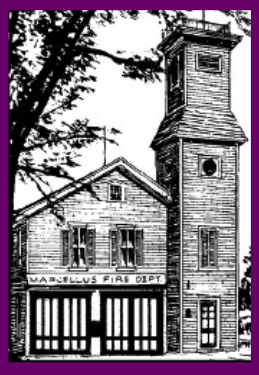


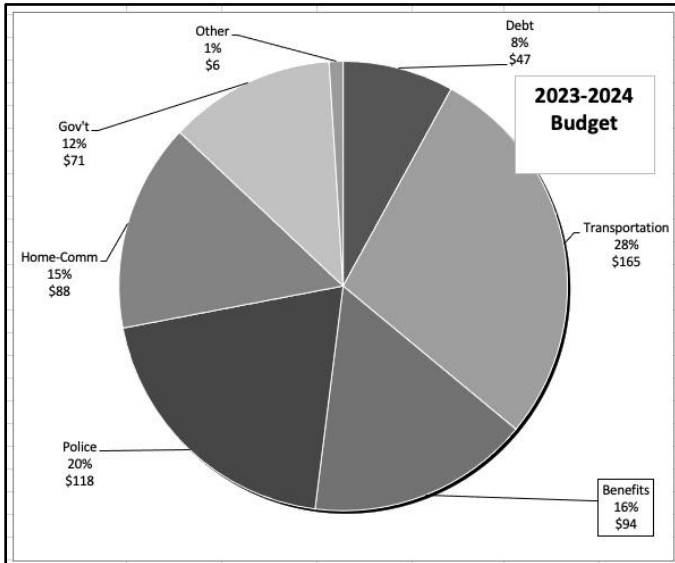
**Marcellus Village  
Newsletter  
Volume 28  
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Dear Village Residents,  
The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees will take place on April 3, 2023, and includes appointment of officials, establishing meeting dates, as well as designating official 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 3, 2023. Approval of the final budget is scheduled to take place at the next regular Board meeting on April 24, 2023.



**General Fund**

The proposed General Fund Budget includes additional expenditures for a full time Code Enforcement Officer, for improving and maintaining the network of Village streets and sidewalks on an ongoing basis, for creating and maintaining e-codification of the Village's municipal code, and for the projected cost of new equipment and subcontracted I.T. services to upgrade the Village's computer network in order to meet new insurance company requirements for Cybersecurity protection. All of these additional expenditures are deemed to be essential to the operation of the General Fund for the upcoming budget year. This, coupled with the ever-increasing cost of unfunded mandates by the State including pension costs and health insurance, has left the Village with no choice but to raise its Village tax rate, from the current rate of \$5.82 per \$1,000 up to \$5.89 per \$1,000 (an increase of 1.2%) which will generate additional property tax revenue a little over \$7,500. This represents the first increase in the Village tax rate since 2017 and will not exceed the NYS Tax Cap Limit. The largest item 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 and storm water drainage 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. This has continued to benefit the Village in offsetting the cuts in State funding, as well as the increasing costs of unfunded mandates by NYS. As such, the proposed General Fund budget for the Village's fiscal year ending May 31, 2024, shows a budget deficit of \$36,548.

**Compost**

Compost is available at the Village of Marcellus Wastewater Treatment Plant! Village residents can use the compost on new or established lawns, flower boxes & house plants, flower gardens, and vegetable gardens. All Village residents can bring a container(s) to the WWTP at 6 Mile High Drive weekdays 8am-3pm. First come first serve. If you would like confirmation of availability, please leave a message at 315-673-4491.

**Moratorium Law**

Following a public hearing, the Board approved Local Law No. 3 of 2023, which authorized a moratorium that no exterior changes may be made to commercial buildings in the Village Center zone without first appearing before the Planning Board, including painting and the replacement of siding or other surface materials. An exception to this would be normal maintenance such as touching up existing painted surfaces. In light of a recent controversy regarding the color scheme used on a property in the Village Center and the fact that the Design Guidelines in the Village Code are not legally enforceable. The Village Board has enlisted the services of its Engineers to draft an amendment to the Code that will make design guidelines for properties in the Village Center mandatory. Because this process will take several months to complete, the moratorium will remain in effect until that time.

