

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – August 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).

Village Parking Improvements Award – at a Special Meeting, bids were received and opened for reconstruction of parking in front of 2-6 East Main Street from a perpendicular to a parallel configuration. The bid submitted by Hanson Aggregates will be awarded the contract in the amount of \$136,917.00 as soon as the Village it is determined if funding is available. A pre-construction meeting will be planned for September 2021 in the Village Office, with work expected to begin later in the fall.

New Police Hire – the Mayor made a motion to appoint one new officer to the Marcellus Police Department. Officer Steven Smolen will serve as a Special Patrolman/ School Resource Officer at Onondaga Central School District, following his retirement and a distinguished career with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department. This appointment will be effective on August 23, 2021 and the Onondaga Central School District will determine the rate per hour. All salaries and expenses regarding this position are reimbursed by the School District. As part of the shared services mandate, our Police Department is assisting the Onondaga Central School District with police administrative responsibilities, and supervision particularly in matters related to any criminal activity. Our Police Department has the ability to facilitate this, providing services that would not be otherwise available to them.

SRO Contract – Tully Central School District – a motion was made to authorize the Mayor to sign the School Resource Officer Agreement between the Village of Marcellus and the Tully Central School District, whereby the School District and the Village have determined that it is in their mutual best interests to enter into this Agreement to provide for the assignment of Special Patrolman/ School Resource. As part of the shared services mandate, our Police Department is assisting the Tully Central School District with police administrative responsibilities, and supervision particularly in matters related to any criminal activity. Our Police Department has the ability to facilitate this, providing services that would not be otherwise available to the District. Officer Ray Herrick of the Marcellus Police Department will serve as School Resource Officer in the Tully Central School District. Officer Herrick is already a Village Patrolman in the Marcellus Police Department and is taking on additional employment as a Special Patrolman/SRO. All salaries and expenses regarding the SRO position are reimbursed by the School District. A copy of the agreement is on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

IMA with Marcellus CSD for Shared Services, Equipment, Materials – a motion was made to approve an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Marcellus Central School District whereby the Village of Marcellus shall, following prior authorization from the Mayor, authorize its D.P.W. Superintendent to make a positive or a negative determination, on a case by case basis, a request made by the Marcellus Central School Superintendent, to offer assistance in the form of Village personnel, materials and/or equipment. This Agreement has had a term commencing on August 23, 2021 and ending on June 30, 2022 ("initial term"). The parties shall then have the right to extend this Agreement for an additional term upon the mutual agreement, in writing, of all parties prior to the expiration of the initial term. Both the Village and the School District reserve the right to terminate this agreement for convenience, at any time, upon thirty (30) days written notice. Further details of the IMA are available for public inspection in the Village Office.

Autumn Curbside Brush and Leaf Pickup – a motion was made to approve the Autumn Bush and Leaf Pickup Dates, as requested by the Village DPW. The time for fall pick-up of leaves and brush is here and the Highway Department would like to remind everyone of its schedule. Fall brush pickup will take place on Mondays, September 20th, September 27th and October 4th. Fall leaf pickup will take place weekly, on Mondays, beginning October 12th (Tuesday, due to holiday) through November 15th. Please remember to put brush and leaves on the grass between the sidewalk and the road. Please, do not rake leaves or brush into the street, but keep them in the Village right of way. Leaves left in the ditches or in the road are very hard to clean up, clog the storm sewers and make the job very time-consuming. After November 15th, residents may collect leaves into large brown paper bags (NO PLASTIC) and place the bags at the curb for pickup, weather permitting. Only leaves bagged in paper leaf bags will be picked up after November 15th. Residents may also drop off brush and leaves

anytime (NO PLASTIC BAGS) at the Village compost site, located next to the Village D.P.W. garage. If you have any questions regarding this, please call the Village Office (315-673-3112).

Brush Grinding Contract – a motion was made to authorize the Mayor to sign a three-year contract with Green Renewable of Manchester, NY whereby Green Renewable will grind and process yard waste that the Village and the town of Marcellus accumulate for the period 8/1/2021 to 8/1/24. The three-year contract total is \$5,400.00, which is to be split between the Village and Town, at a cost to the Village and Town of \$2,700.00 each. This is another excellent example of the cooperation that exists between the Village and the Town. Further details of the contract are available for public inspection in the Village Office.

