

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – July 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 Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement – a motion was made to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, an application has been duly made to the Board of the Village of Marcellus, County of Onondaga, New York, by Spectrum Northeast LLC, l/k/a Charter Communications, a limited liability company organized and existing in good standing under the laws of State of Delaware doing business at 6005 Fair Lakes Road, East Syracuse, NY 13057, for the approval of a renewal agreement for Spectrum Northeast LLC's cable television franchise for eight (8) years commencing with the date of approval by the Public Service Commission;

WHEREAS, the Franchise Renewal Agreement would bring the franchise into conformity with certain provisions of the Federal Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended, and certain court rulings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus finds that:

1. Spectrum Northeast LLC has substantially complied with the material terms and conditions of its existing franchise and with applicable law; and
2. Spectrum Northeast LLC has the financial, legal and technical ability to provide these services, facilities and equipment as set forth in its proposal attached; and
3. Spectrum Northeast LLC can reasonably meet the future cable-related community needs and interests, taking into account the cost of meeting such needs and interests; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Board of the Village of Marcellus hereby grants the cable television franchise of Spectrum Northeast LLC and the Village of Marcellus for eight (8) years commencing with the date of approval by the Public Service Commission and expiring eight (8) years hence; be it further

RESOLVED that the Board of the Village of Marcellus hereby confirms acceptance of this Franchise Renewal Agreement.

Independent Study Project – an independent study project by Ms. Bronte Stahl, a Marcellus High School Student, about Phosphorus Removal at our recently upgraded Water Pollution Control Plant has been completed and is on the Village website, found under Village News in the Village Sewer category. The project shows how the Village of Marcellus took on a 7.7 million dollar project to better the safety of the community and environment and with pressure from the Onondaga Lake Cleanup and new DEC limits on the element phosphorus, a team of plant operators, engineers and contractors began the project to upgrade the Marcellus Sewage Treatment plant in early 2018. The upgrade includes a new ultraviolet disinfection system and a chemical feed system that removes phosphorus, required by the DEC. We think that residents of the community will be much impressed with the study undertaken by one of our Marcellus students. The Board welcomes and applauds the efforts of Ms. Bronte Stahl and all involved in the project, including her teacher, Mr. Tyler Cooper and Plant Operators Mallory Reedy John Holmes. On behalf of the Village Board and the residents

of the Marcellus community, a motion was approved to commend Ms. Bronte Stahl for the time and efforts she extended in completing the project and award a certificate of excellence to this soon-to-be MCS senior.

Marcellus Senior Project – 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 Piekel and Liam Hawes, have created a very 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. The Board welcomes and applauds the efforts of all involved in the project and looks forward to its implementation this summer. A motion was approved to commend Lee Piekel and Liam Hawes for the time and efforts they extended in completing their senior project and award a certificate of excellence to each of these 2020 MCS graduates.

Fixed Monthly Cell Phone Stipend – a motion was approved to continue to offer a fixed monthly cell phone stipend, for full-time employees only, in an amount to be determined per month. The reasoning behind this motion is to have full time employees of the Village carry one phone rather than carry two phones, one for the Village and one for personal use.

Budget Modifications for Fiscal Year End 2019-2020 and June 2020 – a motion was made to approve budget modifications requested by the Village Treasurer transferring revenues and appropriations in the General and Sewer Funds and to table June 2020 Financial Statements until the next Board meeting.

Announce Village Meetings for August 2020 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. A reminder to residents that July is usually Battery Collection Month. However, OCRRA has decided to end this program without informing us. Consequently, we have been telling residents that our trash hauler will collect batteries. They will not be collected, but it has been determined that batteries can be dropped off locally at Nightingale’s Mills on South Street Road without charge. We are grateful that Nightingales is providing this service to the community and applaud the company for its community spirit. Summer Community Events at Marcellus Park have been cancelled for the season.

Updates – Mayor

Main Street Paving – earlier in the month, Onondaga County DOT hired a contractor to mill and pave all of Main Street, from Lee Mulroy Road at the flashing light west to the Village line. While there were some interruptions and traffic delays, the contractor completed the project in less than a week and we applaud the firm for the efforts extended during one of the hottest months on record. The County contractor also paved the drainage cut that was caused by the installation of 1,000 feet of storm water pipe by the Village last January. With that completed, the Village is now in the process of paving the residential driveway aprons as well as restoring the grassy areas in the Village right-of-way.

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 Façade Grant program, the Village parking lots were repaved and striped, both of which were in desperate need of repair. 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. Also some tree removals are planned, per the DPW Superintendent's schedule, and pending budgetary considerations on First Street, Paul Street and in back of the Village DPW barn.

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.

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 has ended, and 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.

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.

Code Enforcement and Officer – inspections continue for house renovations, sheds and decks and unlicensed vehicles. In addition, several properties have been cited for lack of property maintenance including uncut grass, unsanitary dog deposits as well as some buildings in need of repair or painting.

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.

Centro Bus Schedule – delayed until mid August because of the need to retrofit busses (Plexiglas separations, etc.) and develop new routes, will resume its intercity bus service connecting Oswego and Cayuga County to Syracuse, (Onondaga County). The resumption of service, scheduled for Monday, August 10, 2020, will include changes that will allow Centro to operate more efficiently. The Route 138 Auburn-Syracuse via Taunton, Route 236 Auburn-Syracuse via Skaneateles-Camillus, and Route 7 Welch/Allyn bus routes will be consolidated into a new 138 Auburn-Syracuse via Taunton bus route that will provide service to Skaneateles, Welch Allyn, Marcellus, Taunton and serve the Centro Transit Hub. There will be 12 round trips each weekday, increasing service levels to Skaneateles (from 10 round trips per day), Marcellus (from 10 per day) and Taunton (from 6 per day). Service will also be expanded to provide trips later in the evening. New bus schedules and maps are available at www.centro.org. Customers with questions can contact Centro's Call Center at 315-442-3400, send an email to cnyrta@centro.oeg, or reach out to @GoCentroBus on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

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.

Planning and Zoning Boards – met early in July with Marcellus Town Supervisor Karen Pollard and Town Councilor Terry Hoey regarding the proposed New Town Hall on East Main Street. The Town Board members explained and solicited support from the Village Planning and Zoning Boards who asked a number of questions regarding the construction of a new Town Hall. We urged residents to visit the town website for additional information (marcellusny.com) and to send their thoughts by phone (315-673-3269) or email (newtownhall@marcellusny.com). A public hearing was also held on July 15, 2020 at the fire department for

community members to gather information and express their thoughts. A summary of the Planning Board Meeting has been provided by Peter Chapman, Chair of the Board and is on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

Main Street Façade Grants – the County approved 13 commercial projects and 1 public project under the County Main Street Façade Grant program, in a project that awarded almost \$300,000 in funding for Marcellus businesses. While several have already been reimbursed, including repaving of the Village parking lots and a remarkable renovation of 17 North Street, other projects have been delayed because of material shortages and contractor scheduling. The Village is awaiting the completion and submission of the remaining project applications, which we hope to have finalized during this summer and fall.

Election 2020 – Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order 202.13, signed March 29, 2020, stating that any Village election scheduled to take place in April or May of 2020 was postponed until June 1, 2020, and that was then postponed until September 15, 2020. The Executive Orders 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 – hopefully September 15, 2020.

Villages Taxes – while most property owners have submitted payment of village taxes, some properties are still delinquent (approximately \$24,000 of \$597,000 assessed valuation), despite the fact that the cut-off was July 1, 2020. It is hoped that those that are still delinquent will remedy the situation soon.