

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS HELD ON
OCTOBER 26, 2020 AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

ABSENT: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Curtin asked for a motion to open the regular meeting at 7:00pm. Trustee Murphy made the motion, seconded by Trustee Manahan. Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the meeting was opened.

CONSENT

AGENDA: The Village Clerk submitted the minutes of the regular board meeting for the month of September 2020. The bills on Abstract Sheets #005 for General Fund in the amount of \$13,569.68, Water Fund in the amount of \$0.00, Sewer Fund in the amount of \$15,088.97, Capital Funds in the amount of \$200.00, and Trust & Agency in the amounts of \$1,327.46 were audited. The bills totaled \$30,186.11. The Board received the Police Report for the month of September 2020 from Police Chief Bernie Podsiedlik. The Building Inspectors report for the month of September 2020 was received from Code Official William Reagan. The Board acknowledged receipt of the minutes of the Town Board meetings for September 2020 and the financial statements as submitted by Village Treasurer Nino Provvidenti for September 2020. Trustee Manahan 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 board members voted aye and the motion carried.

**RESOLUTION-
NYS RETURNABLE
CONTAINER**

ACT: Trustee Murphy made a motion to accept the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, empty wine, spirit and beverage glass containers comprise an estimated 90,000 tons of curbside recyclables statewide, and

WHEREAS, such empty glass bottles are not economically viable to recycle as part of curbside recycling programs throughout New York State because the bottles break and become contaminated with paper, plastic, and other non-glass materials at local recycling recovery and sorting facilities, and

WHEREAS, there are no economically viable markets to recycle this contaminated, broken glass material into new glass bottles, and, therefore, the unwanted glass becomes a significant financial burden to New York State's local communities to sort, transport, and properly dispose of, which totals millions of dollars statewide, and

WHEREAS, such broken glass ends up contaminating other recyclable materials such as paper and corrugated cardboard at local material recovery facilities, thereby diminishing the value and marketability of recovered paper products, and

WHEREAS, significant environmental benefits would be realized, including the avoidance of one ton of carbon dioxide for every six tons of container glass recycled if breaking and contaminating this glass could be prevented; and

WHEREAS, if this glass could be recovered for recycling it could be endlessly reprocessed into new glass containers with no loss in quality or purity, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Returnable Container Act, also known as the Bottle Bill, has proven to be the most effective method to reduce litter and increase the recovery and recycling of various glass beverage containers, including glass beer and soda bottles, and

WHEREAS, glass beverage containers with a deposit, such as beer and soda, have an economically viable market because they are source separated, and

WHEREAS, several other states recognize the environmental and economic benefits of including wine, spirit, and other glass beverage containers in their respective Bottle Bill systems, including California, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, and Vermont, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus believes that expansion of the New York State Returnable Container Act to include wine, liquor and other glass

beverage bottles will dramatically increase recycling of these other glass containers, create new recycling jobs for clean, uncontaminated glass, and reduce municipal costs to manage these materials as part of municipal curbside recycling collection programs, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus is committed to the New York State solid waste management hierarchy which emphasizes waste reduction, reuse and recycling first, all of which would be served by expanding the bottle deposit system to include these additional glass containers thereby creating more recycling of these containers and fewer trashed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus does hereby strongly urge the New York State Legislature to expand the Bottle Bill as outlined above to include wine, liquor and other glass drink containers as a means to reduce litter, increase recycling, create new recycling jobs, as well as reduce the significant financial burden such containers place on local municipalities as part of curbside recycling collection program. This Resolution shall be distributed to the appropriate state elected officials and shall take effect immediately.

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

RE-LEVY OF UNPAID

TAXES: Trustee Manahan made a motion to re-levy all unpaid Village taxes as of November 1, 2020 to the County of Onondaga for payment. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All members voted aye and the motion carried.

LAUNDRY CONTRACT

AWARD: Trustee Murphy stated that in September of 2020 the Village requested proposals seeking a qualified company to provide weekly garment rental of Wrangler (or equivalent) jeans and polo shirts, as well as laundry for four (4) DPW employees. The Village received 3 proposals from local providers. Trustee Murphy made a motion to accept the low bid of UniFirst Company, the total weekly total cost for which is \$35.00, for a 36-month contract taking effect on November 1, 2020 and terminating on October 31, 2023. The motion was seconded by Trustee Manahan. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin 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 Murphy. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

HALLOWEEN IN THE

VILLAGE: Trustee Murphy a motion to again close First Street between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Halloween for trick-or treating, subject to conditions on October 31st, which is a Saturday. We might also note that the Marcellus Fire Department which used to sponsor cider, donuts, apples and coffee at the Marcellus Police Department as well as a Halloween Costume Parade, with prizes, will NOT take place this year because of Covid-19 precautions. The motion was seconded by Trustee Manahan. Mayor Curtin asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

NO PARKING

REMINDER: Trustee Manahan made a motion to remind the public to be aware of the fact that as of November 1, 2020, there is no parking allowed on any street in the Village of Marcellus from 2 a.m. to 7 a.m. so that the Highway Department can plow snow. This no parking ban will remain in effect until April 1, 2021. 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. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

