

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS HELD ON  
DECEMBER 18, 2023 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** John J. Murphy, Mayor See List  
Timothy P. Manahan, Trustee  
James P. Curtin, Trustee  
Jeff Brown, Attorney  
Charnley A. Abbott, Village Clerk

**ABSENT:** None

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Murphy opened the regular meeting at 7:00pm.

**CONSENT**

**AGENDA:** The Village Clerk submitted the minutes of the regular Board meeting for the month of November 2023. The bills on Abstract Sheet #007 for General Fund in the amount of \$29,769.53, Water Fund in the amount of \$0.00, Sewer Fund in the amount of \$20,591.25, Capital Funds in the amount of \$0.00, and Trust & Agency in the amounts of \$59,678.25 were audited. The bills totaled \$110,039.03. The Board received the Police Report for the month of November 2023 from Police Chief Bernie Podsiedlik. The Building Inspectors report for the month of November 2023 was received by the Board from Code Official Paul Stacey. The Board acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Town Board meetings for November 2023 and the financial statements as submitted by Village Treasurer Nino Provvidenti for November 2023. Trustee Manahan made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Curtin. Mayor Murphy asked if there was any discussion on the consent agenda. Hearing none, Mayor Murphy called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**MARCELLUS VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

**CONTRACT:** Trustee Curtin made a motion to approve the 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, said contract to include the hospital fees for housing, vaccinating, and caring for stray dogs. The motion was seconded by Trustee Manahan. Mayor Murphy asked if there was any discussion on the matter. Hearing none, Mayor Murphy called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT**

**PLAN:** Trustee Manahan made a motion to continue the Village Infrastructure 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 such application. The motion was seconded by Trustee Curtin. Mayor Murphy asked if there was any discussion on the matter. Hearing none, Mayor Murphy called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**PLANNING BOARD**

**APPOINTMENTS:** Mayor Murphy stated that the Board had received a letter of resignation from Jill Bristol, effective November 20, 2023. Ms. Bristol recently moved out of the Village, therefore vacating her seat on the Planning Board. The Board of Trustees would like to thank Jill for her service and wish her well in the new residence. Mayor Murphy made a motion, seconded by Trustee Manahan, to appoint Patricia White to complete the unexpired term of Jill Bristol, until March 31, 2028. Mayor Murphy asked if there was any discussion on the matter. Hearing none, Mayor Murphy called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**ELECTION**

**RESOLUTION:** Trustee Curtin made a motion to approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, New York Election Law §15-104(1)(a) provides that the general village election shall be held on the third Tuesday in March, and;

**WHEREAS**, the offices to be filled at the village election and the term thereof is as follows:

Mayor	Two (2) years
Trustee	Four (4) years

**WHEREAS**, New York Election Law §15-104(3)(b) provides that the Board of Trustees of a village shall, at least sixty days before any village election, adopt a resolution which shall state the polling place in each election district and the hours during which the polls shall be open, which shall include at least the hours from noon to nine o'clock in the evening, and;

**WHEREAS**, New York Election Law §15-110(1) provides that the village shall constitute a single election district for village elections, and;

**WHEREAS**, New York Election Law §15-118(1) provides that a village which has adopted a resolution providing that there shall not be any registration day for village elections pursuant to subdivision three of this section, only those persons registered to vote

with the board of elections shall be eligible to vote in the 2024 general election in the Village of Marcellus;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus, as follows:

1. That the general election for the Village of Marcellus shall be held at the Village Hall, 6 Slocombe Ave, Marcellus, NY 13108, and;
2. That the election will take place on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, and;
3. That the polls will open at 12 o'clock noon and close at 9:00 pm, and;
4. That there is no registration day for the Village of Marcellus as the Village opted out of registration day by resolution on January 25, 1993, and;
5. That applications for absentee ballots to be mailed to qualified voters must be received by the Village Clerk at the Village Office located at 6 Slocombe Avenue, Marcellus, New York, by March 12, 2024, and;
6. That applications for early mail ballots to be mailed to qualified voters must be received by the Village Clerk at the Village Office located at 6 Slocombe Avenue, Marcellus, New York, by March 12, 2024, and;
7. That personal applications for absentee ballots must be received by the Village Clerk at the Village Office located at 6 Slocombe Avenue, Marcellus, New York, by March 18, 2024, and;
8. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Manahan. Mayor Murphy asked if there was any discussion on the matter. Hearing none, Mayor Murphy called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