OCWA Installation of Fire Hydrants, water main and accessories in Baltimore Ridge – a motion was made to authorize the Mayor and the DPW Superintendent to sign the agreements with OCWA to install five (5) Fire Hydrants, as well as 2,350' of 8" water main and appurtenances in the new subdivision of Baltimore Ridge, as shown on maps provided by OCWA, a copy of which agreements and maps are on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

Budget Modifications for July 2020 – a motion was made to approve budget modifications requested by the Village Treasurer transferring revenues and appropriations in the July 2021 General and Sewer Funds.

Announce Village Meetings for September 2021 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. There are also several other handouts including the Brush and Leaf Pickup dates, the Fall Trash Day schedule, and an update regarding the Green Gateway Park. Please note that the Village Office will be closed for Labor Day, September 7th, and that there will be a one-day delay in trash pickup that week. We also remind residents that a series of summer concerts have been held during July and August at Marcellus Park Annex Pavilion, are free and appropriate for the entire family. The last concert is Tuesday August 24, 2021. Please note that there will be a one-day Marcellus Rotary Fall Home Day to take place at Marcellus Park on Saturday, September 18th. More information will be available in the coming weeks. A Planning Board Meeting scheduled for August 18, 2021 in the Village Hall to discuss a site plan application for the former AOK building located at 31 East Main Street was canceled, the Planning Board having waived site plan review.

Updates – Mayor

Onondaga County Main Street Revitalization – as mentioned last month, Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon announced another Onondaga County Main Street Revitalization and Beautification Grant Program. Onondaga County is offering municipalities up to \$500,000 to improve main street areas. It is a comprehensive grant program that provides funding for local revitalization efforts to grow the retail business district. It can be a main street in a village, a business district in a town or a business district in a hamlet. Business district revitalization that involves aesthetic improvements, business creation/retention, and beautification will lead to healthier and more economically vibrant communities. Partnerships between Onondaga County Community Development, municipality leadership and small businesses will help to attract opportunity and encourage investment. The idea is for elected officials to work together with the local businesses to develop a proposal that will positively impact a main street area. Proposals will be evaluated and municipalities selected based on the overall impact of the project. Proposals should attempt to leverage other funding sources to combine with the County Main Street funding. Proposals should include the proposed activities, an explanation of how it will impact a main street area and a budget. Applications were due back by August 13th. Property owners in the Village completed and submitted 18 applications to the Village Office and said applications were submitted to the County on August 19, 2021. We await the decision of the County as to approval of the applications.

Village Parking Improvements – earlier this evening, bids were received and opened for reconstruction of parking in front of 2-6 East Main Street from a perpendicular to a parallel configuration. The bid submitted by Hanson Aggregates will be awarded the contract in the amount of \$136,917.00 as soon as the Village is able to determine if funding is or is not available. A pre-construction meeting will be planned for September 2021 in the Village Office, with work expected to begin later in the fall.

Streets, Sidewalks, Trees – as mentioned last month, monies have been set aside from the budget to complete some highway resurfacing, the repair of light poles and to share in the cost of brush and tree removal and street sweeping with the Town of Marcellus. The DPW budget also calls for installing two speed limit signs on Main Street, along with

sidewalk repair in several locations in the Village, the repainting of crosswalks, some tree removals, 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.

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, the Lyncourt Union Free School District and the Tully Central School District have been completed and signed by all parties concerned.

Call 9-1-1 – the Police Department reminds residents that they should call 911 if they have any concerns or any questions of what appear to be criminal or other suspicious activity in the Village. By using 9-1-1, our local officer will be notified, dispatched as quickly as possible. Given the fact that our police officers are not on duty 24 hours of every day, using 9-1-1 will cause other police agencies to respond to problems in the Village. In addition, if any resident happens to encounter a door-to-door salesman, please ask that individual to show you the permit that any peddler has to obtain before being allowed to solicit in the Village. If there is no permit, please direct them to the Village Hall and please call the Village Hall to alert our staff.

Another Police Update – Chief Podseidlik would like to make sure that all residents continue to lock their autos and houses. Recently, both in the Village, but also on the outside, on the periphery of the Village in particular, there have been burglaries – particularly into unlocked automobiles, and property (GPS, other electronics and pocketbooks) has been stolen. Virtually all of these thefts have taken place because autos have been left outdoors and unlocked. If the cars are locked, the thieves usually move on. Please lock your car doors! Also lock your house!

