

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – June 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).

Board Resolution Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic – June 22, 2020 - the first item that the Board dealt with was an addition to the agenda – a Board Resolution dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. When the Village opened up several weeks ago, there were certain protocols regarding the health crisis that were provided and explained in various ways to Village employees, visitors and contractors, including face-to-face meetings as well as signs and notices that were posted at the entrances to each of the Village owned and operated buildings. While this seems to have worked quite well, we have been advised that the Board should also pass a resolution regarding these protocols. Therefore a resolution was proposed that would formalize the protocols and procedures that have largely been in effect for the previous two weeks:

WHEREAS, the Village of Marcellus recognizes the unique threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to Village employees, contractors, and visitors, and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of New York has issued a series of Executive Orders restricting a number of activities to preserve the health and welfare of the citizens of the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Marcellus desires to comply with all Executive Orders of the Governor and in recognition of the Governor's requirements to reopen municipal government and also to help lower the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus hereby formalizes in this resolution those protocols which have been in effect in the Village since June 1, 2020. They include:

On-the-job protocols and procedures to prevent transmission of the COVID-19 virus (including hand washing, use of sanitizers, cleaning procedures, taking of temperatures, social distancing, and use of web hosting technology, among others)

Protocols and procedures regarding sick workers (including zero tolerance from sick workers reporting to work and having employees self-certify prior to work, among others)

Protocols and procedures regarding the availability and use of face masks (including the required use of a face covering at work unless otherwise notified by a direct supervisor, the installation of a Plexiglas barrier in the Main Office separating visitors from office staff, among others)

A copy of said resolution will be posted in the Board minutes and is also available for public inspection in the Village Office.

IMA with Town for Court Security Services – the 2018 Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Marcellus whereby the Village of Marcellus and its Police Department will provide Town of Marcellus Justice Court Security Services for a minimum of three (3) hours per Court night and the Town of Marcellus will reimburse the Village of Marcellus at a rate of \$20.00 per hour as well as further reimburse the Village for any police services rendered in excess of three (3) hours as well as for any specially convened Court proceedings will

continue on an annual basis without the necessity of renewal unless terminated by either party. Further details of the IMA are available for public inspection in the Village Office.

Village Insurance Proposals – the Board has decided to renew the Village Insurance proposals with the Reagan Companies of Marcellus. A motion was approved to award the contract for Village Insurance in the amount of \$72,787.59 to the Reagan Companies, representing an increase of \$13,528.43 or 44.47% from last year. This represents a very substantial increase in the value of the Waste Water Treatment Plant, because of major upgrades that taken place over the last two years, from \$3,237,098 in 2019-2020 to \$16,242,962 in 2020-2021, as well as a 3% upgrade on other property values. In addition, the Village’s 3-year crime coverage policy to the Reagan Companies is locked in, for this the third year of the three-year policy.

NYS Workers Compensation Alliance Agreement – 7/1/19 – 6/30/20 – a motion was approved to renew the Workers Compensation Agreement with the NYS Workers Compensation Alliance for the time period, July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 at a cost of \$26,808.00, an increase of \$322.

Williamson Software Contract – a motion was made to approve annual software support contracts with Williamson Law Book Company for municipal accounting (\$1,080.00), refuse/sewer billing (\$1,007.00), and payroll (\$1,007.00), totaling \$3,094.00, a 2% increase over last year.

Website Design Contract – North Shore Solutions – a motion was approved to authorize the Mayor to continue the contract with North Shore Solutions, which company designs, set up and hosts the website for the Village of Marcellus, as well as provide training for Village office staff to operate the website once it goes live. There is no increase in the software leasing part of the contract, which costs \$477.75 per year – a 0% increase.

School Resource Officer Contracts – a motion was made to authorize the Mayor to sign 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, 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 each of the school districts so mentioned. The only changes that have occurred are those that allow a number of personal/sick days for the SROs during the school year and all parties involved have approved this. Copies of these agreements are on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

Storm Water Report – a motion was approved to authorize the Mayor to sign the MS4 Annual Storm Water Report for the Village of Marcellus, which report was compiled by W-M Engineering at a cost of \$500.00 and is being submitted for the reporting period ending March 9, 2020 and includes changes that are minor in nature. A copy of the Storm Water Report is on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement – a motion was 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 Cable.

WWTP Project Complete – a motion was approved to authorize the Mayor to send letters of thanks and Certificates of Excellence to each of the contractors responsible for completing so successfully the almost \$8 million upgrades to the Village Waste water Treatment Plant, a process that took almost two years, with little inconvenience or interruption in the plant's operation. These include Blue Heron Construction, Myriad Construction, King & King Mechanical and most noteworthy, MRB Group, our engineering firm out of Rochester.

