

## Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – May 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 September 15, 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.

**Utility Bills** – as we mentioned at our last Board meeting in April, because 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 voted at last month's meeting to extend payment of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter utility bills for sewer and refuse for another 2 months. The original bill was due on 4/30/20 and Village Board approved a proposal that the payment deadline for utility bills be 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. A motion to again extend payment for utility bills until 6/30/20, after which penalty charges will then begin to accrue, was made and approved

**Review Driving Policy** – because the safety and well-being of our employees, as well as that of our residents is very important to the Village, the Board of Trustees desires to protect employees and community members while on the road and reviews the driving policy each year. A motion was made and approved to require all employees of the Village who drive Village-owned vehicles to follow the Village of Marcellus Driving Policy, which was updated this year, a copy of which is on file in the Village Office.

**NYS Workers Compensation Alliance Agreement – Workers Comp Agreement** – A motion was made and approved to table the Workers Compensation Agreement with the NYS Workers Compensation Alliance until the June Board meeting.

**Annual Storm Water Report** – A motion was made and approved to table the Annual Storm Water Report until the June Board Meeting, when W-M Engineering will have completed it.

**Village Parking Improvements** – the Village and its DPW has been involved in an on-going project with several Marcellus Central School District students and their teacher, Mr. Tyler Cooper. The students, along with some invaluable advice, effort and expertise from Joe Durand of TDK Engineering, have researched and prepared an excellent CAD drawing for changing the parking situation in front of the Reagan Building and Village Tavern on East Main Street from a perpendicular to a parallel configuration. As part of their Senior Project, Lee Piekiet and Liam Hawes, have created a most appropriate design for this area on East Main, the final spot in the Village that has perpendicular parking, and is a dangerous traffic hazard, trying to park and then back out onto Main Street. While there will be a loss of probably 4 (four) parking spots as a result of this change, the Village, as well as the County DOT and New York State DOT welcome this change. In addition, the businesses that border this area have come to realize the importance of eliminating this dangerous parking situation and have agreed to the change. Following a review and approval of the design by the County DOT and State DOT, it is expected that construction might take place this summer. The Board welcomes and applauds the efforts of the students and all involved in the project and looks forward to its implementation. A motion was made to approve the student design as well as commend the students for a job well done.

**Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement** – A motion was made and approved to again table the Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of the agreement, with Spectrum.

**School Resource Officer Contracts** – a motion was made and approved 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.

**Announce Village Meetings for June 2020** – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. We would make special notification that the Marcellus Olde Home Days, sponsored by both the Village and Town of Marcellus, and originally scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 have been canceled because of the ongoing health crisis. In addition, the Village Office will be closed for the Memorial Day Holiday on May 25<sup>th</sup> and the Memorial Day Parade and Commemoration on May 25<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled as well. The Village Office will also be closed for Independence Day on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Village-wide garage sale originally planned for Saturday, July 11, 2020 might be canceled as well, depending on guidance provided by the County and State.

## **Updates – Mayor and Board**

**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, new library parking approval along with change of occupancy at several sites and several building permits.

**Pedestrian Signs, Benches, Banners and new Flags** – have been re-installed on Main Street and elsewhere by the Highway Department. Many thanks to our Department of Public Works employees for doing in time for the Memorial Day holiday.

**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, while mostly completed, 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 will have been completed, we expect, by the end of May 2020. While it has been a year of construction, we have not experienced too much inconvenience or interruption in the plant's operation.

**Olde Home Days** – unfortunately, has been canceled.

**Community Development Main Street Grant Contract** – 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. The County has 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** – at our last meeting the Board approved 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 June 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.

**Creek Walk** – Fred's Trail has reopened officially for the public, and our highway department had to do some limited repair to the trail – it appears to have wintered well. 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.

**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.

**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 and Mallory Reedy have again been instrumental in the plantings in these boxes using flowers that has been both grown from seed as well as some that has purchased.

**SRO Contracts** – with the Marcellus Central School District, the Lyncourt Union Free School District and the Onondaga Central School District have been tabled until a future Board meeting

**Memorial Day** – parade and ceremonies have been cancelled for Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and the Village Office will be closed on that day.

**Village Web Site** – Village Clerk Charnley Abbott regularly updates our website and she has been most accommodating to our Village and its residents. If there are any items that residents might feel should be included on the site, please contact her at the Village Office (315-673-3112) with your requests.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Trash Transfer Stations** – 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, OCRRRA 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.

**Zoning Board of Appeals** – will meet in May to discuss a lot line variance and driveway extension for the property at 36 First Street.

## **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 local 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 May 22, 2020.

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John Curtin