#### **FLOWER LANE S&D**

**CONTRACT:** Trustee Manahan stated that the Village was recently awarded a CREST grant in the amount of \$180,000 from the State for the reconstruction of Flower Lane, to include road and drainage improvements. Trustee Manahan made a motion to approve the proposal from MRB for the survey and design phase in the amount of \$59,300. The motion was seconded by Trustee Curtin. Mayor Murphy asked if there was any discussion on the consent agenda. Hearing none, Mayor Murphy called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

#### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

**CONTRACTS:** Trustee Curtin stated that all employees have elected to stay with their existing plans, those offered by Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The cost for all Excellus plans offered has risen this year. Overall, the cost to the Village has increased about 11.5% for major medical and 3% for dental beginning January 2024. Trustee Curtin made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Health Insurance Contracts with Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield for 2024. The Village will cover 90% of the cost of a full-time employee's benefits, while the employee will pay 10% of said cost. Part time employees with 30 years of continuous service will pay 25% of said cost. Copies of the new contracts and coverage are available for inspection in the Village Office. The motion was seconded by Trustee Manahan. Mayor Murphy asked if there was any discussion on the matter. Hearing none, Mayor Murphy called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

#### **UPDATE**

**SCHEDULE-D:** Trustee Manahan made a motion to approve and updated Schedule D, Health, and Dental Benefits for employees of the Village of Marcellus. The actual costs for health and dental coverage will be outlined on Schedule D and will be available for public inspection in the Village Office when this plan goes into effect on January 1, 2024. The motion was seconded by Trustee Curtin. Mayor Murphy asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Murphy called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

#### **EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE**

**OPT-OUT:** Trustee Curtin made a motion to approve a health insurance opt-out for full time Village employees who are covered under another health care program. This opt-out, the details of which are on file in the Village Office, would grant a buy-out incentive for the employee who chooses to opt-out, and would also provide a financial benefit for the Village, whose annual premium on behalf of the employee, would be eliminated. The motion was seconded by Trustee Manahan. Mayor Murphy asked if there was any discussion on the matter. Hearing none, Mayor Murphy called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

#### **BUDGET**

**MODS:** Trustee Manahan made a motion to approve budget modifications requested by Treasurer Providenti transferring revenues and appropriations in the General Fund. The motion was seconded by Trustee Curtin. Mayor Murphy asked if there was any discussion on the matter. Hearing none, Mayor Murphy called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

#### **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S**

**HOLIDAYS:** Trustee Curtin made a motion to allow Village Employees to close the Village Offices at Noon on Friday, December 22, 2023 and at Noon on Friday, December 29, 2023 for the Christmas and New Year's Holiday. If the DPW Employees are called in to plow, they will be able to take off 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 Manahan. Mayor Murphy asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Murphy called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

#### **JANUARY 2024 VILLAGE**

**MEETINGS:** Trustee Manahan announced the list of those meetings scheduled for the remainder of December and for January 2024, which is provided for those so interested – please note also 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 Year’s Holidays. Because these holidays fall on a Monday, trash collection **WILL BE DELAYED** each of those weeks. The Village will also be closed on January 15, 2024 to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:** Trustee Curtin stated that costs in the transportation and treatment of sewage as well as the operation and maintenance of the Village Sewer System continue to rise. The Village is very pro-active at looking at ways to save money at the WPCP, however, the escalation in costs have left the Board with no choice but to raise the rates for users. The DPW is working with the Village Treasurer and the Board of Trustees to determine the new rates and will hold a public hearing on the matter in the coming months.

Mayor Murphy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Curtin. Mayor Murphy called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

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Charnley A. Abbott, Village Clerk