

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE BOARD  
OF THE VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS HELD ON  
MARCH 26, 2018 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

**ABSENT:** None

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Curtin asked for a motion to open the regular board meeting at 7:04pm, after a public hearing was held on Local Law #2 of 2018. Trustee Cox made the motion, seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**ADOPT LL#2 OF 2018:**

Trustee Tallman made a motion to adopt Local Law #2 of 2018, authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law Section 3-c. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on adopting Local Law #2 of 2018. 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 2017. The bills on Abstract Sheets #011 for General Fund in the amount of \$16,552.45, Water Fund in the amount of \$2,130.64, Sewer Fund in the amount of \$64,545.72, and Capital Funds in the amount of \$5,040.00 were audited. The bills totaled \$88,268.81. The Board received the Police Report for the months of February 2018 from Police Chief Robert Wicks. The Board also received the Building Inspectors Report for the month of February 2018 from Building Inspector Bill Reagan. The Board acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Town Board meetings for February 2018. The financial statements as submitted by Village Treasurer Nino Provvidenti for February 2018 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.

**SPRING BRUSH**

**DATES:** Trustee Tallman announced that the Village Board and the DPW are going to continue the policy from last year for 2018 Brush Pickup. Trustee Tallman made a motion to allow brush to be placed at the curb on Saturdays and Sundays for pickup on Mondays from April 2<sup>nd</sup> to May 7<sup>th</sup>. In addition, during the months of June, July and August brush may be placed at the curb on Saturdays and Sundays for pickup on the first Monday of each month during those summer months. Mayor Curtin also provided the public with information on the upcoming Town Transfer Days, including Electronics Waste Disposal, which will require a special permit. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cox. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on approving the dates. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**ONONDAGA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

**GML239:** Trustee Cox made a motion to approve the proposed action on the GML 239 Report of Final Action with regard to the Onondaga County Planning Board's "No Position With Comment" for both the Local Law #1 of 2018 and for the zone change for parcel 001.-01-01.1. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the GML 239 Report of Final Action. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**ANNUAL STORMWATER**

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

**CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS FRANCHISE**

**AGREEMENT:** Trustee Cox made a motion to again table the Charter Communications Cable Franchise Agreement until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully the terms of a new agreement with Charter Communications. Attorney Brown advised the Board in January 2018 that it may be best for the Village to continue to operate under the existing franchise agreement, which is "grandfathered" in. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tallman. 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 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 Trustee Cox. 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 Cox announced that the Annual Meeting will take place on April 2, 2018 and will include the appointment of non-elected officials, establish regular meeting dates, and designate official newspapers and depositories. In addition, a Public Hearing will take place on April 2, 2018 to consider the tentative budget for the Village for the next fiscal year. Approval of the final budget will take place at the next regular Board meeting, on April 23, 2018.

### **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 Office will be closed on Good Friday, March 30 and on Memorial Day, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Also, Olde Home Days 2018 is scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Committee will continue to meet on the first Thursday of every month, in the Village Board Room. The next meeting is planned for April 5, 2018 at 6:30pm.

### **FEE WAIVER**

**REQUEST:** Trustee Cox mentioned that the Marcellus American Legion had requested a fee waiver for a bathroom renovation in their building at 13 East Main Street to make the bathroom handicap accessible. As with other non-profit groups in the village, and taking into account that local contractors are donating their time and materials, the Board was in favor of waiving the fee for the building permit. Trustee Cox made a motion to waive the fee, seconded by Trustee Tallman. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the waiver. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

### **Updates by the Mayor:**

Mayor Curtin provided updates on the following subjects:

- a. Police and School Safety – Mayor Curtin and the Board called attention to the issue of school safety. Chief Wicks recently met with the MCS Superintendent during a Channel 9 television broadcast. The video highlights how well prepared Marcellus School Resource Officers are to handle threats against the school, and in the Board's opinion, better than any other school district in the state. The model prepared by Chief Wicks could be used in other school districts and Chief Wicks has recently visited other school districts, as well as State and local officials, hoping to encourage some changes that would make the program even more effective. A video of the television broadcast is on the village website – <http://www.villageofmarcellus.com/recent-news.html>.
- b. 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 1<sup>st</sup>.
- c. Sign Placement – soon the Highway Department will re-install 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 the crosswalk – a New York State law. Hopefully, 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 the crosswalks.
- d. Flag Replacement – the American flags which line several of the main streets in the Village will soon be in place. Mayor Curtin thanked the American Legion for its efforts in helping to keep the flags in good condition, which is an excellent example of the commitment of the American Legion to the Village and village residents.
- e. Village Earth Day Participation – the Board announced that the Village will again participate in an Earth Day clean up on Thursday, April 19, 2018, with a rain date of Friday, April 20. Third grade students from Heffernan Elementary School will participate in the event. The Board also welcomed individuals or groups to join in to help clean the Village of any litter lying along the roadside and village rights of way. The Board will meet in front of the Village Hall to distribute bags and gloves. Any residents interested in participating, as a group or an individual can 1:30 p.m. and contact the Village Clerk at 673-3112 for more information.
- f. Utility Bills – the utility bill that residents receive this month is the last bill for the Village fiscal year. Residents should be aware that bills not paid by April 30, 2018 will be re-levied to the tax bill for June 1, 2018. Likewise, for tenants who pay their

