

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE BOARD  
OF THE VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS HELD ON  
MARCH 27, 2023 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Timothy P. Manahan, Trustee

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Curtin made a motion to open the regular meeting following the public hearings held regarding Local Laws #2 and #3 of 2023. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and the meeting was opened at 7:04pm.

**ADOPT LL#2  
OF 2023:**

Trustee Murphy made a motion to adopt Local Law #2 of 2023 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law Section 3-c. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the matter. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Mayor Curtin and Trustee Murphy voted aye and the motion carried.

**ADOPT LL #3  
OF 2023:**

Mayor Curtin made a motion to adopt Local Law #3 of 2023, a moratorium prohibiting exterior changes to commercial buildings in the Village Center zone without first appearing before the Planning Board, conditional upon approval by the Onondaga County Planning Board. The moratorium will remain in effect until the design guidelines have been updated and approved by the Village Board. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the matter. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Mayor Curtin and Trustee Murphy voted aye and the motion carried.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA:**

The Village Clerk submitted the minutes of the regular board meeting for the month of February 2023. The bills on Abstract Sheets #010 for General Fund in the amount of \$26,813.02, Water Fund in the amount of \$8,315.33, Sewer Fund in the amount of \$94,996.09, Capital Funds in the amount of \$0.00 and Trust and Agency Funds in the amount of \$0.00 were audited. The bills totaled \$130,124.44. The Board received the Police Report for the month of February 2023. The Board received the Building Inspectors Report for the month of February 2023 from Code Official Bill Reagan. The Board received the minutes of the Town Board meetings for February 2023. The financial statements as submitted by Village Treasurer Nino Provvidenti for February 2023 were given to the Board for their review. Mayor Curtin made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion on the consent agenda. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All present board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**SPRING BRUSH DATES AND**

**TRASH DAYS:** Trustee Murphy announced that the Village Board and DPW are going to continue the policy from last year for the 2023 Brush Pickup. Trustee Murphy made a motion to allow brush to be placed at the curb on Saturdays and Sundays for pickup on Mondays from April 3 to May 8. Also, during the summer months (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. In addition, the Town of Marcellus announced that the Town has scheduled the 2023 dates for the Trash Transfer Stations as follows: Fridays, April 28, May 5, and May 12, from 8 a.m. to Noon and Saturdays, April 29, May 6, and May 13, from 8 a.m. to Noon. Permits are required and issued through the Town of Marcellus Clerk's Office. The Town Board agreed to also have a shred day during the Spring Trash Days on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The cost to the Town is \$675 for four (4) hours and the Village will share in that cost. There will be no cost to the residents for the shredding, but there is a limit of five boxes per car. There will also be an E-waste collection held in conjunction with the trash days this year and that will require a special fee. The cost will be \$40 for televisions and monitors over 27", \$20 for televisions and monitors less than 27" and a \$5 fee per load for all other electronics. This year there will be a charge for flat screen televisions. Some items are not accepted including garbage, OCRRA recyclables, liquids or hazardous waste including paint, oil tanks, fuel tanks, motor vehicles, and contractor debris (home projects only), All items must be secured and covered when transporting to the Town Transfer Station. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All present board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**EV**

**CONNECT:** Trustee Murphy made a motion to announce that the Mayor has been authorized to sign a contract with EV Connect, the service provider for the electric vehicle charging station installed in the Village in 2017 as part of a NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities grant, for a period of 4 years, April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2025. EV Connect provides network management

software that includes pricing and rate management, technical support, and station performance data. For the first four years, 2017-2021, 88% of the revenue generated from electric use by ZEV (zero emission vehicle) drivers was allocated to the Village and 9% was allocated to NYSERDA. Under the new agreement, the Village will receive 97% of the revenue moving forward, at a cost of \$398.00 per year (\$199 per port x 2 ports). Based on usage and net revenue data compiled since the 2017 installation of the charging station, the Village has seen a substantial increase in usage due to the increasing popularity of ZEVs over the last 2 years and will continue to provide this valuable service to our community. The total cost to the Village for the 4-year contract will be \$1592.00, and the Board anticipates the revenue generated to outweigh that cost. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All present board members voted aye and the motion carried.

