

## Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – June 2022

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](mailto:clerk@villageofmarcellus.com)).

**Public Hearing - Local Law # 3 of 2022 - Tax Exemption for Cold War Veterans - Amend Chapter 228** - the purpose of the public hearing is to allow all interested parties the opportunity to be heard regarding Local Law #3, which would allow local municipalities to establish a category of tax exemption for Cold War Veterans. The State Law sets forth specific parameters for persons to qualify for such an exemption, as well as directions to municipalities as to the application of the Law. The Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus enacted Local Law No. 5 of 2009 in accordance with the State Law permitting qualified residents to receive this tax exemption. Cold War Veteran is a person, male or female, who served on active duty for a period of more than 365 days in the United States Armed Forces during the time period from September 2, 1945, to December 26, 1991, was discharged or released therefrom under honorable conditions. A qualified owner is a Cold War veteran, the spouse of a Cold War veteran, or the un-remarried surviving spouse of a deceased Cold War veteran. Where a special equalization rate is established for purposes of this exemption, the assessor is directed and authorized to recompute the Cold War Veterans Exemption on the assessment roll by applying such special equalization rate instead of the latest state equalization rate applied in the previous year. Details regarding the amount of the exemption as well as any limitations on the exemption can be found in the supporting documents, copies of which are on file at the office of the Village Clerk.

**Local Law #3 of 2022 – Tax Exemption for Cold War Veterans** – a motion was made to approve Local Law #3 of 2022 authorizing a tax exemption for Cold War Veterans

**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 package in the amount of \$49,187.68 to the Reagan Companies, representing an increase of \$3,027.68 or 6.56% from last year. The increase last year was very substantial reflecting an increase in the value of the Waste Water Treatment Plant, because of major upgrades that had taken place over the last two years. This year the increase is attributed to a 4% upgrade on property values. In addition, the Village's 3-year crime coverage policy to the Reagan Companies is locked in, for this the second year of our three-year

policy at a cost of \$386.00 per year. Last year's new cyber security policy premium of \$4,161.00 has increased substantially this year and is now \$10,000, an increase of \$5,839.00 or 140%. Overall, the total increase in insurance for the coming year is approximately 10%.

**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.

**Website Design Contract – North Shore Solutions** – a motion was made 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 \$500.00 per year – less than a 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, the Onondaga Central School District, and the Tully 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 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.

**Proclamation - Garth A. Snyder** – a motion was offered by Mayor John P. Curtin, who moved its adoption, seconded by Trustee Timothy P. Manahan, to wit: WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus would like to recognize the outstanding achievements of Garth A. Snyder during his 4-year tenure as Mayor and 6-year tenure as Trustee of the Village of Marcellus and, WHEREAS, the leadership of Garth A. Snyder is evident in the many accomplishments that have occurred in the Village of Marcellus during his tenure and, WHEREAS, the vision of Garth A. Snyder continues to be evident in many of the projects that have been and will continue to be realized in the Village of Marcellus and the contributions of Garth A. Snyder to this community, both as a public servant and as a person, should not go unrecognized in the Village of Marcellus. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus commends Garth A. Snyder for the tireless service he extended to his community and to mankind. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus, and on behalf of its grateful citizens, extends its sympathy to the family of Garth A. Snyder in its time of great sorrow.

**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, 2022 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.

**Award Bid - Coon's Pond Rehabilitation Project** – a motion was made to accept the proposal from TDK Engineering Associates to provide engineering services and associated fees, in the amount of \$13,600, for the rehabilitation of Coon's Pond, and will include establishing both short-term and long-term access to the pond, as well as future

maintenance. By terms of the 2012 agreement, the Village agreed to maintain Coon's Pond so as to prevent clogging of the drainage pipes as well as any flooding that might occur. It is hoped that this work will effectively restore Coon's Pond and modify it to comply with NYSDEC regulations as well as help the Village to maintain the pond, using a permanent access road.

**Budget Modifications** – a motion was made to accept budget modifications submitted by the Village Treasurer for May 2022, and to table, until the July Board meeting, the Fiscal End of Year modifications.

**Change July Board Meeting** – a motion was made to change the July Agenda Workshop from July 22, 2022, to July 15, 2022, and the regular Board meeting from July 25, 2022, to July 18, 2021, because of vacation schedules.

**Announce Village Meetings for July 2022** – 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 4th, and on which day, the Village Office will be closed. In addition, there will be a delay in trash pickup that week. The Village-wide Garage Sale will take place on Saturday, July 9th. 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 June, July, and August. Our next Board meeting will be on July 18th, 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 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** – its return was a rousing success, and we commend Marcellus Rotary, and the OHD committee and its exceptional leadership for conducting such a positive and popular celebration.

**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** – The Village of Marcellus was awarded a total of \$176,102.03, half of which has been received by the Village Treasurer as of this date. The Village has utilized the ARP funds for a road, stormwater, and drainage project in the Village to alleviate flooding and other issues for residents on Meadow Street. When received, the other half of the ARP monies will be used to complete road, stormwater, and drainage work on Slocombe Avenue and Kinderwood Drive.

**Streets, Sidewalks, Trees** – monies have already been set aside from the budget to complete some highway resurfacing, particularly Slocombe Ave, and repairs on Kinderwood as well as to share in the cost of brush and tree removal and street sweeping with the Town of Marcellus. The DPW budget also calls for starting a design for capital improvement project on Paul St, along with sidewalk repairs on Orchard St and other various 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 working with students on a design for Flower Lane improvements. Also, tree and stump removals are planned, per the DPW Superintendent's schedule, pending budgetary considerations.

