

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – April 2018

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 (673-3112) or email (marboard@twcny.rr.com) the Village Office.

Adopt 2018-2019 Budget and set the Tax Rate – there have been no changes made to the tentative budget that was approved at the Annual Meeting on April 2, 2018 with the result that the Board approved the 2018-2019 Village budget and to set the Tax Rate at \$6.85 /\$1,000 assessed valuation.

W-M Engineering for Annual Storm Water Report – a motion was made to authorize the Mayor to sign a proposal from W-M Engineering to prepare the Annual Storm Water Report at a cost not to exceed \$500.

Change May Board Meeting – because the regular May Board meeting happens to fall on Memorial Day, a motion to change the date of that meeting from the 4th Monday of the Month, May 28th, to the 3rd Monday of the month, May 21st was made and approved.

Proclamation – Brian Romeiser – a motion was made to approve a Proclamation honoring the achievements and memory of Brian Romeiser an operational engineer with MRB Group for outstanding performance and dedicated service to the Village of Marcellus.

Charter Communications Cable Franchise Agreement – the Charter Communications Cable Franchise Agreement was again tabled until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of the agreement, with Charter Communications.

Utility Bills – the utility bill that residents receive this month is the last bill for our fiscal year. Residents should note that if not paid by April 30, 2018, the bill will be re-levied to the tax bill for June 1, 2018. If those bills for tenants who pay their own utilities are not paid by April 30, 2018, these too will be re-levied onto the owner's taxes for June 1, 2018. Please note that, unlike previous utility bills, payment for this final bill for the year must be made within the month.

Code Officer and Fire Inspection – fire inspections and rental inspections continue, along with vacant house registrations, code violations being issued for litter and rubbish piles, proposed new library parking along with change of occupancy at several sites as well.

Pedestrian Signs and Benches – have been re-installed on Main Street and elsewhere by the Highway Department. The flags will soon be displayed in time for Memorial Day.

Compost at the Treatment Plant – will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, residents are able pick up compost but they should also be aware of the fact that construction at the plant might hinder their ability to pick it up. 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.

WWTP Upgrades – to the plant have begun and while it will be a year of construction, we do not anticipate any inconvenience or interruption in the plant's operation.

Olde Home Days – banners and placemats and posters will be ready for installation and distribution during the first week in May.

Clean Energy Community – Having been designated as a “Clean Energy Community,” the Village of Marcellus has been awarded a \$100,000 grant to implement clean energy projects and will include a retrofitting of existing Village lights, including the historic lights on Main, North and South Streets as well as the coach lights on Kinderwood Drive to direct wire LED type fixtures. Other LED lighting retrofits will occur in the Village Hall, the Village Garage and the Water Pollution Control Plant. The Village is delighted with this award and most appreciative of the efforts of Ryan Riefler, and others who helped to secure this grant.

Sidewalks – per the DPW Superintendent’s schedule, some new sidewalk will be installed on Main Street, and elsewhere pending budgetary considerations.

Creek Walk – Fred’s Trail will reopen officially for the public if the snow finally leaves the trail. At first glance, it appears that the winter weather has not caused much damage to the trail. There were some hardy people who braved the elements to walk the trail this winter, although it was not officially open. We welcome the spring 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.

Street repairs and Tree removals – per the DPW Superintendent’s schedule, repairs will be made Dunlap Avenue and Wilson Drive, as well as South Street and Reed Street, pending budgetary consideration. Also tree removals are planned, per the DPW Superintendent’s schedule, pending budgetary considerations

Flower Boxes – the new flower boxes that were constructed last year by Kyle Denka as part of his Eagle Scout project have weathered very well. They will be filled again this year, using compost from WWTP, giving a good indication of the value of the compost. Kathy Welsh will again be instrumental in the plantings in these boxes using flowers that she has both grown from seed as well as some that she will or has purchased.