VILLAGE POLLING LOCATIONS

REMINDER: Trustee Murphy reminded the public to please note that polling places in Marcellus changed seven years ago. In 2012, the Board of Elections redrew the Town of Marcellus election district lines to create two districts entirely within the Village. Those two districts (ED3 and ED4) will vote at the high school auditorium. Residents living outside the Village will vote at the Fire House. All residents were notified by mail by the Board of Elections, but some may not realize the change is now permanent. Election Day is November 3, 2020 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and we urge all residents to vote. Trustee Manahan also noted that early voting is available at several locations in Onondaga County. The closest location to Marcellus is the Camillus Fire Department. Information about early voting may be found on the Onondaga County Board of Elections website.

ANNOUNCE VILLAGE

MEETINGS: Trustee Manahan announced that the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. Please make note that First Street will be closed to traffic on Halloween, October 31st, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm, that the Village Office will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th in honor of Veterans' Day and that the Veterans Day ceremonies will take place on Wednesday, November 11th, at 11:00 a.m. at the Point. In addition, the Village Office will be closed on November 26th and 27th for the Thanksgiving Day holidays. Also, the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony will probably not take place this year, due to coronavirus restrictions. Mayor Curtin also noted that the December 2020 Board Meeting will be rescheduled to the 3rd Monday of December due to the Christmas holiday. The Village Board will confirm this change at the November 2020 Board meeting.

UPDATES BY THE

MAYOR: Mayor Curtin and the Board provided updates on the following subjects:

- a) Leaf and Brush Pickup – brush pickup ended on October 5th and if any residents have missed the deadline, they are welcome to utilize the Village composting site behind the Village Hall. Leaf pickup extends from October 13th to November 16th. After November 17th, residents may collect leaves into large brown paper leaf bags and place the bags at the curb for pickup, weather permitting – please note that only these leaf bags will be picked up after November 17th. Residents may also drop off brush and leaves anytime at the Village compost site, located next to the Highway Department garage. Please remember to keep leaves in the Village right of way, between the sidewalk and the road, and out of the street where they might end up clogging the catch basins and lead to flooding.
- b) Compost Project – continues to be very successful and please remember that composting continues all year round even though the demand obviously lulls through the fall and winter. Some residents might want to secure compost this fall, since it can be stored outside, without cover, through the fall and winter for its intended use next spring.
- c) Green Gateway Project – is one that we hope will result in an environmentally positive gateway entrance to our Village – at the site of the former woolen mill on North Street. Printed copies of a project summary are provided for the benefit of residents and are available in the Village office, as well as on the Village website (click on <http://villageofmarcellus.com> and then on News, then Village News. While the coronavirus has recently interrupted and delayed our plans for the Village and the students at MCS to continue working on the site, it is hoped that conditions will soon improve so that the project will begin anew in the months ahead.
- d) New Business in the Village – as we mentioned last month, a new business has opened on the site of the former florist shop at 1 North Street, called Field's Antique Maps and Frames, a business that specializes in original, local, regional, United States and World Mid-19th Century Maps. We encourage residents to patronize this newest business in the Village. In addition, another business is expected to open on November 1st on the site of the former North Street Diner called Dusty's Diner, and we anxiously await this new business opening in the Village.
- e) Trees – some tree removals and plantings are planned, per the DPW Superintendent's schedule, and pending budgetary considerations on First Street, Paul Street and in back of the Village DPW barn.
- f) School's Open – we continue to ask residents to please watch for school children walking and remember that there are pedestrian crossings on Main Street, as well as 20 mph speed limits in school zones and a 25-mph speed limit on First Street, a route that is heavily traveled by schoolchildren. Please slow down. Tickets will be issued for speeders.
- g) Call 911 – Chief Podsiedlik again reminds residents, especially at a time of year when mischief makers are more active, that it is essential that they report incidents of crime or vandalism in their neighborhoods by calling 911. Sometimes, residents are not making these calls because they feel that an issue might not warrant it. Some might be calling the Police Department and will often listen to an answering machine because the officer is out on patrol. Residents must call 911. If you are still not satisfied, please contact the Village Office during business hours, at 673-3112, and express your concern. Residents should also realize that First Street will be closed to traffic on Halloween, October 31st, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and a number of officers will be on patrol at that time.
- h) Police Report – we would like to complement our department and its officers for the fine work that they do on behalf of our residents and non-residents. In addition, the Chief continues to encourage residents to call the Police Department if they have any concerns about solicitors or contractors they may employ. The Police Department would be happy to do background checks so as to alleviate these concerns.

