

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – June 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 (315-673-3112) or email (marboard@twcny.rr.com) the Village Office.

IMA with Town for Court Security Services – an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Marcellus was approved whereby the Village of Marcellus and its Police Department will provide Town of Marcellus Justice Court Security Services for a minimum of three (3) hours per Court night and the Town of Marcellus will reimburse the Village of Marcellus at a rate of \$20.00 per hour as well as further reimburse the Village for any police services rendered in excess of three (3) hours as well as for any specially convened Court proceedings. Further details of the IMA are available for public inspection in the Village Office.

Village Insurance Proposals – the Board has decided to renew the Village Insurance proposals with the Reagan Companies of Marcellus, awarding the contract for Village Insurance in the amount of \$27,701 to the Reagan Companies, representing an increase of \$1,176.00, or 4% from last year. This also includes a 4% upgrade on property values including the addition of the Platt Road Pump Station, now a responsibility of the Village. In addition, the Village's 3-year crime coverage policy to the Reagan Companies is locked in for an additional three years at a cost of \$386.00.

NYS Workers Compensation Alliance Agreement – 7/1/18 – 6/30/19 – a motion was approved to renew the Workers Compensation Agreement with the NYS Workers Compensation Alliance for the time period, July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 at a cost of \$26,378.00.

Williamson Software Contract – the annual software support contracts with Williamson Law Book Company for municipal accounting (\$1,038.00), refuse/sewer billing (\$968.00), and payroll (\$968.00), totaling \$2,974.00, a 2% increase over last year was approved.

Website Design Contract – North Shore Solutions – the Mayor was authorized to sign a contract with North Shore Solutions, which company designs, set up and hosts the website for the Village of Marcellus, as well as provide training for Village office staff to operate the website once it goes live. There is no increase in the software leasing part of the contract, which costs \$477.75 per year – a 0% increase.

School Resource Officer Contract – the Mayor was authorized to sign the School Resource Officer Agreement between the Village of Marcellus and the Marcellus Central School District, whereby the School District and the Village have determined that it is in their mutual best interests to enter into this Agreement to continue to provide for the assignment of three officers of the Marcellus Police Department to serve as School Resource Officers in the Marcellus Central School District. A copy of the agreement is on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

Change Date of July Board Meeting – a motion to change the July regular Board meeting from July 23, 2018 to July 30, 2018, because of vacation schedules was approved. In addition, the meeting will take place in the Community Board Room of the Marcellus Library because there will be a Public Information Meeting on the Highland Drainage Study, prior to the regular meeting.

Request for One-Month Extension of Vacation Balance by Jim LaRose – a motion was approved to honor the request of Jim LaRose to extend for one month, his vacation balance, because he is unable to expend that time within his anniversary date.

Appointment of John Holmes – Waste Water Treatment Operator – a motion was approved to appoint John Holmes, presently a motor equipment operator, as a WWTP operator, beginning July 1, 2018, at a current hourly salary of \$23.44.

Award Clean Energy Community NYSEERDA Grant Bid – a motion was approved to award the NYSEERDA Clean Energy Community Grant low bid, to M. L. Caccamise Electric Company of Rochester, NY. The base bid calls for providing all materials and labor to convert 132 Village-owned streetlights from existing fixtures that have HID (High Intensity Discharge) lamps and ballasts, to LED type fixtures with LED type lamp, as well as providing all materials and labor to remove indoor/outdoor lighting at various Village localities and convert existing fixtures to direct wire LED type fixtures. In addition, this motion awards to M. L. Caccamise Company, the alternate bid item for coordinating the removal by NYSEG of six existing HPS cobra head streetlights to be replaced with six ornamental LED streetlights at various locations in the Village. The basic bid and the alternate, awarded to M. L. Caccamise Company, is awarded in a total amount of \$89,251.00. \

Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement - a motion was approved to again table the Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of the agreement, with Spectrum Cable.

Brush Pick-up – as was mentioned at earlier meetings, the Village Board and DPW are going to continue established last year for Brush Pickup. Spring brush lasted from April 3rd to May 8th. 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 of those summer months. Village residents should not to put yard waste out to the curb for pick-up until then. They are welcome to bring debris 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.

Olde Home Days – unlike last year, the celebration was fairly successful this year, primarily due to the pleasant weather that was experienced. Last month we thanked a number of people for their efforts in helping to beautify the new Village flower boxes in time for Memorial Day and Olde Home Days. We also thank our Highway Department for the work they did in helping to beautify the Village in time for these special events, as well as the Village Police Department, to whom we give much credit for no vandalism or other serious problems during the weekend.

Creek Walk – Fred’s Trail – has reopened officially for the public, and our highway department had to do some limited repair to the trail – it appears to have wintered well. We welcome the summer 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.

Code Enforcement and Officer – Building and Pool Permits – Residents should be aware of the need to obtain permits if any rehabilitation or new construction takes place. This includes the addition of a pool (2 feet and above), or a fence or a deck, or new steps to a residence. Permits are required, as is an inspection by the Code Enforcement Officer. Permits and more information can be found by checking with the Village Office (673-3112) or with Bill Reagan, our CEO (430-7927).

Compost at the Treatment Plant – will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, residents 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. The operators are available to answer questions and to help load compost for residents.

Street & Sidewalk Repair, Tree Removal and Plantings – per the D.P.W. chief's recommendation, Wilson Drive and Dunlap Avenue will be reconstructed this summer, as well as some oil and stone on South Street and Reed Street. The D.P.W. has received some complaints as to the milling work that was done on Wilson and Dunlap prior to the actual paving. While this is inconvenient and causes drivers to approach the milled-out work rather cautiously, it is, nevertheless, necessary. In order to tie into the existing road, some milling must be done, approximately two inches in depth. In this way, the new paving will not be peeled up with the first plowing that is done on the street in the winter. Budgetary constraints have limited the ability of the Village Board to add other street repairs in this year's budget. Also, sidewalk repairs will be made to selected areas on South Street and Main Street, and the possible removal of several trees on Kelly and Bradley Streets will take place. Some tree plantings are expected to take place in late summer or early fall, but the locations have not yet been determined.

