

## Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – June 2021

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).

**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 made to award the contract for Village Insurance in the amount of \$46,159.78 to the Reagan Companies, representing an increase of \$2,217.20 or 5.05% from last year. The increase last year was very substantial representing 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. There was also 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 first year of another three-year policy at a cost of \$338.00 per year.

**NYS Workers Compensation Alliance Agreement – 7/1/21 – 6/30/22** – a motion was made to renew the Workers Compensation Agreement with the NYS Workers Compensation Alliance for the time period, July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024 – 3 years at a fixed rate – at a cost of \$26,338.00, a decrease of \$2,116.00.

**Website Design Contract – North Shore Solutions** – a was made motion 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. The software leasing part of the contract costs \$485.00 per year – less than 2% 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 for a 3% salary increase 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 made to authorize the Mayor to sign the Final MS4 Annual Storm Water Report for the Village of Marcellus, which report was compiled by W-M Engineering at a cost of \$600.00 and is being submitted for the reporting period ending March 9, 2021 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 and also on the Village website.

**Budget Modifications** – a motion was made to accept budget modifications submitted by the Village Treasurer for May 2021, and to table, until the July Board meeting, the Fiscal End of Year modifications.

**Announce Village Meetings for July 2021** – 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 observed on Monday, July 5th, and on which day, the Village Office will be closed. In addition, there will be NO delay in trash pickup that week. The Village-wide Garage Sale will take place on Saturday, July 10th. There is no permit needed on that day for Village residents. A reminder to residents that July is usually Battery Collection Month. While OCRRA has decided to end this program, 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. The Summer Community Events at Marcellus Park have been scheduled for the season and will be held on Thursday nights from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at the Annex Pavilion in the Park during July and August. Our next Board meeting will be on July 26th, 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 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** – unfortunately, has been canceled, but there are plans to possibly have a one-day “Olde Home DAY” in September. There will be more information on this possibility at a later date.

**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).

**America Rescue Plan** – Funding for State and Local Fiscal Relief is part of this plan. Senator Schumer announced recently “ . . . that Village and town governments will be receiving a direct allocation of federal assistance, . . . but village amounts are not included because of the complications of calculating those amounts until a process is put in place to divvy up funds between overlapping governments.” We have been told that the Town of Marcellus has been granted approximately \$660,000, but we do not know anything about the process to divvy up funds between overlapping governments.

**Streets, Sidewalks, Trees** – monies have already been set aside from the previous budget to complete some highway resurfacing, the repair of at least four (4) light poles and to share in the cost of brush and tree removal and street sweeping with the Town of Marcellus. The new DPW budget also calls for resealing Reed Parkway and Maple Street, along with sidewalk repair in several locations in the Village, a continuation of street sweeping and repainting of crosswalks, assisting MCS students in the development of the Green Gateway Project and implementing a changeover from head-in to parallel parking on the south side of East Main Street. A major item in this budget year is a capital improvement project on Meadow Street and this will require a significant investment, not only for reconstruction of the road itself but also for significant sanitary sewer and storm drainage reconstruction. Also tree removals are planned, per the DPW Superintendent’s schedule, pending budgetary considerations.

**New Business in the Village** – 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.

**Village Parking Improvements** – we again mention the plan for changing the parking situation in front of 2-6 East Main Street (Reagan Building and Village Tavern) from a perpendicular to a parallel configuration. This is 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 probably be a loss of 4 (four) parking spots as a result of this change, but the businesses that border this area have come to realize the importance of eliminating this dangerous parking situation and have agreed to the change.

We had expected this project to be completed last year, but unexpected difficulties have delayed that construction until this summer. The Board applauds the efforts of MCS students who created a most appropriate design for this area on East Main, and all involved in the project and looks forward to its implementation soon.

**Baltimore Ridge Development** – the Planning Board continued its final Public Hearing on May 19, 2021, at St Francis Xavier Parish Hall at 7 p.m. and the Final Subdivision Plan is now approved. The Final Plat has been signed by all parties involved, and the developer has complied with the provisions of Article III, Par. D of the Sub Division Regulations, specifically the Required Improvements and Performance Bond. We extend many thanks to the Planning Board and everyone else at the Village as to how well and efficient the review and approval process was conducted on this project. For a Village that doesn't see many projects of this size, this was a great job of engaging and informing the public while also keeping the process moving along at a reasonable pace. This will be an excellent project for the Village and thanks are extended to everyone for their efforts and input. Copies of all supporting documents are on file at the Village and are available on the Village website: <https://www.villageofmarcellus.com/baltimore-ridge.html>.