**Sewer Fund Budget**

This proposed Sewer Fund budget will be the fifth full budget year that sewer rates have not increased. The minimum quarterly sewer rate per unit per 1000 gallons remains at \$100 for Village sewer users. 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. Although the Village's \$8 million Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility Upgrade Capital Project to remove phosphorus, as mandated by the NYSDEC, has been completed for close to three years now, the upgraded Plant will still require regular ongoing maintenance and repairs to its operational equipment in order to remain in compliance with its SPDES permit. In addition, some of this equipment, such as aeration blowers and pumps, is required to run continuously (24/7). As such the Village has created a scheduled long-term equipment replacement plan. This proposed Sewer Fund Budget incorporates the first year of this plan, which includes expenditures for rebuilding a digester blower, a sludge pump, and an aeration blower, at a total projected cost of approximately \$21,000. The original interest free construction loan obtained from the NYS EFC to pay for a substantial portion of this Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility Upgrade Capital Project, was converted to a permanent 30-year interest-free long-term installment bond by the EFC during the current fiscal year. The annual debt service payment on this new EFC installment loan included in this proposed Sewer Fund Budget will be over \$23,000 less than the previous annual payment on the original EFC loan. As is the case with

the General Fund Tentative Budget, this proposed Sewer Fund Budget also includes an additional expenditure for the projected cost of new equipment and subcontracted I.T. services to upgrade the Village's computer network in order to meet new insurance company requirements for Cybersecurity protection. The portion of these expenditures allocable to the Sewer Fund is projected to be \$15,000. As such, the Village's proposed Sewer Fund budget shows a \$30,301 budget surplus for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2024.

### 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 Jill Bristol to another 5-year term as a member of the Village Planning Board – from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2028, and Hugh White to another two-year term as an alternate member of the Planning Board. In addition, the Village Board will appoint Kim Spitzer to a another 5-year term as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals – from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2028. We are very grateful to Jill, Hugh, and Kim 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 28<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup>, and May 12<sup>th</sup>, from 8 am to noon and on Saturdays, April 29<sup>th</sup>, May 6<sup>th</sup>, and May 13<sup>th</sup> 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 21, 2023. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> to May 8<sup>th</sup>. 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.

### Utility Bills

The utility bill that residents receive this month is the last bill for our fiscal year. If a resident's bill is not paid by April 30, 2023, it will be re-levied to the tax bill for June 1, 2023. If those bills for tenants who pay their own utilities are not paid by April 30, 2023, these will be re-levied onto the property owner's taxes for June 1, 2023.

### 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.

### Baltimore Ridge

The Baltimore Ridge Project continues to move along quite well, including the construction of two houses. The utilities, roads and sewer infrastructure have not yet been turned over to the Village, and probably not until the spring or summer will this take place. Also, we have received complaints as to the brightness of the lighting. The Village resolved this by having its electrician reduce the lumens and brightness considerably.

### Tefft Meadows Senior Housing Project

Christopher Community again made application to NYS Home and Community Renewal for funding of its proposed senior housing unit at 8 Paul Street, currently an old lumber yard. An announcement from NYS Homes & Community Renewal, is anticipated at the end of March 2023. The Village has been told that CC will keep the



Village posted as soon as more information is available.

### Sidewalks and Streets

This summer, the Village DPW hopes to replace some sidewalks on First Street and South Street, to resurface Old North and Bradley Streets, a continuation of street sweeping and repainting of crosswalks, and assisting MCS students in the development of the Green Gateway Project.



### Some Reminders

The Village Office is closed on Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> and will be closed on Memorial Day, May 29<sup>th</sup>. 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.



John P. Curtin, Mayor  
Timothy P. Manahan, Trustee  
John J. Murphy, Trustee  
Charnley A. Abbott, Clerk  
Nino J. Providenti, Treasurer  
Jeffrey D. Brown, Attorney