#### **LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD SEWER ASSISTANCE**

**PROGRAM:** Mayor Curtin made a motion to announce that the Village Treasurer has been authorized to register the Village as a LIHSAP vendor, which will help low-income households pay the cost of sewer services. Those so interested should go to OTDA's LIHWAP webpage (<https://otda.ny.gov>) to learn more and apply online. A similar service is also provided by OCWA to help households pay for the cost of water service. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All present board members voted aye and the motion carried

#### **ANNUAL STORMWATER**

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

#### **BUDGET**

**MODS:** Mayor Curtin 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 Murphy. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All present board members voted aye and the motion carried.

#### **ANNOUNCE ANNUAL MTG. & TENTATIVE BUDGET**

**HEARING:** Trustee Murphy announced that the Annual Meeting will take place on April 3, 2023 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 3, 2023 to consider the tentative budget for the Village for the next fiscal year. Approval of the final budget is anticipated to take place at the next regular Board meeting, on April 26, 2023.

#### **ANNOUNCE VILLAGE**

**MEETINGS:** Mayor Curtin announced that a list of those meetings scheduled for April 2023, is provided for those so interested. Please note also that the Workshop Agenda Meeting will take place on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> and the Annual Meeting will take place on Monday, April 3, 2023, in the Board Room, beginning at 7 p.m. The next Regular Board meeting will take place on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, at which time the Board will adopt the 2023-2024 Budget and set the Tax Rate. In addition, the Village Office will be closed on Good Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Village-wide Earth Day Cleanup will take place on Friday, April 21. Don't forget to check the Spring Brush Pick-up Dates and the Spring Trash Days. The latter includes a Community Shred Day and an Electronics Waste Day as well.

#### **UPDATES BY THE**

**MAYOR:** The following updates are available on our website, [www.villageofmarcellus.com](http://www.villageofmarcellus.com)

- a. Comp Alliance – will conduct the annual safety and health training, virtually, for all Village employees, during the month of April.
- 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 Fool's Day, April 1<sup>st</sup> - no fooling!
- 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. It is hoped that 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 these crosswalks.
- d. Flag Replacement – the American flags that line several of our streets in the Village will soon be in place. We thank the American Legion for its continuing efforts in helping to keep these flags in good condition – an

excellent example of how committed the Legion is to our Village and its residents. Thank you.