Chrisler Street Project – the Village Board is planning to add some amenities to the Village right of way on Chrisler Street this summer. Those features will include the replacement of the overhead cobra streetlights, which are High Pressure Sodium lights on Chrisler Street with new historic lampposts, with LED lights, similar to those that presently line North, South and Main Streets in the Village. These lights are not only attractive for a Village setting, but will also provide much savings in Village lighting costs. In addition, the Board proposes to extend the Village-owned sidewalk on Chrisler Street, from that where it presently ends at #12 on the south side, to the end of the street, as well as from #9 on the north side, to the end of the street, thus completing a pedestrian loop of the entire street, as envisioned in the Village Comprehensive Plan of 2007. It is also hoped that in the near future, a pedestrian pathway might be created at the end of Chrisler Street, on the Village right-of-way, which would connect with and provide pedestrian access to the Marcellus Free Library.

WWTP Upgrade = Increase In Sewer Rates – Bids for the WWTP upgrade were awarded last January. The General Contract price of \$5,395,611.00 was awarded to Blue Heron Construction Company of Jordan, New York. The Electrical Contract price of \$739,000.00 was awarded to Myriad Construction of Syracuse, New York. The HVAC Contract price of \$79,263 was awarded to King & King Mechanical, Inc. of Auburn, New York. Construction began in April and the project will take about a year to complete. Funding can only come from sewer rate increases and it is probable that we will have to 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. 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. An average town sewer user would pay approximately \$676.74 annually, an annual increase of about \$160.00, beginning in 2019.

Lost Bicycles – residents should be aware that the Police Department often finds bicycles in the woods and stores them above the Police Garage, waiting for someone to claim them. When go they unclaimed, they are usually donated to agencies that offer them to needy children. If you or a child has lost a bicycle, contact the Police Department to see if it is in Police storage.

SRO Contract – with the Marcellus Central School District has been completed and signed by all parties concerned. Details of the contract, which will provide three (3) Village police officers (SROs) on the Marcellus Central School Campus, are provided in the agreement, and is available for public inspection.

Planning Board – at its June meeting (June 20th) the Board met with Jamie Plis, of 33 North Street to discuss site plans and other issues related to the construction of a new fence on his property.

Summer Community Events – Thursday nights, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., a series of summer concerts are held during June, July, and August at Marcellus Park Annex. 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 (673-3269, ext. 2) for more information.

Highland Drainage Information Meeting – we would like to inform residents of the Highland Drive drainage area, particularly those who live on Highland, Meadow, First, Second and Reed Pkwy that the drainage study, which was promised at our January meeting, has been completed, and that the Board will conduct an informational meeting prior to its regular meeting on July 30, 2018 at the Marcellus Free Library, beginning at 7 p.m. We urge these residents to attend. The study will also be available for inspection in the Village office following the meeting.

Resident's Email – finally, we would respond to an email that was received regarding a memo that was hand-delivered by the Village to the residents on Wilson and Dunlap Avenue, in order to make them aware of the plans for paving those Village roads. The resident's email stated that *"I have been a resident of Marcellus off and on for over 30+ years and there has never been an avenue named DUNLOP. I am completely appalled that the government officials allowed the misspelling of Dunlap Ave on a Village notification letter and that the Mayor actually signed his name to the letter. If a simple spelling error goes unnoticed by all of you, one wonders what other details, on a larger scale, are being overlooked."* To that email, we would note that typos are quite common on many memos, even when sent by government officials. This memo may have been rushed, but the DPW wanted the residents to know, as soon as possible, the paving schedule so that they could plan ahead. Secondly, we are sure that the Mayor has often signed his name to documents that may have misspelled names. Third, members of the Board take strong exception to the final sentence that says, *"if simple spelling errors go unnoticed, one wonders what other details, on a larger scale, are being overlooked."* We wonder if some implication was being made in this statement that warrants a greater suspicion about what this Board is doing? If so, we would be interested in what specific insinuation, allegation or accusation is being made. In conclusion, not only do we know the correct spelling of the name of the street, but we also know after whom the street is named. His name was Jewett Dunlap and he was a long-time superintendent of highways in Marcellus. Former Mayor Martin Sennett, who lived on Dunlap Avenue, told us about Jewett Dunlap, who died in 1935 and is buried in Highland Cemetery. For misspelling his name, the Board extends an apology to Jewett Dunlap and we hope that he rests in peace, despite this tragic typographical error.

Announce Village Meetings for July 2018 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. We would make special note of the July 4th holiday, which will be celebrated on Wednesday, July 4th, and on which day, the Village Office will be closed. In addition, there will be a delay in trash pickup that week. Also, the *Teal There's A Cure Run/Walk* will take place on the 4th of July, beginning at 9 a.m. in Marcellus Park. The Village-wide Garage Sale will take place on Saturday, July 14th and there is no permit needed on that day for Village residents. A reminder to residents that July is Battery Collection Month. Residents should place old alkaline batteries into special yellow bags and place them on top of a closed trashcan or trash bag. Do not place the battery bags in the blue bin. There are a number of Summer Community Events at Marcellus Park – Thursday nights from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at the Annex Pavilion. Concerts are

free and appropriate for the entire family. Another reminder that our next Board meeting will be on July 30th, at the Marcellus Free Library, and will be preceded by a Public Information Meeting regarding the Highland Drainage Study, starting at 7 p.m.