

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – October 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).

Settlement Agreement – a motion was made to approve and to have the Mayor sign a Settlement Agreement that Computel Consultants has reached in a long running dispute with Avangrid (parent company of NYSEG and RG&E) over their policy of excluding "delivery only" revenue from local GRT payments. Avangrid has agreed to reverse that policy and will not bring a legal challenge to it in the future. 91 municipal clients, including the Village of Marcellus, will share in a compensation pool of \$750,000 and Avangrid will include "delivery only" revenue in future tax payments. Individual municipal allocations from the compensation pool are based on Avangrid revenue figures. The allocation to the Village of Marcellus from the settlement is \$2,000. A detailed copy of the Settlement Agreement is on file in the Village Office for public inspection. |

Re-levy of Unpaid Village Taxes – a motion was made and approved to re-levy all unpaid Village Taxes, as of November 1, 2021, to the County of Onondaga for payment.

Meadow Street Change Orders – a motion was made to approve additional change orders (cost items) to the Meadow Street Improvement Project Contract. These items include additional gutter and driveway work as well as more road excavation and stabilization paper at a cost of time and material (\$38,942.87) and additional turf restoration (time and materials work up from Hanson for the additional top soil and seeding in OCWA areas) for a total of \$8,345.39.

Reminder – Closing of First Street for Halloween – a motion was made to again close First Street between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Halloween for trick-or-treating, subject to conditions on October 31st, which is a Sunday. We might also note that the Marcellus Fire Department which used to sponsor cider, donuts, apples and coffee at the Marcellus Police Department as well as a Halloween Costume Parade, with prizes, will NOT take place this year because of Covid-19 precautions.

Reminder – No Parking – November 1st to April 1st – the public should be aware of the fact that as of November 1, 2021, there is no parking allowed on any street in the Village of Marcellus from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m. so that the Highway Department can plow snow. This no parking ban will remain in effect until April 1, 2022.

Reminder – Village Polling Places – Please note that polling places in Marcellus changed several years ago. In 2012, the Board of Elections redrew the Town of Marcellus election district lines to create two districts entirely within the Village. Those two districts (ED3 and ED4) will vote at the high school auditorium. Residents living outside the Village will vote at the Fire House. All residents were notified by mail by the Board of Elections, but some may not realize the change is now permanent. Election Day is November 2, 2021 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and we urge all residents to vote. Early voting has already begun, and the nearest polling station for that is at the Camillus Fire Station on Newport Road in Camillus.

Announce Village Meetings for November 2021 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. Please make note that First Street will be closed to traffic on Halloween, October 31st, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, that the Village Office will be closed on Thursday, November 11th in honor of Veterans' Day and that the Veterans Day ceremonies will take place on Thursday, November 11th, at 11:00 a.m. at the Point. The In addition, the Village Office will be closed on November 25th and 26th for the Thanksgiving Day holidays. Also, the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place this year on Friday, December 3rd, in the Village, at the Point. This is a change from previous years when the tree lighting took place on a Thursday. Finally, the December meeting of the Village Board will NOT be this year, but the workshop will be changed from December 24th to December 23rd because of holiday preparations.

Updates – Mayor

Leaf and Brush Pickup – brush pickup for 2021 extended from Monday, September 20th to Monday, October 4th and residents may put out leaves from Tuesday, October 12th to Sunday, November 15th. After November 15th, leaf

pickup will end, and residents may collect leaves into large brown paper leaf bags and place the bags at the curb for pickup, weather permitting. Only these leaf bags will be picked up after November 15th. Residents may also drop off brush and leaves anytime at the Village compost site, located next to the Highway Department garage.

Compost Project – continues to be very successful and please remember that composting continues all year round even though the demand obviously lulls through the fall and winter. Some residents might want to secure compost this fall, since it can be stored outside, without cover, through the fall and winter for its intended use next spring.

Green Gateway Project – is one that we hope will result in an environmentally positive gateway entrance to our Village – at the site of the former woolen mill on North Street. Printed copies of a project 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. 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 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 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 has will continued this year as students return this fall.

New Business in the Village – we had expected an early summer opening of new businesses in the Village at #2 and #4 E. Main Street. A Nano Brewery has opened up on a limited weekend basis and an ice cream and deli shop is expected to open soon. We welcome new businesses to the Village and encourage our residents to patronize them.

Trees – some tree removals and plantings are planned, per the DPW Superintendent's schedule, and pending budgetary considerations on Second Street, Meadow Street and in back of the Village barn.

School's Open – we continue to ask residents to please watch for school children walking and remember that there are pedestrian crossings on Main Street, as well as 20 mph speed limits in school zones and a 25 mph speed limit on First Street, a route that is heavily traveled by schoolchildren. Please slow down. Tickets will be issued for speeders.

