

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE BOARD
OF THE VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS HELD ON
FEBRUARY 22, 2016 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: John P. Curtin, Mayor See List
Sara N. Tallman, Trustee
Jeff Brown, Attorney

ABSENT: Patrick W. Cox, Trustee

Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT
AGENDA:**

The Village Clerk submitted the minutes of special meetings and the regular board meeting for the month of January 2016. The bills on Abstract Sheets #009 for General Fund in the amount of \$24,991.88, Sewer Fund in the amount of \$14,558.97 and Trust & Agency Fund in the amount of \$202.62, were audited. The bills totaled \$00,000.00. The Board received the Police Report for January 2016 from Police Chief Robert Wicks. The Board also received the Building Inspectors Report for the month of January 2016 from Building Inspector Bill Reagan. The Board acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Town Board meetings for January 2016. The financial statements as submitted by Village Treasurer Nino Provvidenti for January 2016 were given to the Board for their review. Trustee Tallman made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the consent agenda. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

GML 239 FINAL ACTION –

LL #1 OF 2016: Trustee Tallman made a motion to accept the proposed action with regard to the Onondaga County Planning Board's No Position on Local Law #1 of 2016 of the Village of Marcellus, with comment that the Onondaga County Planning Board has determined that Local Law #1 of 2016 of the Village of Marcellus will have no significant adverse inter-community or county-wide implications and may be acted on solely by the referring board. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the Report of Final Action. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

ELECTION

RESOLUTION: Mayor Curtin made a motion to to approve and publish an election resolution designating the following:

- a. The polling place for the Village election is the Village Hall, located at 6 Slocombe Avenue, Marcellus, NY
- b. The election will take place on March 15, 2016. Polls will open at 12:00 o'clock noon and close at 9:00 p.m.
- c. The names and addresses of the candidates nominated for the office of Trustee, a four (4) year term, include:
 - i. Sara N. Tallman – 7 Reed Street, Marcellus, NY
 - ii. John Bromka – 36 South Street, Marcellus, NY
- d. There will be no propositions to be voted upon at this election.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the resolution. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

AUTHORIZE B & L –

COMM. DEV.: Trustee Tallman made a motion to authorize Barton & Loguidice to complete the 2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application. It should be noted that there has been a change in the maximum grant allowance from \$100,000 to \$50,000. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the authorizing B&L to work on the application. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both 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 Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on tabling the agreement again. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

PERMA PROGRAM

AGREEMENT: Trustee Tallman mentioned that the Village had signed a contract agreement with PERMA in 1997 when it originally joined PERMA. The Village has not been required to sign another agreement since then. However, a consequence of PERMA's audit by the Workers Compensation Board last year required that a revised program agreement be signed by all members and the Village was required to sign a new agreement last year. According to a PERMA representative, it appears as if the WCB will be making PERMA revise the agreement again this year, but the agreement is still with the lawyers. Until PERMA has something finalized, the agreement signed in 2014 is completely valid. Once finalized, PERMA will forward a revised contract to be signed. Trustee Tallman made a motion to table the agreement until the agreement has been finalized. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on tabling the agreement with PERMA. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

BUDGET MODIFICATIONS:

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

ANNOUNCE VILLAGE MEETINGS:

Trustee Tallman announced that the Village Clerk had printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the residents. She asked residents to make note that the third meeting of the Olde Home Days Committee 2016, would take place on Thursday, March 3, 2016 in the Village Board Room. Also that a Special Meeting would be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 2 p.m. for the bid opening on the construction of the Creek Walk, and that another Special Meeting would be held on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 10 a.m. to award the bid for construction of the Creek Walk. Election Day is Tuesday, March 15, 2016, from Noon to 9 p.m. and a public hearing on Community Development Grant Application is scheduled prior to the next regular Board meeting on Monday, March 28, 2016. There will also be several budget meetings, including one on March 4 and March 11 both at 10 a.m. in the Board Room. Additional meetings will be held as needed. The Village Office will be closed on Good Friday, March 25, 2016, and the Annual Meeting and Tentative Budget Hearing will take place on Monday, April 4, 2016 in the Board Room, beginning at 7 p.m.

