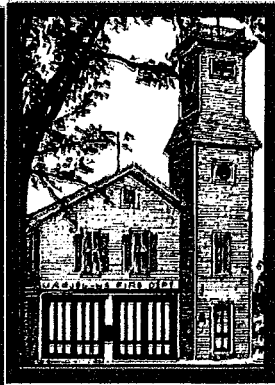


**Marcellus Village
Newsletter
Volume 26
Issue 1
Spring 2021**

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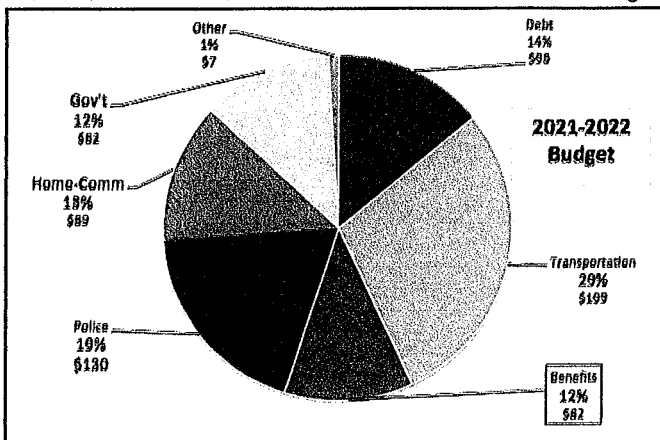


Dear Village Residents,

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees will take place on April 5, 2021, 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 5, 2021. Approval of the final budget is scheduled to take place at the next regular Board meeting on April 26, 2021.

The Budget

This proposed budget maintains the Village tax rate at \$6.85 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. It is important to note that there have been no increases in the Village tax rate since 2016. This proposed Village tax levy will also not exceed the NYS Tax Cap Limit. The single largest percentage of expenditures in the proposed General Fund Budget continues to be Transportation, for it is essential that the Village continues to invest in improving and maintaining its network of Village streets on an ongoing basis. As such the Village is grateful to Onondaga County for extending the Village Infrastructure Improvement Program (VIIP) agreement between Onondaga County and the Village through at least the year 2030. The Village greatly values the work performed by its employees, and will be giving 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. While this has indeed 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, the proposed General Fund budget for the Village's fiscal year ending May 31, 2022 nonetheless shows a budget deficit of \$(33,770). However, the General Fund is expected to have a Fund Balance at 5/31/22, which is sufficient to absorb this projected budget deficit. The pie chart indicates how funds from a \$685 tax on a \$100,000 home will apply.

Sewer Fund

This proposed Sewer Fund budget will be the third full budget year which includes the increase in the minimum sewer rate per unit per 1,000 gallons from \$75 to \$100 for Village sewer users. That being said, total sewer usage revenue from Village users, as well as from School and Town users, is projected to be the same as the previous budget year. Upon the recent completion of the Village's Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility Upgrade Capital Project, monies remaining in this Capital Project Fund were transferred back to the Sewer Fund in anticipation of paying for much delayed repairs and other maintenance items for which there were previously insufficient funds available. These items include rebuilds to digester and aeration blowers, stockpiling of parts necessary for anticipated repairs to pumps and other equipment, and the purchase a replacement JCB Skid Steer, which is long overdue. This new budget year will also be the second year of repayment on the 30-year interest free loan from the NYS EFC, which financed a substantial portion of the Capital Project. The annual debt service payment on this loan is \$173,420. It is also worth noting that the total debt service to be paid out of the Sewer Fund in this proposed budget will be about \$35,000 less than the previous fiscal year. This is due to the Village's \$633,450 NYS Environmental Facilities Corp. long-term serial bond having matured in November 2020. Another full fiscal year of increased revenue from all sewer users, coupled with the anticipated decrease in total debt service, has resulted in the Village's proposed Sewer Fund budget showing a \$77,585 budget surplus for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2022.

Increase in Sewer Rates

An increase in the sewer rates in 2019 has meant a minimum quarterly sewer rate, for Village sewer users, of \$100.00 (from \$75.00), a minimum annual cost of \$400 (from \$300) and an average annual cost of \$548.31 (from \$413.13). Keep in mind that this is an average estimate, since sewer rates are based on water usage in the Village and that fluctuates. The annual cost for outside users (Town and School Districts) is projected to be \$685.39 (from \$516.41), given that outside users pay an additional 25% over that of the average Village sewer user – an increase of about \$160.00 per year. In order to prepare our Treatment Plant for operation well into the 21st century, these increases, while hefty, are unavoidable.

