

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE BOARD
OF THE VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS HELD ON
MARCH 23, 2015 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: John P. Curtin, Mayor See List
Sara N. Tallman, Trustee
Patrick W. Cox, Trustee

ABSENT: Jeff Brown, Attorney

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Curtin asked for a motion to open the regular board meeting at 7:04pm, after a public hearing was held concerning the 2015 Community Development Block Grant Application. Trustee Tallman made the motion, seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**RESOLUTION –
COMM. DEV.**

GRANT: Trustee Tallman made a motion to approve the following resolution: WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus is resolved to further enhance the Village with improvements of sewers, roads, drainage and sidewalks; and NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Marcellus is eager to participate in the 2015 Onondaga County Community Development Grant Program; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus has previously authorized Barton and Loguidice, P.C. to apply for 2015 grant funding through the Onondaga County Community Development Grant Program on behalf of the Village for sidewalk rehabilitation work on Scotch Hill Road. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked there was any discussion on the resolution. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**CONSENT
AGENDA:**

The Village Clerk submitted the minutes of the regular board meeting for the month of February 2015. The bills on Abstract Sheets #010 for General Fund in the amount of \$22,434.05, Water Fund in the amount of \$1,955.32 and Sewer Fund in the amount of \$9,683.95 were audited. The bills totaled \$34,073.32. The Board received the Police Report for February 2015 from Police Chief Robert Wicks. The Board also received the Building Inspectors Report for the month of February 2015 from Building Inspector Bill Reagan. The Board acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Town Board meetings for February 2015. The financial statements as submitted by Village Treasurer Nino Provvidenti for February 2015 were given to the Board for their review. Trustee Cox made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the consent agenda. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

TIME WARNER FRANCHISE

AGREEMENT: Trustee Tallman made a motion to again table the Time Warner Cable Franchise Agreement until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of the agreement, with Time Warner Cable. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on tabling the agreement again. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

HIRE P/T POLICE

OFFICERS: Trustee Cox made a motion to appoint Michael J. Graham (currently a Deputy with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department), Edward J. Bragg (a retired Onondaga County Sheriff Deputy) and to rehire Chris Rowe (formerly part of the Marcellus PD and the East Syracuse PD) as part-time Police Officers of the Village of Marcellus to fill vacancies that currently exist. The officers will be paid a patrolman's salary of \$17.34 per hour. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the new hires. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

SPRING BRUSH

DATES: Trustee Tallman let the public know that the Highway Superintendent had informed the board that the first day for brush pickup in the village will be from Monday, April 6, 2015 and that the last day to put brush out to the curb for pickup will be Sunday, May 3, 2015. Trustee Tallman made a motion to set the brush pick up dates as submitted by the Highway Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the dates. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board

members voted aye and the motion carried. In addition, Trustee Tallman announced that the Town of Marcellus had announced dates for the Trash Transfer Stations as follows: Fridays, April 24th and May 1st, and May 8th, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays, April 25th, May 2nd, and May 9th, from 8 a.m. to Noon. Permits are required and will be 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 items require another permit at a cost of \$20. Some items that are not accepted include garbage, OCRRA recyclables, liquids or hazardous waste including paint, oil tanks, fuel tanks, motor vehicles, roofing shingles and brush over 6 inches in diameter. There will also be a "Shred Day" in the Town Hall parking lot on May 9th from 8 a.m. to Noon.

ANNUAL STORMWATER

REPORT: Trustee Cox made a motion to table the Annual Storm Water Report until the next regular meeting of the Village Board in April. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion tabling the report. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

DISCONTINUE REFUSE

REQUEST: Trustee Tallman made a motion to grant the request of a resident, who owns two adjoining properties in the Village Center, to discontinue the collection of refuse by the Village hauler, since the resident has secured a separate dumpster service for trash and recyclables. The trash from these two buildings causes an unsightly mess and a challenge to keep it cleaned up. Following village board approval, the refuse part of the resident's utility bill will be removed, effective April 1, 2015. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on discontinuing the refuse. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

BUDGET

MODIFICATIONS:

Trustee Cox made a motion to approve budget modifications requested by the Village Treasurer transferring revenues and appropriations in the General and Sewer Funds. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the budget modifications. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

ANNOUNCE ANNUAL MTG. & TENTATIVE BUDGET

HEARING: Trustee Tallman announced that the Annual Meeting will take place on April 6, 2015 and includes the appointment of non-elected officials, establishing regular meeting dates, as well as designating official newspapers and depositories. In addition, a Public Hearing will take place on April 6, 2015 to consider the tentative budget for the Village for the next fiscal year. Approval of the final budget will most likely take place at the next regular Board meeting, on April 27, 2015.

ANNOUNCE VILLAGE MEETINGS:

Trustee Cox announced that a list of meetings scheduled for April 2014 had been prepared for the public and asked that residents please note that the Village Office would be closed on Good Friday, April 3rd, and on Memorial Day, May 25th. Also, Olde Home Days 2015 is scheduled for June 5th, 6th and 7th and the Committee continues to meet the first Thursday of every month, in the Village Board Room. The next meeting is planned for April 2, 2015.

