

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – November 2016

Since the minutes from our regular monthly Board meeting are not formally approved and posted on the Village website until the following month, it seems that our residents might be more fully informed of Village affairs by having regular updates posted on our website sooner, rather than later. To that end, it has been decided to provide our readers with some monthly updates, and if there are any concerns or a need for more information, please call (673-3112) or email (marboard@twcny.rr.com) the Village Office.

Proclamation Honoring Harold Muncy – the Board approved a proclamation recognizing the outstanding achievements of Harold Muncy during his 23-year tenure as an employee and as Superintendent of the Village of Marcellus Highway Department. The leadership of Harold Muncy is evident in the many accomplishments that have occurred in the Village of Marcellus during his tenure, covering the terms of four Village Mayors and seven Village Administrations, and will continue to be evident in many of the projects that have been and will continue to be realized in the Village of Marcellus. The Board of Trustees of the Village of Marcellus commends Harold Muncy for the tireless service he extended to his community and to mankind and extends warm wishes in his well-deserved retirement.

Award 24-Month OCRRA Hauler Contract – the Board authorized the Mayor to sign a 24-month contract, for 2017 and 2018 beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 30, 2018, with Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency for refuse and recycling pickup within the Village of Marcellus. OCRRA's Board approved an increase of \$5 for the Municipal Solid Waste rate, fixed for the next two years and all haulers serving the Onondaga County community are required to sign the same contract.

St. Francis Xavier Building Permit – Waive Fee Request – the Board also approved a request from St. Francis Xavier Church, which is in the process of renovating its Parish Hall Kitchen, to waive the building permit fee of \$100. This permit waiver is a practice extended in the past to virtually all non-profit organizations in the Village and one that is proposed once again.

Resolution Authorizing Sale of DPW Pickup Truck and Plow Attachment – a resolution was approved by the Board that authorizes the sale of the 2010 DPW Pickup F-250 Truck and Boss Plow attachment by Auctions International.

Change December Board Meeting – because of the Christmas holiday, a motion to change the December regular Board meeting from December 26, 2016 to December 19, 2016, was approved by the Board.

Charter Communications Cable Franchise Agreement - a motion to again table the Time Warner Cable Franchise Agreement until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of the agreement, with Time Warner Cable was again approved by the Board.

Announce Christmas Tree Lighting December 1, 2016 – the Board announced that the annual Marcellus Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 1, 2016 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall and then moving uptown to the Point for the lighting of the Village Christmas Tree. There are many different activities and participants in this year's ceremony and a flyer has been prepared for residents who wish to pick one up.

Reminder – No Parking – November 1st to April 1st – the public should be aware of the fact that as of November 1, 2016, 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, 2017. 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.

Leaf and Brush Pickup – brush pickup ended on October 10th and if any residents have missed the deadline, they are welcome to utilize the Village composting site behind the Village Hall. Leaf pickup was extended until November 21st but is now ended. With the recent snowstorm, any leaves that are still in the Village right-of-way between the sidewalk and the road will remain there until the snow melts and the DPW has an opportunity to remove them. That might not be until the spring of 2017.

Other DPW Work – in recent weeks, the DPW has been very diligent in picking up leaves, long beyond the cut-off period. We have received some very nice compliments from residents for their efforts and we appreciate the response. With the coming of the winter snows, some of the benches and pedestrian signs will be removed until spring by the department. The Department has also put up and decorated the Village Christmas Tree at the Point, ready for lighting on the 1st and the Christmas decorations have been put up as well. The Board would like to thank members of the DPW for all of their efforts as we prepare for the winter months, knowing how especially dedicated they are with the removal of snow and ice.

Health Care Costs – continue to rise, and both the Village and its employees will be required to pay, on average, an increase of about 13% for coverage, beginning in January 2017. However, coverage is not as good as it has been, particularly in the area of co-pays.

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.

Planning Board – the Board plans to meet in December if there are any items to discuss.

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.

Police – within the past month, several thefts from cars parked in Marcellus Park. The Chief continues to warn residents that cars should always be locked, even if your driveway, and anything in the car's interior that might attract the attention of a thief should not be visible. If thieves view something in a car is worthwhile taking, they will and have smashed car windows. So, please lock your car doors. 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. Also, if there are any snowbirds who would like to have their properties checked while they are out of town, please notify the Police Department.

Prescription / Drug Drop-Off Box – Chief Wicks would again like to announce that a prescription/drug drop-off box, similar to a mailbox, is now located in the lobby of the Village Hall and is available for use by any residents 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 such items. In the next few months, there will also be a drop-off box for needle and syringe disposal. In the meantime, if some residents need to disposal of needles or syringes, the Police Department is willing to collect and dispose of them.

Creekwalk Under Construction – there remains an eight-foot wide section of the trail to be constructed behind the McClurg Building on Main Street. This will require a retaining wall to be built, along with asphalt paving, concrete work and pavement striping and will be competitively bid in the winter of 2017. The construction that has taken place in the fall is truly remarkable, and the Village is most grateful to the Town of Marcellus and its highway department for all of the help that has been extended. This has not only helped to reduce the cost of constructing the trail but it also serves as another excellent example of inter-municipal cooperation between the Town and the Village. This spirit of cooperation has always been evident in the past, but it has often been unrecognized. On behalf of the Village of Marcellus and its residents, the Board of Trustees would again like to convey its appreciation and gratitude to the Town and its employees for the spirit of cooperation and collaboration created by the creek walk project between our town municipalities. For an update and some photos of the trail, residents are encouraged to check the Village website: <http://www.villageofmarcellus.com/creekwalk-news.html>

Utility Bills – following the most recent delivery of Village utility bills, we have received a number of comments regarding the increase in sewer rates. The Board would like to explain the reasons for what appears to be a significant increase in the rates charged each quarter. Rather than publish a rather lengthy explanation in this newsletter, we urge residents to check the Village website to read a letter of explanation. http://www.villageofmarcellus.com/uploads/5/3/9/5/53954069/sewer_increase.pdf If a resident does not have access to the Internet, please call the Village Office (673-3112) and a copy of that letter will be mailed.

TMDL and Phosphorus Removal – in mid-September, the Village of Marcellus was fortunate to be awarded \$1,379,900 in grant funding and \$4,139,700 in loans to help the Village upgrade its Waste Water Treatment Plant and address the phosphorus removal mandate levied against the Village. The total estimated project cost of this mandate is \$5,600,00 and the grant will provide 25% of the cost. We are grateful for the funding and will continue to look for added funding in order to pay for the remaining cost of the mandated project.

Announce Village Meetings for December 2016 – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. Please make note that the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 1st, in the Village, at the Point, that the Village Office will be closed on Monday, December 26th for the Christmas holiday. In addition, the Village Office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd for the New Years' Holiday.