Call 911 – Chief Podsiadlik again reminds residents, especially at a time of year when mischief makers are more active, that it is essential that they report incidents of crime or vandalism in their neighborhoods by calling 911. Sometimes, residents are not making these calls because they feel that an issue might not warrant it. Some might be calling the Police Department and will often listen to an answering machine because the officer is out on patrol. Residents must call 911. If you are still not satisfied, please contact the Village Office during business hours, at 673-3112, and express your concern. Residents should also realize that First Street will be closed to traffic on Halloween, October 31st, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and a number of officers will be on patrol at that time.

Police Report –we would like to compliment our department and its officers for the fine work that they do on behalf of our residents and non-residents. In addition, the Chief continues to encourage residents to call the Police Department if they have any concerns about solicitors or contractors they may employ. The Police Department would be happy to do background checks so as to alleviate these concerns.

Veterans' Day – commemoration will take place at 11 a.m. on November 11th, at the Village Point, and we ask residents to take time out and offer thanks to all veterans for the service they have and continue to provide us. Also, there will be no trash delay because of the Veterans' Day holiday..

WWTP News – between Aug 18 and 19, over seven inches of rain fell on Marcellus. HOWEVER, thanks to our Village Residents by previously disconnecting their sump pumps and with the new upgrades at our Wastewater Treatment

Plant we successfully handled the increase of flows. We peaked at 2MGD (million gallons per day) for about 12 hours. And yet we were still considerably under our permitted average monthly flow. It could have been a different story without the cooperation of our residents. THANK YOU! The Village has separate systems to convey wastewater and stormwater. Catch basins collect stormwater from rainfall and snow melt from streets, yards and parking lots and then discharge into Nine Mile Creek. Sanitary sewers collect wastewater from toilets, sinks, washing machines, etc. and transport it to our wastewater treatment facility where it is treated. Rainwater and groundwater are considered clean water and do not need to be treated at the wastewater treatment facility. Make sure your sump pump is properly installed. When downspouts and sump pumps are connected to the Village sewer system, their flow is taking up space needed to carry sewage to our treatment plant. These incorrect and illegal connections can cause sewage to back up into your basement as well as water pollution and higher taxes. Reminder: Compost is still available for pickup. Please call the Treatment Plant at 315-673-4491 to make an appointment with one of the operators. We encourage Village residents to take advantage of this opportunity and visit the plant to obtain free compost. Normal hours are between 8am-3pm.

Village Parking Improvements – in August, 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 was awarded the contract in the amount of \$136,917.00 and a pre-construction meeting was held September 2, 2021 in the Village Office. Work began in mid October, businesses having been notified of the construction schedule, which is expected to take 2 to 3 weeks, with little interruption. By early November, 2021, the project should be complete.

Baltimore Ridge Development – has moved along quite nicely, and 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. In addition, sight distance conditions on South Street Road, as required by Onondaga County DOT, are being met and the installation of utilities (water, sewer, cable, telephone, electric and gas) forthcoming. A target of early December has been set for asphalt installation.

Meadow Street – this major project, to provide storm water drainage and road improvements to the Meadow Street area, is now complete. Mapping and design have been completed and both NYSEG and OCWA have replaced gas mains and installed new hydrants and replaced 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. Improvements have also extended north onto Second Street. Hanson Aggregates NY LLC was awarded the contract in the amount of \$374,796.00, and the Board feels that the work performed by the contractor was excellent. It has been a summer of much inconvenience for the residents, but we expect that the disruption will have been worth it.

Village Taxes – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present, including penalties, totaling about \$38,000 from 12 property owners, a figure significantly larger than in previous years. The Village will eventually be reimbursed by the County for these tax evaders, but must wait a year before that reimbursement happens. In the meantime, the responsible taxpayers in the Village will continue, as they have in the past, to be responsible for the irresponsible. 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.

Parking - as we approach the winter months, we again remind residents that there is no overnight parking (from 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.) on Village streets from November 1st to April 1st. If ticketed by Village Police, the fee will be \$35.00. We urge residents to use the Village parking lots for any overnight parking situations.

p. **Christmas Tree Lighting** – this year is being planned for Friday, December 3, 2021 at the Point. This is a change from previous years, when the lighting was on a Thursday, and is a request from local merchants. We also are on board with this especially since this is not a school night and more residents will be able to participate. There will be a Christmas Tree at the point this year, a Marcellus tradition that dates back to 1916.

ZBA Meeting – on October 28, 2021, the Village Zoning Board of Appeals will meet to discuss a request from a resident for an area variance to construct a 30' X 48' pole barn at 1 Mulroy Place. This use variance, it might be noted, runs with the land.

Marcellus Chamber of Commerce – it has been over a decade since Marcellus has had an operating Chamber of Commerce. Thanks to the efforts of businessman, Chad Clark, an attempt is being made to re-establish the Chamber,

starting with a get-together at the Marcellus Free library to share ideas, thoughts and see what sort of interest the business community has in making this happen. The Chamber of Commerce only functions with local support and involvement and the Village Board enthusiastically supports this effort.