**Meadow Street** – this major project, to provide storm water drainage and road improvements to the Meadow Street area, is moving along. Mapping and design has been completed and both NYSEG and OCWA have been at work replacing gas mains and the installation of new hydrants and replacement of the water main prior to repair of the sanitary sewer line, with cured-in-place relining and improvements to roadside swales and road re-paving. Some improvements will also extend north onto Second Street. The Board wants to make you aware that there will be continued inconvenience in the coming months but we are confident that this new project will be most positive. It appears like we'll have at least four potential bidders for the Meadow Street Improvements, and hopefully we'll be some good pricing on June 29th when the bids will be opened. If there are any concerns, please contact DPW Superintendent – Greg Crysler (315-506-9253) or Deputy DPW Superintendent – Jim LaRose (315-569-2718).

**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 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 July and August at Marcellus Park Annex Pavilion, Thursday nights from 7 – 8:30 p.m., are free and appropriate for the entire family. There is a full list of concert listings and other events and programs available on the Town website at [Marcellusny.com](http://Marcellusny.com) or call the Marcellus Parks and Recreation Department (673-3269, ext. 2) for more information. Friends of Marcellus Park will have food and beverages available for purchase.

**Main Street Façade Grants** – 13 commercial projects and 1 public project – the Village is awaiting the completion of just two of the remaining projects

**Cost of insurance for the Waste Water Treatment plant** – has risen significantly last 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 provide 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

**Congratulations to Class of 2021** – on behalf of the Village Board, I would like to extend congratulations to the MCS Class of 2021.

It's been a strange, scary senior year for you. Nobody anticipated back in March 2020 that the closure of public schools in an attempt to stop or at least mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic would last as long as it did, keeping you away from your teachers, coaches, classmates and friends.

Nobody envisioned that a large part of your senior year would be spent alone and online, without the challenges, camaraderie and intellectual give-and-take that make in-person school so rewarding and stimulating.

Nobody thought that the sports you trained so hard for during the previous three years would be curtailed, or that you would miss opportunities to show off your hard-earned athletic prowess to college scouts.

Nobody knew then that the plays and band concerts and artistic endeavors that made your hearts sing would become more victims of an invisible virus, or that many of the hopes and dreams you had for the capstone of your high school careers would be either postponed or cancelled altogether.

But here you are. At least most of you had or will have a real in-person graduation ceremony, instead of the makeshift, socially-distanced, immediate family-only affairs endured by the Class of 2020. But since senior year and high school graduation are once-in-a-lifetime events, you won't get a do-over.

Perhaps the biggest lesson you can learn from this hard, weird year is that, "Life happens when you're busy making other plans"—a quote popularized by John Lennon in his beautiful lullaby ("Beautiful Boy (Darling Boy)") to comfort his son, Sean, who had awoken frightened from a nightmare.

Life is indeed a "long way to go/a hard road to hoe" as Lennon sang, but he tempered this truth with a large dose of optimism and hope for the future ("Say a little prayer/Every day in every way/It's getting better and better").

Whether the future will actually get better and better, as Lennon hoped, is up to you, Class of 2021. Throughout the ages, other young people before you have faced even bigger challenges—world wars, famines, and totalitarian regimes—and made their mark on history. So can you.

When the nightmare of COVID-19 is finally behind us, there will be new threats and new crises to overcome. We have the utmost confidence that you will meet them with the same courage, tenacity and grace you've already displayed during this trying year.

Congratulations!

Part of their graduation last weekend included a parade of cars through the Village arranged by John Durkee, MCS Principal and Marcellus Police Chief Bernie Podsiedlik. We thank the many residents of the community who turned out and congratulated, as we do, members of the MCS Class of 2021. They are truly a class act, in the long line of many other Marcellians whose diplomas read "Graduate of Marcellus High School."

**Letter of Recommendation** – from John Durkee, Marcellus High School Principal has been received for SRO Sean Clere in recognition of the superior work that he has done throughout the year and in particular for his recent efforts during the Junior Prom and Senior Ball. The Village Board would like to echo those efforts and commend Officer Clere, recognizing the continuing resolve that he has exhibited throughout his many years at Marcellus Senior High School. Thank you Officer Clere.

**Promotion** – our Village Attorney, Jeff Brown, who is also the attorney for the Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA), has recently been appointed as Executive Director of OCWA, following the retirement of long time director, Mike Hooker. This is quite a promotion for Jeff and well deserved, I might add. The Village and its residents will continue to be well served with him at the helm of OCWA. The Village Board is also very thankful that Jeff will be able to continue as our Village Attorney, and that he will be able to keep involved in matters at the local level. The Board has had an excellent relationship with Jeff and we are grateful that it will continue. Congratulations, Jeff and best wishes in your new position.