New Business in the Village – Summer of 2021

Look for an early summer opening of new businesses in the Village at #2 and #4 E. Main Street. Details are still being planned for a Nano Brewery and an ice cream and deli shop on these sites. We welcome new businesses to the Village and encourage our residents to patronize them.



Property Tax Cap

The property tax cap of 2%, another State mandate, complicates our budget and at its March meeting, the Board voted to override the tax cap, despite the fact that we expect to stay under the property tax cap. However, the tax cap compounds the budget process and makes it difficult to plan ahead.



Board Appointments

At its Annual Meeting, the Village Board will reappoint Gabriel Lutwin to a 5-year term as a member of the Village Planning Board – from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026. In addition, the Village Board will appoint Jill Bristol, presently an alternate on the Board to fulfill Ed Carlson's term, from 4/01/21 to 3/31/23 and appoint Hugh J. White to

a 2-year term as an alternate member of the Village Planning Board – from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2023. The Board will reappoint Maribeth Powell to another 5-year term as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals – from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026 and appoint Chad Clark to complete Tim Sweet's term on the Zoning Board of Appeals, from 4/1/21 to 3/31/25. Both Ed and Tim are moving out of town and have submitted their letters of resignation to the Board. We are very grateful to them for their years of service to the Village, and also thankful to Gabe, Jill, Hugh, Maribeth, and Chad 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 23rd, April 30th and May 7th, from 8 am to 3 pm and on Saturdays, April 24th, May 1st and May 8th 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, but there is a limit of five boxes per auto.



Clean The Village For Earth Day

The Village of Marcellus hopes to again participate in an Earth Day Clean Up on Friday, April 23, 2021. 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, 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 5th to May 10th. 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 Appointment

Earlier, the Board accepted the resignation with regret of Officer Andrea Mourey, who had been employed as a School Resource Officer at the KCH Elementary School. The Board appointed James O'Brien to the Marcellus Police Department and as an SRO Officer at KCH Elementary School. Detective O'Brien recently retired from the City of Syracuse Police Department after a distinguished career in law enforcement. We welcome him to the Village.

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, 2021, it will be re-levied to the tax bill for June 1, 2021. If those bills for tenants who pay their own utilities are not paid by April 30, 2021, these will be re-levied onto the property owner's taxes for June 1, 2021.

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.

Village Parking Improvements – East Main Street

As mentioned last year, the Village and its DPW has been involved in an on-going project with several MCS students and their teacher who 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 - a 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 parking spots but businesses in the area have come to realize the importance of eliminating this dangerous parking situation and have agreed to the change. While we expected the construction to take place last summer, COVID challenges forced us to move that project to this summer.

Planning Board – Baltimore Ridge

The Planning Board has continued to meet regarding development of Baltimore Ridge, the proposed subdivision off South Street. The developer would need subdivision approval and will file a full environmental assessment form as well. The Planning Board will be the lead agency and Village Engineers will review complete plans. There are a number of issues that continue to be addressed, and the Planning Board has scheduled another Public Hearing for April 21, 2021 at the St. Francis Xavier Parish to allow for more open discussion of the project. By clicking on the website (<https://www.villageofmarcellus.com/baltimore-ridge.html>), members of the community will be able to keep updated regarding the project.



Meadow Street

This summer, the Village is proposing a project that will include a new storm water collection system on Meadow Street while also reconstructing the road with new base material, asphalt and gutters. The design will also look to flatten the current high crown on this road in order to improve the overall drainage and future maintenance of this road. Improvements would also include new field inlet(s) and swale improvements where necessary. MRB engineers are heading up the design for this project and are working well with our DPW to review some design and coordination issues and have also been in touch with both NYSEG and OCWA – both of which intend to replace their gas and water mains prior to the Village's work.

Some Reminders

The Village Office is closed on Good Friday, April 2nd and will be closed on Memorial Day, May 31st. 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
Timothy P. Manahan, Trustee
John J. Murphy, Trustee
Charnley A. Abbott, Clerk
Nino J. Providenti, Treasurer
Jeffrey D. Brown, Attorney