**New Business in the Village** – look the opening of new businesses in the Village at #14 West Main, a bakery called Kelli's Custom Cakes and a diner at #3 North Street, called Boisey's Cafe. We welcome new businesses to the Village and encourage our residents to patronize them.

**Village Parking Improvements** – we again mention the changeover of the parking situation in front of 2-6 East Main Street (Reagan Building and Village Tavern) from a perpendicular to a parallel configuration. This was the final spot in the Village that had perpendicular parking, and was a dangerous traffic hazard, trying to park and then back out onto Main Street. There was 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 agreed to the change. Several of the businesses in this area have applied for and received a special permit to operate a sidewalk café for outdoor seating in front of their establishments when the weather turns favorable. We encourage residents to patronize these businesses and we again applaud the efforts of MCS students and their mentor, TDK Engineer Joe Durand, who created a most appropriate design for this area on East Main.

**Baltimore Ridge Development** – continues to move along quite well, 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 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, have been met and the installation of storm and sanitary sewer pipes are complete. Other utilities, water, cable, telephone, electric and gas, are now complete as well. The roads into the development have been stoned, and binder asphalt installation has also been completed. We might note that all of the lots have been sold and building construction might begin this summer.

**Tefft Meadows Senior Apartments at 8 Paul St in the Village of Marcellus** – is a proposed project that will offer affordable living for those 62+ years of age. The project calls for the construction of a new 60-unit senior apartment building with all site amenities including a 60-space parking lot and stormwater facility on the same parcel at 8 Paul St. in the Village of

Marcellus. The property amenities include a community room, elevator service, laundry facilities, and a secure entry and is convenient to shopping, restaurants, and local businesses. Tefft Meadows Senior Apartments will be professionally managed and maintained by Christopher Community. The Village of Marcellus is in full support of this project. Not only does it provide affordable senior housing in the Village on a site that is dilapidated and in desperate need of repair, but the site will also provide a 20-foot-wide walkway easement that extends from Paul Street to Tefft Meadow's property line adjacent to the creek to connect to the existing Creek Walk. In addition, this \$19M development will not only address a critical housing need for seniors in Onondaga County but also provide an economic boost to the entire Marcellus community. The easement will also provide a more community-oriented project given the close proximity of community assets. No zone changes were needed, SEQR long form review and site plan approvals were completed, and the Village supports a Tax Exemption Agreement and a shelter rent calculation that will provide affordable senior living. The plans and other detail on the proposed Tefft Meadows project can be found on the Village website at <https://www.villageofmarcellus.com/tefft-meadows.html>

**SRO Contracts** – with the Marcellus Central School District, the Onondaga Central School District, the Tully 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.

**Distinguished Service Award** – Village Police Officer and SRO Jamie O'Brien has been awarded the Onondaga County District Attorney's Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his superior work and dedication to service while a member of the Syracuse Police Department last year, prior to his employment as a member of the Marcellus Police Department. As a Detective in the Homicide Squad of the SPD, Officer O'Brien was recognized for having successfully cleared 84% of the record number of homicides for the years 2020 and 2021. The Marcellus Board of Trustees joins in recognizing Officer O'Brien for this exceptional achievement.

**Planning Board** – the Planning Board met recently to approve two site plan applications. The property owner at 16 East Main Street proposed renting space along the driveway and in back beyond the parking lot, to provide a place for people with cottage businesses to sell their products, hopefully attracting more people to the Village Center. In addition, the Marcellus Free Library has proposed a project which will include outdoor improvements to that site – a creek side patio to be built which would enhance the existing creek path, and a modular concrete seating wall along the patio, with new plantings.

**Summer Community Events** – a series of summer concerts held during June, 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.

**The 2022 Main St Grant Program** – the Village Board is again pleased to announce that the Village was awarded almost \$500,000 for the 2021-2022 Main St Grant Program. There are 18 projects included in the Village Center and this is sure to make a significant impact on the community. These projects will have to follow all normal application and permitting requirements, and some may be referred to the Planning Board as the process unfolds. The Village is most grateful to County

Executive Ryan McMahon and the Office of Community Development as well as the Onondaga County Legislature for providing funds to help revitalize and beautify many parts of the Village of Marcellus, as they did last year when 14 Village properties were awarded almost \$300,000 under the County Main Street Façade Grant program. So far, 17 commercial projects have been initiated and 1 has been completed – the former AOK Gas Station at 31 E. Main Street has been transformed into a beautiful Medical Office complex.

**Cost of insurance for Cyber Security** – has risen significantly this year because of continued and ever more serious threats because of hacked and breached data records and responses to such, cyber extortion, business interruption, fraud, and extra expenses, as well as implementing regulatory defense mechanisms. This is particularly significant as it applies to our Waste Water Treatment Plant, which continues to be our single most valuable asset in the Village, other than our employees of course.

**Hazard Communication Standards for the WWTP** – have been developed by Dave Weber, our Fire Inspector and Deputy CEO, ensuring 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 2022** – on behalf of the Village Board, I would like to extend congratulations to the MCS Class of 2022.

It's been a strange, scary senior year for you. Nobody anticipated back in your sophomore year 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 junior year, in particular, 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 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 time of your life 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 2022. Throughout the ages, other young people before you have faced even bigger challenges—depressions, world wars, famines, totalitarian regimes and even a pandemic in 1919—and made their mark on history. So can you.

With the nightmare of COVID-19 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 your trying years. Congratulations!

Part of the graduation last weekend included a parade of cars through the Village arranged by MCS Principal John Durkee 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 2022. They are truly a class act, in the long line of many other Marcellians whose diplomas read “Graduate of Marcellus High School.”

**Compost at the Treatment Plant** – will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, residents are able pick-up compost, and it would be best for residents to call the treatment plant ahead of time (315-673-4491) to determine when it would be most convenient to pick up compost.