Updates by the Mayor:

Mayor Curtin provided updates on the following subjects:

- a. No Parking – regulations during the winter months, which calls for no parking on any Village streets from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m., ends on April 1st.
- b. Village Earth Day Participation – the Board announced that the Village will again participate in Earth Day clean up on Friday, April 17, 2015. Third grade students from Heffernan Elementary School will participate in the event and the Board also welcomes any individuals or groups to join in helping clean the Village of litter lying along the roadside and in village rights of way. Participants will meet in front of the Village Hall. Anyone interested in participating, may arrive about 1:30 p.m. or contact the Village Clerk at 673-3112 for more information.
- c. Utility Bills – the utility bill that residents receive in April is the last bill for the Village fiscal year. Residents should note that if the bill is not paid by **April 29**, 2015, it will be re-levied to the tax bill for June 1, 2015. If bills for tenants who pay their own utilities are not paid by **April 29**, 2015, those too will be re-levied onto the property owner's taxes for June 1, 2015. Mayor Curtin asked residents to please also note that, unlike the three previous utility bills for the fiscal year, payment for the final bill for the fiscal year must be made within the month.
- d. Notice of Sign Placement – the highway department will soon re-install the 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. It is hoped that the signs will make it easier for pedestrians, particularly schoolchildren, to cross Main Street safely as well as cause motorists to slow down as they approach these crosswalks.

- e. Creek Walk Project – continues to move ahead. The Rights of Way have been secured by the NYSDOT on behalf of the Village and some trees on the site have been cut so as not to disturb the nesting season of the Northern Long-eared Bat. It is hoped that all of the lingering environmental issues have been addressed and that bidding and construction of the trail can begin this spring and summer.
- f. Compost Project – the project began in the summer of 2010, followed by an application to the NYS DEC for a recycling grant that would pay for half of the cost of building the composting facility – approximately \$400,000. The Board was told at the time that processing of the grant would take three to four years. In late February, after a wait of almost five years, the Village was reimbursed 91% of the grant monies promised by the NYSDEC, funding that was to accompany the Compost Project. The Board will most likely have to wait another year to receive the remaining 9%, or approximately \$38,000, due to miscalculations regarding the project costs.
- g. Local Government Consolidation Grant – the Board has completed all elements required for the Local Government Sewer Consolidation Grant, and all paperwork has been sent to the Department of State for grant reimbursement. The Village had to borrow a total of \$720,000 to complete the project, but the Board expects to be reimbursed \$600,000 by the State, and this will go a long way towards reducing the “fiscal stress.” The Board hopes that the reimbursement will take place in 3 to 6 weeks, but they are not holding their breath.
- h. Budget – the Village Board is working to finalize the 2015-16 Village Budget in preparation for the Annual Meeting. In January, Village residents received their County and Town tax bill and that bill reflected a tax reduction for Village residents, on average about \$10 for a house valued at \$100,000 in the Village. Similar to last five years, this tax reduction was made possible by the County, having slashed by more than half the sales tax revenue that used to go to the Village, was then able to pass on those tax savings to Village property owners in the form of reduced County taxes. Ever since, the Village has had to make up for the revenue taken by the County. The budget remains far short of what the Board needs to provide adequate services and the Board therefore anticipates a slight tax increase of less than 2% (or 1.4%), or 9 cents/1000, which falls within the Governor’s tax cap freeze proposal.
- i. Property Tax Cap – the Budget is complicated by the property tax cap of 2%, another State mandate, and at a recent workshop meeting, the Board decided not to override the tax cap. The Governor proposed a property tax cap freeze if the Village stayed under the tax cap and moved towards consolidation of some sort. The Board expects to be able to stay under the tax cap and they have also moved towards consolidation, particularly of the village, town and school district sewer districts. However, the Governor’s “tax cap freeze” proposal complicates the Village budget process. The Board certainly favors a tax cap, as long as meaningful relief from unfunded State mandates accompanies it. With continued unfunded State mandates, coupled with a cap on the Board’s ability to raise revenue, it is very difficult to plan or even survive. There are too many variables in the Governor’s tax cap freeze proposal for the Village and the savings, according to NYCOM, would be quite minimal.
- j. Fiscal Stress – In February, State Comptroller DiNapoli reported that the Village of Marcellus is again “susceptible to fiscal stress.” In their response, the Board noted that much of the stress could probably be attributed to the debt on the village books and much of the debt will be reduced when the Village is reimbursed by the State of New York for several projects for which the Village has had to bond before being reimbursed. There are four particular sources for this “stress” including: \$1.6 million borrowed for the Reed-Street-Reed Parkway project – a long term bond that will be paid off in 25 years; a state-promised Local Government Efficiency Grant of \$600,000 for the consolidation of the village, town and school district sewer system (monies which should be forthcoming in 3-6 weeks) ; a \$400,000 reimbursement from the state under the Clean Air-Clean Water Act for the composting of sludge project at the WPCP (91% of which has now been provided the Village) ; and an 80% reimbursement of a \$278,000 grant from the State Department of Transportation for the Creek Walk project. The Board is confident that when full state reimbursement takes place, the Village books will look healthy.
- k. Flushable Wipes Are NOT Flushable!!! – The Board continues to urge residents to avoid using what are called flushable wipes – they are NOT flushable – nor are dental floss, cotton swabs, hygiene products, kitty litter, facial tissue, fats, oils, and grease. All of these items should be put in the trash and only human waste and toilet paper should be flushed. To avoid plumbing problems, which will most likely occur on residential property, not in the Village main, please be aware of this concern. Mayor Curtin also referenced an Internet video that explains the problems associated with flushable wipes and asked residents to please view the following: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLTVqkXVvNk>. The video is also posted on the Village website. The Board also urged residents to review the “Trash NOT Sewer” flyer that accompanied a previous newsletter.

The information is invaluable and will help residents understand the importance of putting items in the trash, and not into the sewer.

1. Illegal Sump Pumps, Roof Downspouts, Exterior Drains – over the past two years, most have been disconnected and the result has been much improvement in the flows at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. These are illegal connections and it may become necessary for another inspection if a resident has allowed them to be re-connected.

After concluding with his updates, Mayor Curtin asked if there were any comments from the Board. There were none.

**Items from the
Floor:**

Mayor Curtin asked if there were any items from the floor. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Cox made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried. Mayor Curtin thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Dawn M. O'Hara, Village Clerk