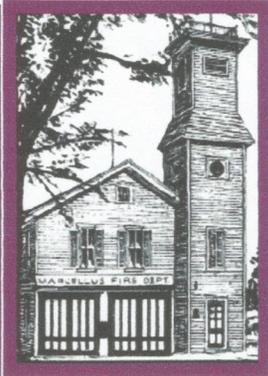


**Marcellus Village
Newsletter
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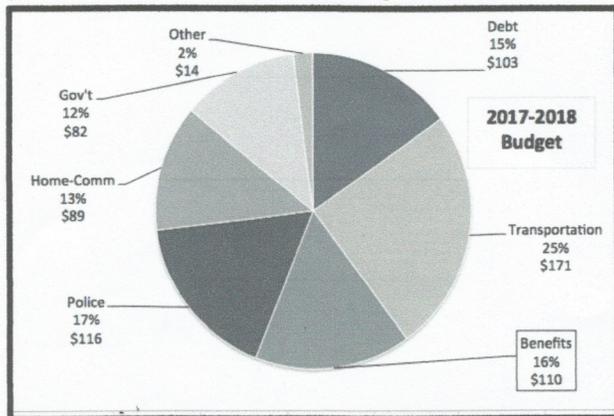


Dear Village Residents,

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees will take place on April 3, 2017, and includes appointment of officials, establishing meeting dates, as well as designating official newspapers and depositories. Also, a public hearing takes place on April 3, 2017 to consider the tentative budget of the Village for the next fiscal year. Approval of the budget will probably take place at the regular Board meeting on April 24, 2017.

The Budget

The proposed General Fund budget for the Village's fiscal year ending May 31, 2018 maintains the Village tax rate at \$6.85 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Despite no increase in the Village tax rate from last year, this tax levy will generate approximately \$5,000 in additional revenue for the Village, due to an overall increase in the total taxable value of properties in the Village as determined by Onondaga County. This proposed Village tax levy also will not exceed the NYS Tax Cap Limit. The Village also intends to keep its trash collection rates unchanged for the upcoming fiscal year, at \$45 per unit. However, the Village has been informed that there will be no increases in financial assistance from either NYS or Onondaga County for the upcoming budget year. The Village greatly values the work performed by its employees, and will be giving employees a 2% 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 not only benefited the Village in offsetting the costs of unfunded



mandates by NYS such as pension costs and health insurance, but in addition, it has resulted in the Village's proposed General Fund budget showing a \$10,000 budget surplus for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2018. For Village property owners, the tax rate will remain at \$6.85/1000. The pie chart indicates how monies from a \$685 tax on a \$100,000 home will apply.

Sewer Fund

The Village's Wastewater Treatment Plan is currently faced with a very costly mandate from New York State requiring the level of phosphorus in the treatment plant effluent to be permanently reduced to 1.0mg/L. In order for the Village to be able to pay for the necessary upgrades to its Wastewater Treatment Plant, at a projected cost of over \$5.5 million, the Village has found it necessary to raise sewer rates to all users of the consolidated sewer system in the Village, Town and School District, which is owned and operated by the Village. The new minimum sewer rate has increased to \$75.00 per unit for Village sewer users. All of this additional sewer usage revenue will serve to build up the Village's Unappropriated Sewer Fund Balance for the sole purpose of paying for these upgrades over the next several fiscal years. Based on this, the Village's proposed Sewer Fund budget shows a \$122,000 budget surplus for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2018.

Increase in Sewer Rates

Unless the Village is able to secure additional funding to upgrade the treatment plant, the DEC will probably issue a consent order. This will probably mean that the Village will have to go to court, and the likelihood that the court will order the upgrade. This upgrade of over \$5.5 million can only come from sewer rate increases and the increase will be **massive**. Village and Town sewer users should be aware of this very distinct possibility and any anger from sewer users that this increase might provoke should be directed to the NYSDEC.

Property Tax Cap

The property tax cap of 2%, another State mandate, complicates our budget and at its March meeting, the Board decided to override the tax cap. We expect to be able to stay under the property tax cap but the tax cap complicates the budget process and we might not be able to abide the formula devised by the State for a tax cap. Having learned from the experience of several towns, it is best to override, if only to protect the Village from penalty. There are many variables in the tax cap and the Board decided to override, just to protect the Village from penalty.

Waste Water Treatment Plant

In December 2013, the Board conducted a special meeting to authorize a bonding resolution to borrow up to \$6,000,000 for improvements to the Waste Water Treatment Plant, relative to the unfunded mandates for phosphorus removal, as required by the NYSDEC. This resolution did not commit the Village to borrow any money, but merely reserved the right of the Village to do so. We are still in the process of making a decision regarding a major upgrade to the Plant, and it has been the intention of the Board to conduct a public or informational hearing to alert residents of the need to borrow approximately \$5.6 in order to comply with the State mandate. This has been delayed because we have not been able to find additional funding for the project.

Board Appointments



At its Annual Meeting, the Village Board will re-appoint Peter Chapman to another 5-year term as a member of the Village Planning Board – from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2022.