- i) Veterans' Day – commemoration will take place at 11 a.m. on November 11th, at the Village Point, and we ask residents to take time out and offer thanks to all veterans for the service they have and continue to provide us. Also, there will be no trash delay because of the Veterans' Day holiday. Also, the American Legion Poppy sale, delayed since last May, is now being planned for Monday, November 9th.
- j) Platt Road Pump Station – a major upgrade to the Platt Road Pump Station was conducted by the Village WWTP operators who recently spent a number of hours working on this part of the sewer infrastructure that directly affects a number of town residents. The control panel at the pump station, which was approximately 40 years old, was replaced at a cost of \$12,500. The Platt Road Pump Station services homes on Parsons Drive, Hall Ave, South St. Road, Amidon Drive, and Bishop Hill Road. With the upgrade, operations and maintenance will be more efficient and cost effective for residents. It is expected that next year a similar upgrade will take place at the Park Pump Station.
- k) Phosphorus Levels at the Treatment Plant – continue to drop dramatically, further evidence of the successful upgrades to the plant. In addition, one of our MCS students, Ms. Bronte Stahl, whose independent study project on phosphorus removal last spring, was welcomed and applauded by the Board at an earlier meeting, has continued to monitor and update sample data regarding phosphorus both upstream and downstream in Nine Mile Creek. We again commend Ms. Stahl for the time and efforts she has extended in updating her independent study and welcome her continued interest in the phosphorus removal issue.
- l) Covid-19 Wastewater Testing – at the Treatment Plant is being considered by our operators. Duplicating the testing efforts being done at Syracuse University, our operators are planning similar testing of samples in the wastewater at the Village plant, the results of which we hope to share in the coming months.
- m) Blower Noise at the Treatment Plant – Construction upgrades at the plant brought about a number of concerns from neighbors about the noise from the blowers at the Treatment Plant and how that noise keeps them awake with a constant hum. Early on, our operators attempted to placate the neighbors by building a number of shields around the blowers, which give off no more noise than that which was usual even before the recent construction at the plant. Because this was not satisfactory, the following steps were taken to address the noise complaints:
 - a. Control building – with guidance from the engineers and blower manufacturer, they began by using insulating tape and weather stripping to reduce vibrations, followed by building physical barriers consisting of 2x4 frames covered in insulation boards, to absorb and deflect the noise. With help from the manufacturer, the aeration blowers were adjusted to run one at a time, once the project allowed. When two blowers are on at the same time, they run at different power levels so that they don't echo off one another.
 - b. Digester building – a sound deflector was added to absorb and deflect noise toward the school, and the blowers were adjusted to run at lower power level while meeting our dissolved oxygen requirements, and become more energy-efficient and quieter.
 - c. Decibel readings – Bill Reagan, our Code Officer, took decibel readings on several occasions, on different days and at different times and the results were submitted on the map that Bill designed. As one can tell from the map, all of the readings are below 60 decibels, except the one right next to the plant, which is 64. In addition, the one near a neighbor's house is actually quite low - 47.9. A decibel reading website (<https://soundproofingguide.com/decibels-level-comparison-chart/>) provides information regarding decibel readings and 60 decibels is believed to be somewhat normal, and anything below that, is perfectly fine. A recent follow-up by one of our operators with one of the neighbors indicates that the noise is no longer a bother and his complaint has been withdrawn.
- n) Village Taxes – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present, including penalties, totaling about \$10,000 from 11 property owners, a figure significantly smaller than in previous years. The Village will eventually be reimbursed by the County for these tax evaders, but must wait a year before that reimbursement happens. In the meantime, the responsible taxpayers in the Village will continue, as they have in the past, to be responsible for the irresponsible. Property owners may continue to pay unpaid taxes to the Village until October 31, 2020, when they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.
- o) Parking - as we approach the winter months, we again remind residents that there is no overnight parking (from 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.) on Village streets from November 1st to April 1st. If ticketed by Village Police, the fee will be \$35.00. We urge residents to use the Village parking lots for any overnight parking situations.
- p) Christmas Tree Lighting – this year has been cancelled because of Covid-19 concerns. It is hoped that next year the tree lighting will take place. However, there will be a Christmas Tree at the point this year, a Marcellus tradition that dates back to 1916.
- q) ZBA Meeting – last week, the Village Zoning Board of Appeals met to discuss a request from a resident for a use variance with regard to the housing of farm animals in the Village. The decision of the ZBA was to grant the variance to John

and Sondra Bromka of 36 South Street, based largely on the fact that the property is an unusually large village parcel of 2.5 acres, that their chickens are kept within a small fenced area, an average of 100' distant from neighboring property lines, and that the chickens have been kept for the last eight (8) years, prior to the enactment of the new Village Code in 2013. This use variance, it might be noted, runs with the land.

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. Town of Marcellus resident Rich Aji spoke to the Board about the noise from the blowers at the Treatment Plant and how that noise keeps them awake with a constant hum. Mr. Aji noted that the workers at the plant have been most cooperative in their attempts to deal with the noise, and with some success. Not all of the blowers have been silenced, however and he asks that the Board try to provide him with some help and relief with this problem. The Board told Mr. Aji that it would do some further investigation and get back to him soon.

Mayor Curtin asked if there were any other items from the floor. Hearing none, Trustee Manahan made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Murphy. Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All board members voted aye and the motion carried.

The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Charnley A. Abbott, Village Clerk