Announce Village Meetings for July 2020 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. We would make special note of the July 4th holiday, which will be celebrated on Friday, July 3rd, and on which day, the Village Office will be closed. In addition, there will be a delay in trash pickup that week. The July 4th *Teal There's A Cure Run/Walk* has been canceled but the Village-wide Garage Sale will take place on Saturday, July 11th. There is no permit needed on that day for Village 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. The Summer Community Events at Marcellus Park usually held on Thursday nights from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at the Annex Pavilion in the Park, have been cancelled for the season. Our next Board meeting will be on July 27th, starting at 7 p.m.

Updates – Mayor

Brush Pick-up – as was mentioned at earlier meetings, the Village Board and DPW are going to continue the policy established previously for Brush Pickup. Spring brush pickup, which lasted from April 3rd to May 8th has ended. During the 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 of those summer months. Village residents should not to put yard waste out to the curb for pick-up until then. They are welcome to bring yard waste 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 and creates a serious danger for motorcyclists.

Olde Home Days – sponsored by both the Village and Town of Marcellus, and originally scheduled for June 5th, 6th and 7th 2020 have been canceled because of the ongoing health crisis. Last month we thanked a number of people for their efforts in helping to beautify the new Village flower boxes in time for Memorial Day and Olde Home Days. We also thank our Highway Department for the work they did in helping to beautify the Village in time for these special events, as well as the Village Police Department, to whom we give much credit for no serious problems during the health crisis and its willingness to go out of its way to assist residents in need of extra help.

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 summer 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.

Code Enforcement and Officer – Building and Pool Permits – Residents should be aware of the need to obtain permits if any rehabilitation or new construction takes place. This includes the addition of a pool (2 feet and above), or a fence or a deck, or new steps to a residence. Permits are required, as is an inspection by the Code Enforcement Officer. Permits and more information can be found by checking with the Village Office (673-3112) or with Bill Reagan, our CEO (430-7927).

Compost at the Treatment Plant – continues to be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Construction at the plant has ended, but 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. The operators are available to answer questions and to help load compost for residents.

Street repairs and Tree removals – per the DPW Superintendent’s schedule, First Street, from Reed St to Slocombe Ave, was recently repaved. In addition, with most of the funding provided by the Onondaga County Grant program, the Village parking lots were repaved and striped, both of which were in desperate need of repair. Also, pending budgetary considerations, some fiber micro paving on Reed Parkway and Maple Street will be considered. We are not sure, however, 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 some tree removals are planned, per the DPW Superintendent’s schedule, and pending budgetary considerations.

Town Trash Transfer Stations, 2020 - will take place this year, but 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.

Village Parking Improvements – as mentioned at our last Board meeting, 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 Piekielek 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. There will be a loss of probably 4 (four) parking spots as a result of this change, with the Village, and the County DOT and New York State DOT approving this as well. 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.

West Main Street Drainage – with the Village having completed the installation of 1,000 feet of storm water pipe along West Main Street this past winter, the storm water issue on this County Road (Rt. 41) seems to have been resolved. This was a very expensive project for the Village, one that required the Village to secure bonds in order to pay for it. Since the County intends to pave all of Main Street, from Lee Mulroy road to the Village line this summer, we are hopeful that the County will also pave the drainage cut that was caused by our

installation of the storm water pipes. When that is done, it is the intention of the Village to pave the residential driveway aprons as well as restore the grassy areas in the Village right-of-way.

Sidewalks – the DPW Superintendent’s schedule, some new sidewalk will be installed elsewhere in the Village, pending budgetary considerations.

WWTP Upgrades – with two years of construction of a very costly project having been completed, sewer users in the Village, Town and School District can be assured that a modern, fully operational water pollution control plant will serve their needs well into the 21st century.

SRO Contracts – with the Marcellus Central School District, the Onondaga Central School District, and the Lyncourt Union Free School District have been completed and signed by all parties concerned. Details of the contracts, which will provide three (3) Village police officers (SROs) in each of the School Districts, are provided in the agreement, and available for public inspection.

Planning Board and Zoning Board – have no meetings scheduled for the month of July, so far

Summer Community Events – a series of summer concerts held during the summer months at Marcellus Park Annex have been cancelled due to the current health crisis. There is a full list of concert listings and other events and programs available on the Town website at Marcellusny.com or call the Marcellus Parks and Recreation Department (673-3269, ext. 2) for more information.