In addition, the Village Board will also reappoint Tim Sweet to another full 5-year term as a member and Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals – from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2022. The Board also decided to appoint an alternate member to the Planning Board, Dan Kwasnowski, a former member of the Planning Board, who will serve

a two-year term, from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2019. We are very grateful to Pete and Tim and Dan for their willingness to serve, without compensation, on these Boards.

Trash Transfer Site

The trash transfer site for Village and Town residents will begin on April 28th and April 29th, with additional dates on May 5th and May 6th and May 12th and May 13th. The fee schedule remains the same as last year. A permit is required to enter the transfer site and obtained at the Town office. Tires as well as items that contain Freon, such as refrigerators, air conditioners or dehumidifiers require an additional fee. Some items are not accepted including garbage, recyclables, hazardous waste, roofing shingles and brush over 6 inches in diameter. In addition, there will be an Electronics Waste Disposal included with the trash days this year and this will require a special permit. A shredder truck, located at the Town Hall, not at the dumpsite on Lee Mulroy Road, will also be scheduled for one morning – that of May 6, 2017 – from 9 to Noon.

Paul Street Sidewalk Improvements

The Board approved a design proposal submitted by B & L Engineering for the Paul Street Sidewalk Improvement Project, at a cost not to exceed \$8,800. This project, funded largely through the NYSDOT Multi-Modal Program and the endorsement of Senator John DeFrancisco, calls for the construction of approximately 450 lf of new concrete sidewalk along the north side of Paul Street, between North Street and Austindale Avenue, and the cleaning of about 200 feet of existing drainage structures and pipes.

Creek Walk Under Construction

Although most of the creek walk project was completed last fall (with many thanks to Village and Town Highway crews), there remains an eight-foot wide section to be constructed behind the McClurg Building on Main Street. This will require a retaining wall to be built, along with asphalt paving, concrete work and pavement striping and will be competitively bid. Advertising began earlier in March and will continue for three weeks. Bids for the project are due in to the Village Office by 11:00 a.m. on April 12 2017. B & L Engineering will review the bids and make recommendation to award the construction bid for the Creekwalk. Hopefully construction of the Creekwalk Project will be able to start in April or May, depending on the weather.

Clean The Village For Earth Day



The Village of Marcellus will again participate in an Earth Day Clean Up on Thursday, April 27th, 2017. Second graders from Marcellus 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. We will meet in front of the Village Hall to distribute bags and gloves. If interested in participating, please show up about 1:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.



Brush Pick-up

With the arrival of spring and a need to clean up before Memorial Day and Olde Home Days, brush pick-up will start soon. With the Board's approval, the DPW will try something new for 2017. Brush should be placed at the curb on Saturdays and Sundays for pickup on Mondays, from April 3rd to May 8th. In addition, brush may also be placed at the curb on Saturdays and Sundays for pickup on the first Monday of each month during the summer months of June, July and August. Please remember that:

- ⇒ Limbs cannot exceed 6" in diameter, 8' long and must be piled with large ends facing the same way.
- ⇒ Small brush such as rosebushes, spirea bushes etc. are to be bundled in units not to exceed 40 pounds.
- ⇒ Weeds and grass clippings will not be picked up and may be brought to the compost site behind the Village Hall.
- ⇒ No leaves, brush or grass are to be piled in any ditch where blocking drainage would occur.
- ⇒ Also, bring any leaves, brush, etc. to the compost area behind the Village Hall next to the Highway garage at any time.

Local Law

At its March meeting, the Board passed Local Law #2 of 2017, which repealed and replaced Chapter 106-2-Health and Sanitation. The need for this change was the concern the Village and its Code Enforcement Officer had regarding outdoor storage of garbage by some residents. On occasion the outdoor garbage is not properly contained and overflowing trashcans, presenting a health and pollution problem for neighbors and the community. The new law requires outdoor storage of garbage be separated from all adjoining lots or rights-of-way by a screening device or otherwise contained within an enclosed structure. No unpleasant or noxious odors are permitted beyond lot lines and outdoor storage shall not be located within a front yard nor within 5' of a side property line.



Olde Home Days

"Olde Home Days 2017" is planned for June 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, in the Village and in Marcellus Park, and is honoring our own Dawn O'Hara and Sandy Taylor the "Village and Town Clerks of Marcellus" for their commitment to our community. Please support Marcellus Olde Home Days and the Marcellus community. A fun filled weekend is being planned.

Utility Bills

The utility bill that residents receive this month is the last bill for our fiscal year. Please note that if a resident's bill is not paid by April 28, 2017, it will be re-levied to the tax bill for June 1, 2017. If those bills for tenants who pay their own utilities are not paid by April 28, 2017, these too will be re-levied onto the owner's taxes for June 1, 2017.

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.

Some Reminders

The Village Office is closed on Good Friday, April 14th and will be closed on Memorial Day, May 29th. 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 and summer.



John P. Curtin, Mayor
Patrick W. Cox, Trustee
Sara N. Tallman, Trustee
Dawn M. O'Hara, Clerk
Nino J. Providenti, Treasurer
Jeffrey D. Brown, Attorney