Village Gateway Project – is one that the Village, in cooperation with the Town and the School District and others have been working on since 2016 – a project that we hope will result in an environmentally positive gateway to our Village. Printed copies of this summary are provided for the benefit of residents and are available in the Village office, as well as on the Village website (click on <http://villageofmarcellus.com> and then on News, then Village News, then Village Gateway Project. While the health crisis interrupted plans during the previous school year, the project has continued with student and Village and Town employees and many others involved in a variety of projects. These projects include the building of an excellent outdoor classroom space that not only blends in with the park but provides a relaxed outdoor learning area for students to enjoy nature, the development and installing of historical plaques signs for an educational walk through the site, in cooperation with the NYSDEC and the US Fish and Wildlife Agency the placing of two sets of creek vanes and two toe-wood structures to restore the creek to a more natural flow and create improve fishing areas. Other activities include the establishment of fishing access sites in compliance with the Americans Disabilities Act, and the use of reclaimed asphalt millings rather than standard asphalt or gravel for parking at the site. To restore a more natural ecosystem an arboretum is planned that would involve planting a multiple species of trees that would best suit the natural environment, and to design and construct a bridge to span the creek from school property to the Village site. The Green Gateway Project is a constant work in progress and it is expected that it will continue as each new crop of students returns in the fall.

Striping of Crosswalks – we would note that crosswalk striping on North Street (Rte. 174), and Main Street have not been completed by the State or the County (Rt. 41) prior to the start of school. Village pedestrian crosswalk signs remain in place on the east side of the Main Street Bridge, as well as at the intersection of Main and South Streets and on Reed Parkway near the DMS School in order to provide pedestrian safety and slow down traffic in the Village. Our DPW has also installed two flashing speed limit signs on Main Street in order to slow traffic down entering the Village, and the Village DPW has painted its own crosswalks and parking spaces, prior to school opening.

Code Enforcement and Officer – a recent complaint from a resident on Flower Lane regarding a farm existing next door in the Town of Marcellus is being addressed, 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.

Planning and Zoning Boards – the ZBA did not meet in August. The Planning Board also did not meet on August 18th to review a site plan for 31 East Main Street because it waived site plan review.

School begins – begins soon and we urge residents to be aware of the fact that there will probably be more students walking to school because of changing bus schedules, particularly on First Street. Also, the State DOT will begin operation of the flashing lights on North Street and the Village Police Department will be even more vigilant in their enforcement of the traffic laws on that street.

Village Taxes – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present (as of August 23, 2021), including penalties, totals \$47,991.71 or 6.35% from 19 property owners, a figure larger than previous years. Property owners may continue to pay unpaid taxes to the Village until October 31, 2021, when they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.

V.I.P. Monies – infrastructure grant payments received by the Village of Marcellus from Onondaga County, as part of the Village Infrastructure Improvement Project have totaled \$208,520 this year, with no increase, as was the case last year. While this represents about half of what the Village used to be provided, until the County took the sales tax revenue from the Villages back in 2010, half is better than nothing. What is of more concern is the fact that the V.I.P. ten-year program, which was to end for the Villages in 2020, was renewed for another ten (10) years, until 2030. For this, we are grateful that the County Legislature and County Executive Ryan McMahan have agreed to continue the program.

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. On June 29th, bids were received for the road and drainage improvements and at a Special Board meeting held on July 6, 2021, that bid submitted by Hanson Aggregates NY LLC was awarded the contract in the amount of \$374,796.00, which includes the base bid and also conditional bid items. A pre-construction meeting was held on August 9, 2021 in the Village Office, with work expected to begin the week of August 23, 2021.

Baltimore Ridge Development – The Planning Board held its final Public Hearing on May 19, 2021, at St Francis Xavier Parish Hall at 7 p.m. and the Final Subdivision Plan was 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>. As of this date, all permits have been issued, and development of the site has begun with the construction of an entrance road, the clearing of a number of trees, and the building of the required storm water detention pond.

Fall Trash Days – please check handout (and/or the website) for details on this service provides by the Town for all Village and gown residents.