Earth Day Cleanup – the Village will again participate in an Earth Day clean up of the Village on Thursday, May 3, 2018, with a rain day of Friday, May 4, 2018. Third grade students from Heffernan Elementary School participated in this event and we welcome any individuals or groups to join us in helping clean the Village of any litter lying along the roadside and village rights of way. The Village will provide gloves and bags for the cleanup and we would like to thank, once again, Nojaims Grocery Store for providing some refreshments for the students. We sincerely thank in advance the students as well as the staff and faculty at KCH for all of their help in making this annual event so successful.

Spring Brush Pickup Dates – the Village Board and DPW are going to continue the policy from last year for the 2018 Brush Pickup. Brush may be placed at the curb on Saturdays and Sundays for pickup on Mondays from April 2nd to May 7th. In addition, during the summer months (June, July and August), brush may also be placed at the curb on Saturdays and Sundays for pickup on the first Monday of each month during those summer months. In addition, the Town of Marcellus has announced the 2018 dates for the Trash Transfer Stations and they are: Fridays, April 27th and May 4th, and May 11th, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays, April 28th, May 5th, and May 12th, from 8 a.m. to Noon. Permits are required and are issued through the Town of Marcellus Clerk’s Office. Tires require an additional permit, starting at \$3.00, as well as items that contain Freon, such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners or dehumidifiers - these require another permit and a \$15.00 fee per unit. Some items are not accepted including garbage, OCRRA recyclables, liquids or hazardous waste including paint, oil tanks, fuel tanks, motor vehicles, and no contractor debris (home projects only), All items must be secured and covered when transporting to the Town

Transfer Station. Also, there will be an Electronics Waste Disposal Day included with the trash days this year and that will require a special permit.

SRO Contract – with the Marcellus Central School District has been completed and is in the hands of the Marcellus School Board. Details of the contract, which will provide Village police officers (SRO) on the Marcellus School Campus, are provided in the agreement, and may be subject to change before final approval by both parties.

Police and School Safety – we would like to call your attention to the issue of school safety. Chief Wicks met recently with MCS Superintendent during a Channel 9 television broadcast, which we have also placed on our website – <http://www.villageofmarcellus.com/recent-news.html> and we urge residents to view it. The video highlights how well prepared Marcellus School Resource Officers are to handle threats against the school, better in the Board's opinion than any other school district in the state. The model prepared by Chief Wicks could be well used in other school district and the Chief has recently visited other school districts as well as State and local officials hoping to encourage some changes that would make the program even more effective.

Increase in the sewer rates – in an attempt to offset excessive sewer rates, the Village has been successful in its endeavors to secure some funding, including several WQIP awards of \$80,000 and \$1,000,000, and a EPG grant of \$30,000, as well as zero (0%) percent financing from the Environmental Financing Corporation, and it is hopeful that the additional funding can be secured to help meet the DEC mandate to upgrade the treatment plant. A potential SAM grant of \$250,000 is pending, as is a WIIA grant estimated in excess of \$1,000,000. However, the plant upgrade of now over \$7 million, if no additional funding can be found, can only come from sewer rate increases and was hoped that the increases that are already in place will be sufficient to meet the expense involved. Coupled with the disappointing bids that were received in early December, it is probable that if no additional funding is received, we will have raise sewer rates once again, this time in excess of 30%. At present, Village sewer users pay, on average \$413.13 annually. A 31% increase would bring that average rate up to \$541.39 – a quarterly increase of about \$32.00, or an annual increase of about \$128.00. Keep in mind that this is an average estimate, since sewer rates are based on water usage in the Village. For Town sewer users the increase would be even more astronomical, given that outside users pay an additional 25% over that of the average Village sewer user - the average town sewer user would pay approximately \$676.74 annually, an increase of about \$160.00 per year, beginning in 2019.

Village Meetings for May 2018 – a list of Meeting Dates for the month of May has been published. Included is a list of dates for the meeting of the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals, as well as an announcement of the Town Trash Days. Also included is a notice that the Village Office will be closed on Monday, Memorial Day, May 28, 2018, and that the Olde Home Days Celebration is planned for June 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, in the Village and in Marcellus Park. So that it can be given proper advertisement, the Village Board has decided that the annual Village-wide Garage Sale will be scheduled this year for July 14th.