

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE BOARD
OF THE VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS HELD ON
DECEMBER 19, 2016 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

ABSENT: Patrick W. Cox, Trustee
Jeff Brown, Attorney

Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT
AGENDA:**

The Village Clerk submitted the minutes of the regular board meeting for the month of November 2016. The bills on Abstract Sheets #007 for General Fund in the amount of \$23,468.90, Sewer Fund in the amount of \$10,897.10, Capital Funds in the amount of \$39,715.25, were audited. The bills totaled \$74,081.25. The Board did not receive the Police Report for November 2016 from Police Chief Robert Wicks and tabled the report until the next board meeting. The Board received the Building Inspectors Report for the month of November 2016 from Building Inspector Bill Reagan. The Board acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Town Board meetings for November 2016. The financial statements as submitted by Village Treasurer Nino Provvidenti for November 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.

LAKESHORE DRUG

TESTING: Trustee Tallman made a motion to approve a contract with Lakeshore Employee Testing Services, to perform drug and alcohol testing for commercial drivers who are employed in the Village DPW Department at a cost of \$55.00 per employee and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the contract. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

LAKE COUNTRY VETERINARY

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

MARCELLUS VETERINARY

CONTRACT: Trustee Tallman made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement between the Village of Marcellus and Marcellus Veterinary Hospital whereby Marcellus Veterinary Hospital will establish a shelter to house dogs picked up by the Village Dog Control Officer, the contract to include the hospital fees for housing, vaccinating, and caring for stray dogs. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the contract. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT

PROGRAM: Trustee Tallman made a motion to continue the Village Infrastructure Improvement 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 the application by January 1, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the program. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

HEALTH INSURANCE

CONTRACTS: Trustee Tallman made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Health Insurance Contracts with Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The contracts provide health and dental benefits for Village employees. The Village will cover 90% of the cost of an employee's benefits and the employee will contribute 10% of the cost. The contracts and coverage will be effective January 1, 2017. Both of the plans, Platinum 2 and Gold 5, each reflect a

13% - 14% increase from last year's costs for the Village and the employee. Copies of the contracts are available for inspection at the Village Office. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the contracts. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INS.

OPT-OUT: Trustee Tallman made a motion approving a health insurance opt-out for full time Village employees who are covered under another health care program. The details of the opt-out program are on file in the Village Office. The program grants a buy-out incentive for an employee who chooses to opt-out, and also provides a financial benefit for the Village, whose annual premium on behalf of the employee is eliminated. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the Opt-Out. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

SEWER ADJUSTMENT

REQUEST: Trustee Tallman explained that the new owners of 30 Scotch Hill requested an adjustment to their most recent sewer bill. The bill was almost 10 times the average usage for the property. The cause of the excessive usage was due to a significant water leak that occurred prior to the new owners closing on the property in August 2016. The previous owner was unwilling to compensate the new owners for water used while still owning the property. Despite the issue being between the property owners, the Village Board was willing to extend some leniency in the matter. Trustee Tallman made a motion to grant the request of the current property owner for leniency, to reduce the amount of the bill by half of the consumption figure, and to authorize the Village Clerk to credit the current property owners the amount of \$208.80 to their sewer account. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the adjustment. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the motion carried.

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS FRANCHISE

AGREEMENT: Trustee Tallman made a motion to again table the Charter Communications Cable Franchise Agreement, because of the change in ownership from Time Warner Cable, and until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully the terms of a new agreement with Charter Communications. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on tabling the agreement. 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 and Sewer Funds. 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.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S

HOLIDAY: Trustee Tallman made a motion a motion to allow Village employees to close the Village Offices at noon on Friday, December 23, 2016 and at noon on Friday, December 30, 2016 so that the employees receive time off from work. Trustee Tallman emphasized that if DPW employees are called in to plow, they will be able to take another half-day off from work, at the discretion of the DPW Superintendent. These will not be considered as holidays. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the subject. 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 and asked residents to please note that the Village Offices will be closed on Monday, December 26th, and Monday, January 2nd for the Christmas and New Years Holiday. The Village will also be closed on January 16, 2017 to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Trustee Tallman also mentioned that there were several handouts – on Water, Grease in the Waste Waters and other items.

