

## Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – December 2015

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.

**Election Resolution** – the Board appointed Patricia White and Mary Finn as Inspectors of Election, designating Patricia White as the Chairperson thereof, to fix the compensation for each of the Inspectors of Election and the Chairperson, at \$10.00 per hour, not to exceed \$100.00 per day, and to appoint Joanne Perry as alternate Inspector. In addition, it should be noted that there is no registration day for the Village of Marcellus, since the Village opted out of registration day by resolution on January 25, 1993, that applications for absentee ballots must be received by the Village Clerk at the Village, located at 6 Slocombe Avenue, Marcellus, NY, by March 14, 2016, that the Village Election for the Village of Marcellus shall be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at the Village Hall, 6 Slocombe Avenue, Marcellus, NY, between the hours of 12 o'clock noon through 9 o'clock p.m., local time. The office to be filled on that day is that of Trustee. Is there a second? Is there any discussion? All in favor – All opposed –

**Lakeshore Drug Testing Contract** – the Board approved a contract with Lakeshore Employee Testing Services, to perform drug and alcohol testing for commercial drivers who are employed in the Village Highway Department at a cost of \$55.00 per employee and authorize the Mayor to sign said contract.

**Scotch Hill Sidewalk Project** – the Board authorized the Mayor to sign Amendment #2 of Contract # 56310 with Onondaga County Community Development whereby compensation for the Scotch Hill Road Sidewalk Improvements will be paid by Onondaga County Community Development in an amount not to exceed \$47,000.

**Veterinary Contracts** – the Mayor was authorized to sign an agreement between the Village of Marcellus and Lake Country Veterinary Clinic whereby Lake Country veterinary will establish a shelter to house dogs picked up by the Village Dog Control Officer. The cost for boarding and vaccinations of dogs will be billed to the owner of the dog. For stray dogs eligible for adoption, boarding and medicine will be billed to the person adopting the animal. A similar contract was approved with the Marcellus Veterinary Hospital.

**Village Improvement Plan** – the Board agreed to continue the Village Infrastructure Program, an agreement whereby the County provides financial assistance to the Village for the construction and maintenance of public improvements, and to complete the Application for Financial Assistance provided to the Village by the County of Onondaga and to submit such application by January 1, 2016.

**Health Insurance Contracts** – the Board authorized the Mayor to sign the Health Insurance Contracts with Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield, which contracts provide health and dental benefits for Village employees. The Village will cover 90% of the cost of an employee's benefits, while the employee will pay 10% of said cost. The new contracts and coverage which begin January 1, 2016, copies of which are available for inspection in the Village Office, have resulted in a 10% cost increase for both the Village and its employees.

**Employee Health Insurance Opt-out** – the Board also approved a health insurance opt-out for full time Village employees who are covered under another health care program. This opt-out, the details of which are on file in the Village Office, would grant a buy-out incentive for the employee who chooses to opt-out, and would also provide a financial benefit for the Village, whose annual premium on behalf of the employee, would be eliminated.

**OCRRA Hauler Agreement** – the Mayor was authorized to sign the 2016 Hauler Agreement with the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency, the terms of which are similar to those signed in the past. This is one-year

contract due to the fact that OCRRA recently signed a new twenty (20) year contract extension with Covanta Onondaga, the operators of the waste-to-energy facility, and financing is still being planned. The tipping fee for our hauler remains the same as in 2015, at **\$80 per ton**.

**Police Typist Resignation and Reinstatement** – Village Police Typist Brenda Giacchi is retiring from the Liverpool and Marcellus Police Departments effective December 30, 2015 and New York State Retirement Bureau requires that she resign from the Police Departments at the same time. The Board accepted the resignation of Brenda Giacchi as Village Police Typist, effective December 30, 2015, and approved her reinstatement as a Marcellus Police Typist, effective January 6, 2016, at the rate of \$12.69 per hour.

**15 Minute Parking Request** – the Board has received a request to designate two existing parking spaces on North Street in front of Calley's Hardware to fifteen-minute parking spaces, in anticipation of the opening of the new North Street Diner. It might be noted that this request has received the prior approval of the owner of the new North Street Diner, and having a maximum timed parking space in front of Calley's Hardware, similar to those so designated in front of First Cup on W. Main Street, would ensure that customers would have an opportunity to park while shopping on North Street. The Board approved a resolution designating the creation of two fifteen-minute parking spaces on North Street in front of Calley's Hardware.

**Waive Refuse Fee Requests** – Marcellus Grange, #474, has requested that Village refuse service be removed from their property assessment at 11 W. Main Street, since the Day Care Facility is no longer operating at that site. A motion to grant the request of the Grange for the removal of refuses and garbage assessment, to be effective with the October-December billing, was approved.

**Reed Parkway Drainage Agreement Amendment** – the Board approved a motion to withdraw an amendment to the Reed Parkway Drainage Agreement, approved at our November Board meeting. The property owner at 9 Reed Parkway is reconsidering the proposal to repair the pipeline in the rear of said property, and asks that the issue be revisited in a future construction season.

**Christmas and New Year's Holiday** – the Board approved a motion to allow Village Employees to receive the day before Christmas and before New Year's Day off. If the Highway or WWTP Employees are called in to work, they will be able to take off another day at the discretion of their supervisor. These will not be considered as holidays.