Centro Bus schedule – delayed until mid August – need to retrofit busses (Plexiglas separations) – new routes to be announced – work force issues – some people still on quarantine

Police Reform – Chief Podsiedlik has presented a proposal for police reform to the Village Board, which are in line with the directives issued by Governor Cuomo in his Executive Order of June 12, 2020, a copy of which proposal is available for residents and is also on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

Main Street Façade Grants – 13 commercial projects and 1 public project – the Village is awaiting their completion this summer

Eisenberg Tree – in memory of Tom Eisenberg, a tree has planted by Village at request of Class of '87 on North Street across from the Eisenberg home. We awaiting the preparation and installation of a memorial plaque at the site

Constitutional Municipality Debt Limit – despite a substantial increase in the amount of funding that the Village has borrowed, our debt limit remains quite satisfactory, according to our Treasurer, because any debt borrowed for sewer projects is fully excluded from a municipality’s constitutional debt limit

Cost of insurance for the Waste Water Treatment plant – has risen significantly this year because the upgrades to the plant have considerably increased the value of the plant – the plant today is the single most valuable asset in the Village, other than our employees of course and the Village must continue to provided appropriate coverage for this most valued piece of property

Hazard Communication Standards for the WWTP – have been developed by Dave Weber, our Fire Inspector and Deputy CEO, insuring that hazardous chemicals are identified and that proper measures are implemented in workplaces to achieve safe use and handling at the WWTP, a copy of which standards are on file in the Village Office for public inspection

Risk Management Policy for the WWTP – has also been developed by Dave Weber, our Fire Inspector and Deputy CEO, which define the guidelines for documenting hazardous areas at the WWTP and provide the requirements for working safely in those areas, a copy of which policy is on file in the Village Office for public inspection

DPW Items – will be reviewed with the DPW at a future workshop

Congratulations to Class of 2020 – on behalf of the Village Board, I would like to extend congratulations to the MCS Class of 2020. They have waited for the day when they would sit next to their best friends and hear their names called at graduation. However, like a clap of thunder, they were jarred back to reality by the coronavirus pandemic, spending the last few months of the school year banished to their homes. A recent Facebook post was a profound reminder about the Class of 2020: they entered this world in the shadow of 9/11, and now will graduate in the midst of the pandemic of the century. Despite the unrest, we know that MCS graduating seniors will persist, that they will persevere and will overcome. We are confident that members of the Class of 2020 are nothing if not resilient. Part of their graduation next weekend will include a parade of cars through the Village arranged by John Durkee, MCS Principal and Bernie Podsjedlik, Marcellus Police Chief. We encourage residents of the community to turn out and congratulate, as we do, members of the MCS Class of 2020. They are truly a class act, in the long line of many other Marcellians whose diplomas read “Graduate of Marcellus High School.”

Proposed New Town Hall – from the Town of Marcellus – introduction of Marcellus Town Supervisor Karen Pollard and Town Councilor Terry Hoey to explain and solicit support from the Village Board of Trustees for construction of a new Town Hall. The following letter from the Town’s website helps to explain and provide many of the details regarding the proposed Town Hall.

June 11, 2020 – Dear Neighbor,

As a resident of the Town of Marcellus, you deserve a town hall that is safe, efficient, accessible, and affordable. We are excited to share with you our plan to build a new town hall. Your input and support is valued as this process continues. The First National Bank building opened in 1914 and has been in use as the Marcellus Town Hall for nearly four decades. As a public building, it is inefficient, inaccessible, unsafe, and increasingly costly. It no longer meets the needs of the Marcellus community.

The Marcellus Town Board has been seeking a solution for over a decade. We have explored many options including: renovating the old town hall; adding an addition; utilizing other town properties; and building outside the village.

We believe the best long-term solution is constructing a new town hall on Main Street, right next door. We have collaborated with town officials and employees, community members, and QPK Design. We envision a dignified but modest building that will meet the needs of the people of Marcellus for generations.

As your elected representatives and fellow Marcellians, we take fiscal responsibility seriously. We have carefully planned for this opportunity for the past decade. We believe the maximum possible tax increase is \$7.26 per \$100,000 assessed property value. We expect it to be less. Our goal is zero.

Please see the town website for additional information (marcellusny.com) and send us your thoughts by email (newtownhall@marcellusny.com) or phone (315-673-3269). There will be a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15 at the fire department. We respectfully request your input and support as we seek to build a new, safe, efficient, accessible town hall