Updates by the Mayor:

Mayor Curtin provided updates on the following subjects:

- a. 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. The Board continues to provide a flyer that emphasizes the need to keep Fats, Oils and Grease out of the sanitary sewer system.
- b. Flush-able Wipes – are not flushable. This was revealed early in December at the Orange Street Pump Station when the alarm sounded, indicating that the pump station failed and was inoperable. No wastewater was lost from the system and the station was returned to service within three hours, thanks to the

treatment plant operators' quick response at 3 a.m. The pump failed due to feminine hygiene products and flush-able wipes, which DO NOT break down and will cause blockages. 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.

- c. Reminder – No Parking – November 1st to April 1st – As of November 1, no parking is allowed on any street in the Village of Marcellus from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m. in order for the Highway Department to plow snow. The no parking ban will remain in effect until April 1, 2017. If ticketed by Village Police, the fee will be \$35.00. The Board urged residents to use the Village parking lots for overnight parking situations.
- d. Snow Plowing – as in the past, the Board alerted 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 **CANNOT** 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. Last winter, some drivers claimed that they had no place to put the snow but that was 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. The Board asked 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.
- e. Composting – continues to move along and the Board thanked the operators as they prepare more compost for pickup in the spring.
- f. Increase in the sewer rates – unless the Village is able to secure additional funding to upgrade the treatment plant, the DEC will probably issue a consent order. This will most likely mean that the Village will have to go to court, and the likelihood that the court will order the upgrade. The upgrade of \$5.5 million can only come from sewer rate increases and the increase will be massive.
- g. Code Enforcement – many rental inspections this month
- h. Christmas Tree Lighting – on behalf of the Board, Mayor Curtin extended special thanks to all who were instrumental in conducting a very successful Tree Lighting on December 1, 2016, in particular the Village Clerk, Dawn O'Hara, and the DPW crew and Police Department.
- i. Prescription / Drug Drop-Off Box – Chief Wicks announced 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 the items. In the next few months, a drop-off box for needle and syringe disposal will also be set up.
- j. Warning – residents should be aware 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 the packages. Chief Wicks urged residents to be vigilant about this type of activity and notify the police of suspicious activity. The Marcellus Police have also been out recently asking questions relating to recent break-ins around the Marcellus Methodist Church/First Street area. Several cars were broken into last week on First Street, as well as Kelly Ave. The break-ins happened at 3:20am, but due to the vigilance of a resident who happened to be awake at the time, additional vandalism was averted. The Chief reminded everyone again to lock their houses and vehicles. The average time it takes for a thief to get inside a vehicle and get out is about 20 seconds. In less than a minute, items may be gone and residents don't realize that a break in has happened until they get into their vehicle and notice that items are missing. The activity has been going on in other nearby communities as well. Mayor Curtin asked residents to contact the police if they have suspicions or want to report a robbery. After 2 a.m., the Marcellus Police are not on duty and the only responder would be a single Sheriff's car, whose patrol extends from Onondaga Hill to Skaneateles.
- k. Health Care Costs – continue to rise, and both the Village and its employees will be required to pay, on average, an increase of about 13% for coverage, beginning in January 2017. However, coverage is not as good as in the past, particularly in the area of co-pays.
- l. Pension Costs – Pension Costs – for next year have been projected by the Village Treasurer to be within the allotted budget amounts, a decrease of approximately 10% from last year, and attributed to fewer police officer contributions by the Village and lower pension contribution rates.

- m. Christmas Trees – will be picked up by the Village DPW Department after the first of the year, most likely beginning on January 3, 2017. Residents should place trees in the Village right of way between the sidewalk and the street.
- n. Olde Home Days, 2017 – the first meeting of the 2017 OHD Committee will be held on Thursday, January 5, 2017 in the Village Hall, beginning at 7 p.m.
- o. Creekwalk Under Construction – 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 will be competitively bid in the winter of 2017.
- p. Merry Christmas – on behalf of the Village Board, Mayor Curtin extended a very Merry Christmas and wished all village residents the joy of family, the gift of friends and the best of everything for the New Year.

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 7:12 p.m.

Dawn M. O'Hara, Village Clerk