

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE BOARD  
OF THE VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS HELD ON  
DECEMBER 18, 2017 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Jeff Brown, Attorney

**CONSENT**

**AGENDA:** The Village Clerk submitted the minutes of the regular board meeting for the month of November 2017. The bills on Abstract Sheets #007 for General Fund in the amount of \$29,080.08, Sewer Fund in the amount of \$11,373.73, Capital Funds in the amount of \$19,266.80, were audited. The bills totaled \$59,720.61. The Board received the Police Report for November 2017 from Police Chief Robert Wicks. The Board received the Building Inspectors Report for the month of November 2017 from Building Inspector Bill Reagan. The Board acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Town Board meetings for November 2017. The financial statements as submitted by Village Treasurer Nino Provvidenti for November 2017 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.

**2018 VILLAGE ELECTION**

**RESOLUTION:** Trustee Tallman made a motion to adopt a resolution appointing Patricia White and Mary Finn as Inspectors of the Election, designating Patricia White as the Chairperson, fixing the compensation for each of the Inspectors of the Election Chairperson, at \$15.00 per hour, not to exceed \$150 per day, and appointing Joanne Perry, as an alternate Inspector. In addition, there is not a registration day for the Village of Marcellus (the Village opted out of registration day by resolution on January 25, 1993), applications for absentee ballots must be received by the Village Clerk at the village office, located at 6 Slocombe Avenue, Marcellus, NY, by March 19, 2018. The Village Election for the Village of Marcellus will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at the Village Hall, 6 Slocombe Avenue, Marcellus, NY, between the hours of 12 o'clock noon through 9 o'clock p.m., local time. The offices to be filled are for Mayor and Trustee. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the resolution. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**LAKESHORE DRUG**

**TESTING:** Trustee Cox 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 Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the contract. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**LAKE COUNTRY VETERINARY**

**CONTRACT:** Trustee Tallman made a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement between the Village of Marcellus and Marcellus Veterinary Hospital whereby Lake County Veterinary 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 Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the contract. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**MARCELLUS VETERINARY**

**CONTRACT:** Trustee Cox made a motion authorizing 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 Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the contract. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All 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, 2018. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the program. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

## **HEALTH INSURANCE**

**CONTRACTS:** Trustee Cox made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Health Insurance Contract with Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The contract provides health and dental benefits for Village employees. Two plans were offered and employees selecting to be covered by the Village plan, chose the less expensive Gold 5 Plan. The Village covers 90% of the cost of an employee's benefits and the employee contributes 10% of the cost. The contract and coverage will be effective January 1, 2018. Only one plan, Gold 5, reflect an 8.5% increase from last year's costs for both the Village and the employee. Copies of the contract are available at the Village Office. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the contract. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All 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, or 90% of the premium, is eliminated. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the Opt-Out. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

## **ELIMINATION OF P/T STATUS**

**RIEFLER:** Trustee Cox made a motion to eliminate the part-time status of Ryan Riefler as an employee of the Water Pollution Control Plant. In August, Ryan resigned from his full-time position as an operator and offered to stay on as a part-time employee to assist in completing projects and while a replacement was being trained. Trustee Cox explained that the part-time status was no longer necessary. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on eliminating the part-time status. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

## **SPECTRUM CABLE FRANCHISE**

**AGREEMENT:** Attorney Brown informed the Board that he would again try to contact representatives from Spectrum in an attempt to finalize the franchise agreement. Trustee Tallman made a motion to table the Spectrum Franchise Agreement until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully the terms of a new agreement with Spectrum. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on tabling the agreement. 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.

## **CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S**

**HOLIDAY:** Trustee Tallman made a motion to allow Village employees to close the Village Offices at noon on Friday, December 22, 2017 and at noon on Friday, December 29, 2017 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 Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the subject. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

## **ANNOUNCE**

### **VILLAGE**

### **MEETINGS:**

Trustee Cox 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 25<sup>th</sup>, and Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> for the Christmas and New Years Holiday. Because both of the holidays fall on a Monday, Trustee Cox informed the public that there would be a one-day delay in garbage pickup those two weeks. The Village will also be closed on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Trustee Cox also mentioned that there were handouts – on Water, Grease in the Waste Waters and a few other topics.