Updates by the Mayor:

Mayor Curtin provided updates on the following subjects:

- a. Police Updates – Chief Wicks wanted to be sure that all residents continue to lock their autos and houses. Last year around this time, both in the Village, but also just beyond village lines, in particular, there were burglaries – particularly into unlocked automobiles, and property (GPS, other electronics and pocketbooks) was stolen. Almost all of the thefts took place because the autos were left outdoors and unlocked. If cars are locked, thieves usually move on. It was also noted that there are only two sheriff's patrols at night, covering the entire southern and western parts of the count. Village officers were commended for their efforts in providing police service, not only for Village residents, but also for those who live on the edge of the Village but pay no taxes.
- b. Flushable Wipes – The board has been mentioning over the past few years, that products called “flushable wipes” were introduced to the market. The Treatment Plant operatives indicate that the wipes are not “flushable” and are causing sewer backups in the village on residential properties. A review by Consumer Reports confirmed that the wipes do not break down and will create sewer backups. If you are using these wipes, please do not flush these wipes down the toilet. The wipes should be discarded into the trash. If the wipes are flushed and cause a sewer backup, property owners will most likely need to contact a plumber since the backup will occur on residential property.
- c. F.O.G. (Fats, Oils, Grease) – in the wastewater is a topic that the Board continues to address at every Board meeting. It is a major concern and the Board continues to urge sewer system users to be more and more aware of the problems associated with grease in sewer system. The Treatment Plant operators urge residents to scrape grease and food scraps from cooking surfaces into a container and put in the trash or compost them. Do not put grease, fats or oils of any type down the drain or garbage disposal. Do use baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids – and then empty them in the trash for disposal. Calls from residents who have had sewer backups continue to increase, and have been attributable, for the most part, to grease buildup and blockage.
- d. No Parking – The Board continues to alert residents that there is no parking on any of the Village streets, from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m., from November 1st to April 1st in order for the highway department to plow snow.
- e. Snow Plowing – despite the lack of snow this season, plowing of Village streets and sidewalks by the highway department has again been exemplary. The Board commended members of the department for their dedicated work, often in miserable

conditions, typically while the rest of the village sleeps. Their dedication to task is truly excellent.

- f. Creek Walk Project – continues to move ahead. Advertisement in the local paper as well as in selected journals began on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 and will continue for three weeks – until Wednesday, March 9, 2016. The bid opening will take place on March 9, 2016 at 2pm. After the bids are opened, B & L Engineering will review the bids and make recommendation to the Village Board. The construction bid for the Creekwalk will be awarded at a Special Meeting that will be held on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 10am. Construction of the Creekwalk Project is expected to start in April or May, depending on the weather.
- g. Budget – the Village Board has begun work on its 2016-2017 Budget. At first glance, it appears that things are still somewhat stagnant at the Village level. In January, Village residents received their County tax bill and that bill reflected, as it did last year, a tax reduction for Village residents, on average about \$10 for a residential home in the Village. The County, similar to last year, has been able to drop that tax because the County, having slashed by more than half, the sales tax revenue that used to go to the Village, was 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 and then passed onto Village property owners in the form of reduced County taxes. The County did not add VIP monies to the Villages this year, as it has in the past, and that money may have helped to offset an increase in Village taxes this year.
- h. Property Tax Cap – the Budget is also complicated by the property tax cap of 2%, another State mandate, and at the March Board meeting, the Board might have to vote to override the tax cap. Having learned from the experience of several towns, it is sometimes best to override, if only to protect the Village from penalty. Should the adopted budget vary from the actual budget, resulting in a tax hike of more than 2 percent, the Village would be responsible for a host of penalties for violating the Governor’s tax cap. The Governor also proposed a property tax freeze if the Village stayed under the tax cap and moved towards consolidation. Last year, the Village was able to stay under the cap, and residents received a rebate check in January. However, the Village might not be able to stay under the tax limit this year, despite having moved towards consolidation, particularly with the sewer project with the Town. There are too many variables in the Governor’s tax proposal, and the savings, according to NYCOM, would be minimal.
- i. Compost Project – the Village was previously reimbursed by the State for half of the cost of building the composting facility – approximately \$400,000. However the Village received only 91% of the grant monies and the Board will have to wait another year or two to receive the remaining 9%, or approximately \$38,000.
- k. Fiscal Stress – Last February, State Comptroller DiNapoli reported that the Village of Marcellus was “susceptible to fiscal stress.” In the response, it noted that much of the stress could 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 had to borrow and bond before being reimbursed. Since then, the Village was reimbursed for some of the debt it had assumed in order to pay for the consolidation of the village, town and school district sewer system, as well as reimbursement from the State for the composting of the sludge project at the WPCP. As the Board mentioned last year, the Board felt confident that when state reimbursement took place, the village books would look healthy, and the Village Treasurer confirmed that. The susceptibility to financial stress envisioned by the State Comptroller’s Office has been eliminated.
- m. Planning Board – the opening of the North Street Diner is anxiously anticipated for mid-April.
- n. Olde Home Days – June 3rd, 4th and 5th – the first meetings were held in January and February, and the third meeting will be held on March 3, 2016 in the Village Board Room at 7 p.m.

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 Tallman made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried. Mayor Curtin thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.