

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – July 2023

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).

Acceptance of Baltimore Ridge Infrastructure - a motion was made for the Board to table the dedication of elements in the Baltimore Ridge development to the Village until its next meeting.

Delinquent Taxes – a motion was made to announce that Total Uncollected Property Tax Bills as of 7/11/23 amounts to \$44,250.54, or 6.58% of the total tax levy from 40 delinquent properties. Last year at this time, that amount totaled \$46,231.58. A copy of the tax delinquent list is on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

Mortgage Tax Apportionment - a motion was made to announce that the Onondaga County Commissioner of Finance has determined that the Mortgage Tax Apportionment for the Village of Marcellus for the period October 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023 amounts to \$5,398.94, which represents a drop from last year's apportionment of \$7,952.22. A copy of the Mortgage Tax Apportionment for all Towns and Villages in Onondaga County is on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

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, 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. Copies of these agreements are on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

Website Design Contract – North Shore Solutions – a motion was made to approve the contract with North Shore Solutions, at a cost of \$500 for the year, plus \$45 for the villageofmarcellus.com domain renewal. This company designs, set up and hosts the website for the Village of Marcellus, as well as provides training for Village office staff to operate the website once it goes live.

Fixed Monthly Cell Phone Stipend – a motion was made to continue to offer a fixed monthly cell phone stipend, for full-time employees only, in an amount to be determined per month. The reasoning behind this motion is to have full time employees of the Village carry one phone rather than carry two phones, one for the Village and one for personal use.

Budget Modifications for Fiscal Year End 2022-2023 – a motion was made to table budget modifications requested by the Village Treasurer transferring revenues and appropriations in the General and Sewer Funds and for the Fiscal Year End 2022-2023 Financial Statements.

Announce Village Meetings for August 2023 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. A reminder to residents that July is usually Battery Collection Month. However, OCRRA has decided to end this program without informing us. Consequently, we have been telling residents that our trash hauler will collect batteries. They will not be collected, but 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. 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. Please note that the Village Office will be closed on Monday, September 4th for Labor Day. There is also a regularly scheduled Planning Board Meeting scheduled for August 16, 2023, in the Village Hall or possibly in the Library.

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.

Green Gateway - Pedestrian Bridge - one part of the Green Gateway project involves the construction of a pedestrians only footbridge, crossing the creek from school property to the lower mill site, which is now owned by the Village. A pedestrian steel bridge, 85’ length x 6’ width, placed on concrete abutments, would create an easy and safe manner for students to cross directly from the campus to the outdoor classroom. The process, which started in 2021, to acquire and install the bridge began with a request for funding from our NYS Senator, John Mannion, who helped to secure a State and Municipal (SAM) capital project grant of \$180,000. After soil testing, design and survey, excavation and foundation work followed, and installation took place last week utilizing a crane and the many efforts of Village and Town workers. The bridge is one more excellent example of intermunicipal cooperation between the Village, the Town, and the Marcellus School District.

Streets, Sidewalks, Trees – monies have already been set aside from the budget to complete some highway resurfacing, particularly Bradley and Old North, 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 at 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 – we again welcome new businesses in the Village at #3 North Street, a restaurant called Holy Cow and an ice cream and deli shop at #2 East Main Street, called The Ice Cream Sandwich. Also, Stack Construction & Design at 6 West Main Street has opened for business. We welcome new businesses to the Village and encourage our residents to patronize them.

SRO Contracts – with the Marcellus Central School District, and the Tully Central School District, have been completed and signed by all parties concerned.

Code Enforcement and Officer – 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, on a first-come-first served basis, 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 Board – the Planning Board and Village Board met on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, to review and discuss the Design Standards proposal developed by MRB, a proposal that would assess the current codes from a standpoint of alignment with best practices and desired outcomes, work with Village leadership to identify issues with current guidelines and identify opportunities for codification. MRB developed language to address gaps between current guidelines and community expectations, and update language to ensure alignment with current best practices, and potential future needs and New York State law. The proposal will update the design guidelines as well as prepare the required SEQR documentation to adopt these updates. A follow-up meeting was planned for June 22, 2023, but has been postponed until the July 19th Planning Board because of conflict schedules.

The 2023 Main St Grant Program – the Village Board is again pleased to announce that the Village was awarded almost \$500,000 for the 2022-2023 Main St Grant Program. There are 11 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 in previous years under the County Main Street Façade Grant program.

Villages Taxes – while most property owners (94%) have submitted payment of village taxes, some properties are still delinquent despite the fact that the cut-off was extended to July 3, 2023. It is hoped that those that are still delinquent will remedy the situation soon.

Baltimore Ridge Development – continues to move along quite well, and as of this date, all permits have been issued, and more development at the site has begun with building construction on eight lots, with one homeowner having already moved in. In addition, sight distance conditions on South Street Road, as required by Onondaga County DOT, have been met while utilities, roads and sewer infrastructure have not yet been turned over to the Village, and probably not until late summer will this take place.. 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>.

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 or call the Marcellus Parks and Recreation Department (315-673-3269, ext. 2) for more information. Friends of Marcellus Park will have food and beverages available for purchase.

Tefft Meadows Senior Apartments at 8 Paul St in the Village of Marcellus – The Village has recently been informed by Christopher Community, Inc. that the Tefft Meadows Project has not been awarded funding from the State of New York and, as a result, will not be moving forward with another resubmission of the project.

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>

Radar Speed Sign - the Police Department and the Village Highway Department have recently installed a radar speed sign on South Street so as to warn motorists, coming off South Street Road into the Village of the change in speed limit - from 40 to 35 mph. Motorists are often unaware of this condition and this radar sign should help them to realize when the change is in effect.

School.”