own bills, payments not made by April 30, 2018, will also be re-levied onto the property owner's tax bill for June 1, 2018. Unlike previous utility bills, payment for this final bill for the fiscal year must be made within the month.

- g. Creek Walk Project – Fred's Trail will reopen for the public when the snow is melted. It appears that the winter did not cause too much damage to the trail. There were some people who braved the elements to walk the trail during the winter months, although it was not officially open.
- h. Budget – the Village Board is working to finalize the 2018-19 Village Budget in preparation for the upcoming Tentative Budget Hearing. In January, Village residents received their County and Town tax bill. The bill reflected a slight tax reduction for Village residents. Similar to last seven years, the 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. The County 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 Village budget remains far short of what the Board needs to provide adequate services to village residents but the Board does not anticipate a tax increase this year. The Board hopes to propose a village tax amount of \$6.85/1000 of assessed value, which is the same as last year, and which falls within the Governor's mandated tax cap proposal.
- i. Property Tax Cap – as was mentioned, the Village Budget is complicated by the property tax cap of 2%, another State mandate and at the Board's recent workshop meeting, the Board decided to override the tax cap. The Board favors a tax cap, and has proposed to stay below the cap, but a tax freeze is not possible. There is no meaningful relief from the continuous unfunded State mandates and this, coupled with a cap on the Board's ability to raise revenue, makes it very difficult to plan or even survive.
- j. 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. The Board also referenced an Internet video that explains the problems associated with flushable wipes which is posted on the Village website. There is also additional information on the Village website that is invaluable to residents and will help residents understand the importance of putting items in the trash, and not into the sewer.
- k. Homeowner Responsibility for Sewers – property owners should understand that it is their responsibility to maintain the sewer laterals that extend from their homes to the sewer main – typically located in the middle of the road. Sewer laterals are entirely owned by the private property owner, who is responsible for the entire length of the lateral, to the sewer main. The Village assumes responsibility at the sewer main.
- l. New Business in Village – Grand Opening on April 7, 2018. A new business will open in the village at 20 W. Main Street. Marcellus Mercantile specializes in vintage finds, time-worn treasures, and well-loved décor. Marcellus Mercantile offers items that will give your home a whimsical one-of-a-kind look that a chain store cannot provide. An eclectic mix of authentic vintage finds from a wide variety of time frames and styles are available. Tell them what you like and let them hunt it down for you. By appointment only – call or text. Kim 315-430-4865, Melissa 315-439-4197, or Sue 315-416-9256.
- m. Olde Home Days 2018 – is planned for June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, in the Village and Marcellus Park. This year Village Health and Dental Professionals will be honored. On behalf of the Village Board, Mayor Curtin congratulated Dr. Andrew Merritt and Dr. Edward Kantor, who will be the grand marshals of the Olde Home Days Parade on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Board also encouraged the public to support the many festivities being planned for that weekend.
- n. Clean Energy Community – Having been designated as a "Clean Energy Community", the Village of Marcellus has been awarded a \$100,000 grant to implement clean energy projects and will include a retrofitting of existing Village historic lights, along with the coach lights on Kinderwood Drive to direct wire LED type fixtures. The Village is pleased with the award a very grateful to Ryan Riefler, who helped secure the grant.
- o. Election Results/Proclamation-Trustee Cox – Mayor Curtin, along with Kevin O'Hara, thanked the voters of the Village for their election as Mayor and Trustee, both four-year terms, on March 18, 2108. Mayor Curtin expressed that the Board hopes to maintain the Village infrastructure, stabilize the tax rate and the village debt. The anticipation of raising sewer rates due to the mandated upgrades of the Water Pollution Control Plant will be challenging. The Board also expects to address severe drainage issues in the village. Mayor Curtin also thanked outgoing Trustee Patrick Cox, who did not run for re-election, for his eight years of service to the Village. His advice and dedication was exceptional during his tenure on the Board. Mayor Curtin expressed his desire for Trustee Cox to return to the Village Board after he is retired from active military service. Trustee Tallman offered a

Proclamation, which Mayor Curtin presented to Trustee Cox, in appreciation of his valuable leadership and in grateful acknowledgment of his time, talent and service.

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 7:20 p.m.

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Dawn M. O'Hara, Village Clerk