**Time Warner Cable Franchise Agreement** – was again tabled until legal details are negotiated successfully.

**PERMA Revised Workers Comp Program Agreement** – was also tabled until legal details are negotiated successfully

**F.O.G. (Fats, Oils, Grease)** – in the wastewater is a topic that had been much discussed and will continue to be on the WPCP's agenda in the months ahead. We continue to provide a flyer that emphasizes the need to keep Fats, Oils and Grease out of the sanitary sewer system.

**No Parking** – we continue to alert residents that there is no parking on any of the Village streets, from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m., from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> so that the highway crew can plow snow.

**Snow Plowing** – despite the lack of snow thus far this year, we would like to alert independent snow plow operators that it is illegal to plow or shovel snow or ice during snow removal operations upon a village sidewalk or other public way. While most of the independent snow plow operators in the Village comply as much as possible with the law, there are some who need to be reminded that if a driveway is being plowed, that snow **CAN NOT** be plowed into the street. **NOR** can the snow be plowed out of a driveway, across the street and into the village right-of-way across from the plowed driveway. Some drivers have claimed that they have no place to put the snow. That, however, is not an excuse to put the snow into the street, nor across the street when plowing. The Village is not responsible for snow

that accumulates on a resident's property and the Village is not responsible for removing snow that has been plowed onto the Village right-of-way. We ask that independent snowplow drivers take this into consideration when they are plowing residential properties in the village. No snow should be plowed onto a village street or sidewalk, and any that has been, accidentally, must be removed before finishing the job.

**Composting** – continues to move along and we would like to thank our operators as they prepare more compost for pickup in the spring.

**Increase in the sewer rates from \$51 to \$63 per quarter** – will become more evident with January billing

**Code Enforcement** – the Village CEO has made a recent inspection of the Lower Mill, and has found that it has been broken into in recent months. In addition, the building continues to deteriorate rapidly, and it is thought that it might be necessary to have the rest of the building demolished in the spring.

**Christmas Tree Lighting** – on behalf of the Board, I would like to extend special thanks to all who were instrumental in conducting a very successful Tree Lighting on December 3, 2015, in particular our Village Clerk, Dawn O'Hara, and our Highway crew and Police Department.

**Text a tip** – Chief Wicks has announced that Onondaga County has a new way to reach your local police with a crime tip – without revealing who you are. You could be witnessing a violent crime or a suspicious person or something else that police should know about. There are several ways to do this. You can text TIP411, or you can download the County's TIP411 mobile app on iPhone or Android, or you can find the Onondaga County Crime Tips Facebook page (you do not need to log into Facebook to submit a tip). All police agencies countrywide can now be reached at any time with a TIP411 text. It's very important that you type the code for the appropriate police department in your text. For example, the code for Marcellus Police is TIPMAR. The TIP411 line offers a way for those who are afraid to get involved to provide information to police, and our local police agency will do its job by investigating tips. Chief Wicks urges residents to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

**Prescription / Drug Drop-Off Box** – Chief Wicks would like to announce that a prescription/drug drop-off box, similar to a mailbox, is now located in the lobby of the Village Hall and is available for use by any residents who would like to dispose of any prescription or other drugs anonymously. The County Health Department will stop by monthly to pick up and properly dispose of such items.

**Police Warning** – residents should be aware of the fact that some thieves have been active in the Village and Town, following FedEx and other vehicles delivering and leaving packages unattended at various locations and then stealing such packages. Chief Wicks urges residents to be vigilant about such activity and to notify the police if they have suspicions.

**Entrance Sign** – the entrance sign at the western end of the Village, destroyed by an automobile accident some months ago, has been replaced, and we would like to thank Bob Wilson for all of his efforts in making sure that this project was completed.

**Health Care Costs** – continue to rise, and both the Village and its employees will be required to pay, on average, an increase of about 10% for coverage, beginning in January 2016. However, co-pays appear to be identical to last year, and the Treasurer budgeted an amount to cover the increase.

**Pension Costs** – for next year have been projected by the Village Treasurer to be within the allotted budget amounts, a decrease of approximately 8% over last year, and attributed to fewer police officer contributions by the Village.

**Christmas Trees** – will be picked up by the Village Highway Department after the first of the year, probably beginning on January 4, 2016. Residents should place trees in the Village right of way between the sidewalk and the street.

**Olde Home Days, 2016** – the first meeting of the 2015 OHD Committee will be held on Thursday, January 7, 2016 in the Village Hall, beginning at 7 p.m.

**Time Warner Cable Rate Increases** – residents may have already received a letter explaining the reasons for the rate increases, as well as a chart on what those increases will be, beginning January 1, 2016.

**Village Meetings for January 2016** – please make note of those meetings scheduled for the remainder of December and for January 2016, a list of which is provided for those so interested. Please note also that the Village Offices will be closed on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas Holiday, and on Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> and on Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> for the New Year's Holiday, and on January 18, 2016 to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. There are also several handouts that are provided for residents if they wish to pick them up – on Water, Electronics (E-Waste) Disposal, Grease in the Waste Water, the 2016 rate increases from Time Warner Cable and Text-a-Tip.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year** – on behalf of the Village Board, I would extend a very Merry Christmas and wish all our Village residents the joy of family, the gift of friends and the best of everything for the New Year.