- e. Village Earth Day Participation – the Board would also like to announce that the Village will again participate in an Earth Day clean up on Thursday, April 20, 2023, with a rain day of Friday, April 21, 2023. We hope that students from Heffernan Elementary School will help to participate in this event and we welcome any individuals or groups to join us in helping clean the Village of any litter lying along the roadside and village rights of way. We will meet in front of the Village Hall to distribute bags and gloves. If you are interested in participating, as a group or an individual, please show up about 1:30 p.m. and contact the Village Clerk at 315-673-3112 for more information.
- f. Utility Bills – the utility bill that residents receive this month is the last bill for our fiscal year. Residents should note that if not paid by April 30, 2023, the bill will be re-levied to the tax bill for June 1, 2023. If those bills for tenants who pay their own utilities are not paid by April 30, 2023, these too will be re-levied onto the owner's taxes for June 1, 2023. Please note that, unlike previous utility bills, payment for this final bill for the year must be made within the month.
- g. Creek Walk – At first glance, it appears that the winter weather has not caused much damage to Fred's Trail. There were some hardy people who braved the elements to walk the trail this winter, although it was not officially open. We welcome the spring as well as those who will take advantage of this gem in our community.
- h. Budget – the Village Board is working to finalize the 2023-24 Village Budget in preparation for the Annual Meeting. Last year, because the Town of Marcellus performed a reassessment of all properties in the Town, including all Village of Marcellus properties, resulting in an overall 20% increase in the Taxable Value of all Village tax parcels, the Board lowered the tax rate from \$6.85 per \$1,000, down to a tax rate of \$5.82 per \$1,000, and was still able generate at least the same amount of Property Tax Revenue as before. This year, because of major additional expenditures, the Village Board has no choice but to raise its Village tax rate, from the current rate of \$5.82 per \$1,000 up to \$5.89 per \$1,000 (an increase of 1.2%). This represents the first increase in the Village tax rate since 2017 and does not appear to exceed the NYS Tax Cap Limit. The news about the financial assistance received by the Village from NYS and from Onondaga County is somewhat mixed. The NYS Governor's Executive Budget for the coming fiscal year maintains AIM funding for cities, villages and towns is at the current year level of \$715 million, and preserves the Village's allocation of State Transportation Aid at current year levels. The good news is that the Village Infrastructure Improvement Program (VIIP) agreement between Onondaga County and the Village has been extended for another ten years and includes multiple increases in the amount of financial assistance to the Village over the next ten years.
- i. Compost is available at the Village of Marcellus Wastewater Treatment Plant! The Village of Marcellus Compost is produced from wastewater biosolids, through the controlled biological process of composting. At the WWTP, natural decomposition is accelerated enabling us to produce a high-quality product. By controlling the composting process, biosolids are sanitized through the generation of heat, then stabilized to allow for versatility of end use. Through this process, valuable organics generated from the Village WWTP are naturally recycled into a product which is beneficial to plants and the environment. We are able to transform waste into a beneficial product and continue to divert material from landfills. Our compost is safe, and quality tested. The compost has been treated by a process to further reduce pathogens. This process is defined by the EPA & DEC. The Village has analyzed the compost in accordance with the requirement of the EPA & DEC. Compost is hygienically and environmentally safe if it is used properly. Village residents can use the compost on new or established lawns, flower boxes & house plants, flower gardens, and vegetable gardens. All Village residents can bring a container(s) to the WWTP at 6 Mille High Drive weekdays 8am-3pm. First come first serve. If you would like confirmation of availability, please leave a message at 315-673-4491.
- j. No Increase in Sewer Rates – the proposed Sewer Fund budget will be the fifth full budget year that sewer rates have not increased. The minimum quarterly sewer rate per unit per 1000 gallons remains at \$100 for Village sewer users. This has meant a minimum quarterly sewer rate, for Village sewer users, of \$100.00 and a minimum annual cost of \$400 and an average annual cost of \$558.35. Keep in mind that this is an average estimate since sewer rates are based on water usage in the Village and that fluctuates. The annual cost for outside users (Town and School District) is anticipated to be

\$697.84, given that outside users pay an additional 25% over that of the average Village sewer user – a difference of about \$140.00 per year. In order to prepare our Treatment Plant for operation well into the 21st century, these sewer rates, while seemingly hefty, are unavoidable, and the rate is significantly higher in other municipalities, particularly those that offer a la carte services to outside users.

- k. Property Tax Cap – as was mentioned, our Budget is complicated by the property tax cap of 2%, which is another State mandate and at our recent workshop meeting, the Board decided to override the tax cap. We might note that there seems to be no meaningful relief from continuous unfunded State mandates and these mandates, coupled with a cap on the Board’s ability to raise revenue, it is sometimes difficult to plan or even survive.
- l. Flushable Wipes Are NOT Flushable!!! – we continue 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 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. We also reference an Internet video that explains the problems associated with flushable wipes. Please view the following: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLTVqkXVvNk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLTVqkXVvNk) which is also posted on the Village website. We also urge residents to review the “Trash NOT Sewer” flyer that accompanied a previous newsletter. The information is invaluable and will help residents understand the importance of putting items in the trash, and not into the sewer.
- m. Homeowner Responsibility for Sewers – property owners should be aware that they are required 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. At the sewer main, the Village assumes responsibility.
- n. New Business in the Village – an ice cream-deli shop is expected to open soon at #2 East Main, as well as a take-out restaurant called Holy Cow, located at #3-5 North Street. We welcome new businesses to the Village and encourage our residents to patronize them. We also lament the loss of other businesses in the Village Center, and we are hopeful other businesses will fill the void soon.
- o. Olde Home Days, 2023 (June 2, June 3 and 4) – the fourth meeting of the 2023 OHD Rotary will be held on Monday, April 10, 2023 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Please support Marcellus Olde Home Days. A fun filled weekend is being planned.

**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 Murphy made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All present board members voted aye and the motion carried.

The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

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Charnley A. Abbott, Village Clerk