitors over 27", \$20 for televisions and monitors less than 27" and a \$5 miscellaneous user fee. This year there will be a charge for flat screen televisions. Some items are not accepted including garbage, OCRRA recyclables, liquids or hazardous waste including paint, oil tanks, fuel tanks, motor vehicles, and no contractor debris (home projects only), All items must be secured and covered when transporting to the Town Transfer Station. Also, there will be an Electronics Waste Disposal Day included with the trash days this year and that will require a special permit. For more information click on the Town of Marcellus Highway's website.

SRO Contracts – with the Marcellus Central School District, the Lyncourt Union Freed School District and the Onondaga Central School District has been tabled and will be approved at a later Board meeting.

Village Elections – Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order delaying Village elections statewide until after June 1, 2020. The Executive Order also called for any elected official holding such position to remain in office until such time as a new election is held. Therefore Trustee Tallman and Trustee Manahan will remain in office until such time as a new election takes place. It is possible that June 16th, the usual date for elections for those Villages that have June elections, will be Election Day in the Village of Marcellus.

Other – VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS – EMERGENCY ORDER

VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS EMERGENCY ORDER

WHEREAS, at 7:30 P.M., on March 23, 2020. A Local State of Emergency has been declared pursuant to Section 24 of the New York State Executive Law, Article 2B, and current Executive Orders of the New York State Governor's Office in response to the COVID-19 virus outbreak in and around the Village of Marcellus; and

WHEREAS, in order to preserve the public safety, health and welfare and hereby render all required and available assistance vital to the security, well-being and health of the citizens of the Village, it is prudent establish the following restrictions:

- 1. Effective immediately, the physical facilities of the Village of Marcellus shall be closed to the public until April 3, 2020. The closure extends to all physical facilities owned by the Village of Marcellus including the Village Hall, Water Treatment Plant, and Village Highway Garage.**
- 2. All official Village Meetings will be held without public participation. The Village will exercise best efforts to keep the public informed about health and legislative issues. We will continue to publicize and post agenda items and initiatives.**
- 3. The Village will not convene any public hearings during the State of Emergency.**
- 4. As directed by the Governor's Office, the Village is forced to curtail public service operations and will use only a skeleton crew to be determined after discussions with specific departments regarding minimum staffing needs. Essential services such as snow removal operations and wastewater treatment operations shall be exempt from this Order, and will continue.**
- 5. As the law requires, this Order shall remain in effect for 5 days after the date below and may be renewed by the successive 5-day Orders.**
- 6. The deadline for payment of the utility bills for sewer and refuse that residents received this month be extended another 2 months, until 6/30/20 and that penalty charges for late payment of said bills will not accrue until after the 6/30/20 deadline.**
- 7. This Order is intended to comply with all laws and regulations, state, federal, and shall be read and interpreted in such manner.**

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 24 of the New York State Executive Law, I, John Curtin, Mayor of the Village of Marcellus, do hereby establish these restrictions as identified in this Order, effective at 10:00 a.m., on April 27, 2020.

John Curtin