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> – 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, 2018. 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. WWTP Bids – Mayor Curtin expressed that he bids received on December 5, 2017 for the WWTP Phosphorus Removal and Upgrade Project were disappointing, particularly for the General Contract. It may be attributed to the fact that only two bids were received and that a major project in Oneida County most likely took attention away from the smaller by comparison undertaking at the plant. The Board anticipates a probable recommendation by Village Engineers to reject the bids and rebid the General Contract during the winter – particularly if no additional funding is received from the State.
- g. Increase in the sewer rates – The Village is optimistic that the additional funding from WQIP Round 14 will help meet the DEC mandate to upgrade the treatment plant. Mayor Curtin explained that the upgrade of over \$5.5 million will also need to come from sewer rate increases but the Board is hopeful that the increases that are already in place will be sufficient to meet the expenses. Along with the disappointing bids, it is likely that if no additional funding is received, the Board will have to delay the project until the next funding cycle.
- h. Code Enforcement and Planning Board – many rental inspections this month, along with a public hearing scheduled for December 20, 2017, for Site Plan Review of a new proposed parking lot and dumpsters at 34 North Street, and the reconvening of a public hearing from June 2017 for a barbeque pit business behind 14 E. Main Street.
- i. Christmas Tree Lighting – on behalf of the Board, Mayor Curtin extended special thanks to all who were instrumental in conducting a successful Tree Lighting on November 30, 2017, in particular the Village Clerk, Dawn O'Hara, and the DPW crew and Police Department, along with all of the volunteer organizations that were involved in the tree lighting.
- j. Prescription / Drug Drop-Off Box – Chief Wicks announced that the prescription/drug drop-off box, similar to a mailbox, located in the lobby of the Village Hall has been very successful and is available for use by anyone who would like to dispose of any prescription or other drugs anonymously. The County Health Department stops by monthly to pick up and properly dispose of the items. Chief Wicks hopes to add a drop-off box for needle and syringe disposal in the future.
- k. Police 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.

- l. Health Care Costs – continue to rise, and both the Village and its employees will be required to pay, on average, an increase of about 8.5% for health and about 4% for dental coverage, beginning in January 2018. However, coverage is not as good as in the past, particularly in the area of co-pays.
- m. Pension Costs – for next year have been projected by the Village Treasurer to be within the allotted budget amounts, a decrease of approximately 3% from last year, attributed to lower pension contribution rates.
- n. Christmas Trees – will be picked up by the Village DPW Department after the first of the year, beginning on January 2, 2018. Residents should place trees in the Village right of way between the sidewalk and the street.
- o. Olde Home Days, 2018 – the first meeting of the 2018 OHD Committee will be held on Thursday, January 4, 2018 in the Village Hall, beginning at 6:30pm.
- p. ZEV Grant – Mayor Curtin announced that the Village had been reimbursed \$16,000 by the NYSDEC for the Zero Emissions Vehicle Rebate Program. The grant allowed the Village to install and Electric Vehicle charging station in the Village parking lot, as well as, added lighting, cameras, and asphalt paving to the site. Since the grant was a 20% match, the Village accomplished \$20,000 worth of work for a \$4,000 investment. The Board again congratulated former employee, Ryan Riefler for his continued efforts on behalf of the Village and village residents.
- q. Clean Energy Community – As was mentioned at previous board meetings, the Village of Marcellus was designated a Clean Energy Community by the New York State Energy Research and Develop Authority (NYSERDA), A \$100,000 grant has been reserved for the Village of Marcellus to implement clean energy projects. The project includes retrofitting existing Village historic lights on Main, North and South Streets, as well as coach lights on Kinderwood Drive to direct wire LED type fixtures. Other LED lighting retrofits have already occurred in the Village Hall, Village Garage and at the Water Pollution Control Plant. The Board also intends to add six (6) new historic lampposts with LED type fixtures to a few village streets – two (2) on Bradley Street, two (2) on Chrisler Street, and two (2) on Paul Street. The application was finalized in early November, which was the first step in securing the funding. It will take 3 – 4 months for the application to be approved.
- r. Creekwalk – is in final stages of completion – primarily paperwork is left, and reimbursement from the State. The trail is not opened, and is not plowed, during the winter season. For updates, photos, or to view a video of Fred's Trail, go to <http://villageofmarcellus.com/creekwalk-news.html>.
- s. 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 Trustee Cox. 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 7:16 p.m.

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Dawn M. O'Hara, Village Clerk