

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – January 2017

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.

A Public Hearing – on a \$6,000,000 Line of Credit with Environmental Facilities Corporation for WWTP was tabled until our next Regular Board meeting in February.

Review of Employee Handbook – the Board approved a motion to approve a review by the Village Board of the Village of Marcellus Employee Handbook, a copy of which is on file in the Village Office for public inspection. The Handbook went into effect on February 1, 2013, and it has been decided that the Board would conduct such a review each year upon its anniversary. This year, as part of the review, the Board has decided to amend the handbook so as to approve the meaning of “flex time” as follows:

- Flex Time is earned in straight time only.
- All flextime must be used within the same pay period in which it is accumulated.
- Any unused flextime will be forfeited if not used within the same pay period in which it is accumulated.
- An employee may choose to opt-out of taking flextime.

Charter Communications Cable Franchise Agreement – a motion was approved by the Board to again table the Charter Communications Cable Franchise Agreement until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of the agreement, with Charter Communications.

Budget Modifications for December 2016 – budget modifications requested by the Village Treasurer transferring revenues and appropriations in the General and Sewer Funds were approved.

Village Meetings for February 2017 – I would make note of the list of those meetings scheduled for February 2016, which is provided for those so interested – please note also that the Village Offices will be closed on Monday, February 20th for the Presidents’ Day Holiday and that the second meeting of the Olde Home Days Committee, 2014, will take place on Thursday, February 2, 2017 in the Village Board Room.

Police Department – in mid January 2017, the Village Police Department and SROs participated in a school-wide lockdown drill at each of the schools in the Marcellus Central School District. The Chief reports that it was quite successful and a tribute to the fine cooperation that continues to exist between the Village and the School District.

Another Police Update – the Prescription/Drug Drop-Off Box located in the lobby of the Village Hall continues to be a welcome addition to the Village. Any number of individuals continue to take advantage of using the drop-off box to dispose of any prescription or other drugs anonymously. The County Health Department stops by monthly to pick up and properly dispose of such items. The Chief would also announce that his office will continue to collect needles and syringes that are brought to his office. It is expected that the County will soon provide a similar drop off box for the disposal of such items anonymously.

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. The Wastewater Department recently sent a letter to

all businesses in the Village making them aware of the responsibilities that each of them have in dealing with fats, oils and grease. They will also be conducting inspections in the weeks ahead to make sure that there is full compliance with not only our local law, but also with that of Onondaga County.

No Parking – November 1st to April 1st – the public should be aware of the fact that as of November 1, 2016, there is no parking allowed on any street in the Village of Marcellus from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m. so that the Highway Department can plow snow. This no parking ban will remain in effect until April 1, 2017. If ticketed by Village Police, the fee will be \$35.00. We urge residents to use the Village parking lots for any overnight parking situations.

Snow Plowing – we continue to alert independent snowplow 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 **MUST 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.

Waste Water Treatment Plant – we are still in the process of making a decision regarding a major upgrade to the Village's Waste Water Treatment Plant, thereby meeting the DEC mandate of treating the removal of phosphorus from the plant's effluent. At our February Meeting, it is the intention of the Board to conduct a public or informational hearing to alert the residents of the need to borrow approximately \$5.6 in order to comply with the State mandates

Increase in the sewer rates – unless the Village is able to secure additional funding to upgrade the treatment plant, the DEC could possibly 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 \$5.5 million can only come from sewer rate increases and the increase will be massive.

Planning Board – has not met in recent months due to lack of requests from property owners.

Creek Walk Project – continues to move ahead, despite the break in the weather. There are a few items that the Village workers will take care of this spring, including some railing, sign purchase and installation, as well as plantings along the trail. There remains an eight-foot wide section of the trail 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 this will be competitively bid in the winter of 2017, so that construction can begin in the spring.

Olde Home Days – June 2nd, 3rd, and 4th – the first meeting was held on January 5, 2017, and the next meeting will be held on February 2, 2017 in the Village Board Room at 7 p.m.

Flush-able Wipes – are not flushable and this was demonstrated early in December at the Orange Street Pump Station when the alarm sounded indicating that the pump station was fouled and inoperable. No wastewater was lost from the system and the station was returned to service within three hours thanks to our treatment plant operators' quick response at 3 a.m. What fouled the pump were feminine hygiene products and flush-able wipes, which **DO NOT** break down and end up causing a blockage. These items should never be introduced into the sanitary sewer system, since they are inorganic and fail to break down. They should be disposed in a resident's solid waste as ordinary garbage. Again, please do not flush so-called flush-able wipes.