

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – October 2017

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.

Re-levy of Unpaid Village Taxes – a motion to re-levy all unpaid Village Taxes, as of November 1, 2016, to the County of Onondaga for payment was approved.

MRB Proposal – Highland Drive Drainage Improvements – in response to discussions site visits and funding investigation relative to Village drainage issues, MRB Group has prepared a proposal as a first step in identifying potential solutions in helping to minimize drainage issues, specifically along and adjacent to Highland Drive. A proposal for professional services, the study phase, related to Highland Drive drainage improvements as submitted by MRB Group in the amount of \$12,300.00 was approved.

Resolution – Water Quality Improvement Project Round 11 Grant – in response to the grant of \$80,000 provided by the DEC in WQIP funding towards phosphorus improvements, Round 11, the DEC required a resolution be passed by our Board so as to complete the processing of the grant. This resolution was approved, a copy of which is on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

Solicit Bids for WWTP Phosphorus Removal and Upgrades – at its August meeting, the Board authorized the Mayor to close on EFC financing for the mandated phosphorus removal and WWTP upgrades. This closing date guarantees that the Village will be able to obtain interest free financing for a 30-year loan of \$4,220,100 as well as an EFC grant of \$1,379,900 for a total expenditure of \$5.6 million. We continue to look for more funding from other revenue streams so as not to overburden Village, Town and School District sewer users with hefty sewer rents. Having the design package in place, plans for the WWTP upgrade project now call for a resolution to solicit bids for the WWTP Phosphorus Removal and Upgrades. Therefore, a motion was made to authorize the Village Clerk to send a legal notice to be published in the Observer to solicit bids for the project, with the following dates approved:

November 8 – legal notice to be published in The Observer

November 8 – date that the contract plans will be available for inspection in the Village Office

December 5 – opening of bids in the Village Office – 11 a.m.

December 2017 and January 2018 – bids to be reviewed by MRB Group

January 22, 2018 – Award or reject bids at Regular Board Meeting

To summarize, bids will be solicited and received in November and December, with a review of the bids in December 2017 and January 2018, and awarding or rejecting of those bids at the January 22, 2018 Board Meeting. Construction should begin the spring of 2018, and completion of the project should take about a year.

Approve NYSMEC Participation – resolutions were approved, authorizing Village of Marcellus participation in the New York School and Municipal Energy Consortium (NYSMEC) for purchase of electricity and natural gas, and another motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the billing schedule and agreement with the New York School and Municipal Energy Consortium (NYSMEC) for purchase of electricity and natural gas

Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement – the Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement was again tabled, until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of the agreement, with Spectrum Cable

Request to Waive Utility Penalties – the Board received a written letter from a property owner on South Street requesting the Board consider waiving the penalties added to the 3rd quarter utility bill, attributing the oversight to unexpected surgery and being incapacitated. Because of extenuating circumstances, the Board is agreed to waive the penalties for the 3rd quarter of 2017 in the amount of \$24.00.

Reminder – Closing of First Street for Halloween – a motion was approved to again close First Street between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Halloween for trick-or-treating, subject to conditions on October 31st, which is a Tuesday. We might also note that the Marcellus Fire Department will sponsor cider, cookies, apples and coffee at the Marcellus Police Department, 6 Slocombe Avenue. In addition, a Halloween Costume Parade, with prizes, will take place at the point and that Village merchants will be opened extended hours, with treats for kids of all ages.

Reminder – No Parking – November 1st to April 1st – the public should be aware of the fact that as of November 1, 2017, 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, 2018.

Reminder – Village Polling Places – it should be noted that polling places in Marcellus changed four 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 7, 2017 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and we urge all residents to vote.

Leaf and Brush Pickup – brush pickup ended on October 9th 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 16th to November 6th. After November 6th, residents may collect leaves into large brown paper leaf bags and place the bags at the curb for pickup. 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.

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.

The Planning Board – met last week to address a lot line adjustment requested by two property owners on North Street and to discuss the request by a property owner of installing a BBQ pit behind the former Angel Hearts building on East Main Street. This latter item was referred to the Codes Enforcement Officer.

Trees – some tree removals have been or will be done on South and Main Streets, and perhaps another on Chrisler and Paul Streets, along with some trimming. Some tree plantings are expected to take place in late summer or early fall, but the locations have not yet been determined.

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.

NYSDEC Grant - \$16,000 – also mentioned at an earlier meeting, the Village was notified by the NYSDEC that it has been awarded a rebate of \$16,000 for its infrastructure application relative to the 2016 Municipal Zero-emission Vehicle Rebate Program and the installation of an Electric Vehicle charging station in the Village parking lot. This grant money has not only enabled the Village to install an EV charging station in the lot, but also to add lighting, cameras and asphalt paving to the site. Since this is a 20% match, the Village will accomplish about \$20,000 worth of work for a \$4,000 investment and we again credit and congratulate Ryan Riefler for his continued efforts on behalf of the Village and its residents.

Clean Energy Community – as was mentioned at an earlier Board meeting, the Village of Marcellus has been designated a Clean Energy Community by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). A \$100,000 grant has been reserved for the Village of Marcellus to implement clean energy projects this fall and winter. This will include a retrofitting of several existing Village lights, including the historic lights on Main, North and South Streets as well as the coach lights on Kinderwood Drive to direct wire LED type fixtures. Other LED lighting retrofits have already or will occur in the Village Hall, the Village garage and the Water Pollution Control Plant and we also hope to add six (6) new historic lighting, with LED type fixtures to several streets in the Village – 2 on Bradley Street, 2 on Chrysler Street, and 2 on Paul Street. The Village will finalize application for this grant in the early part of November which is the first step in securing the funding.

Police Report – we would like to compliment 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.

Call 911 – Chief Wicks 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 be aware of the fact that First Street will be closed to traffic on Halloween, October 31st, from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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 will continue to provide us.

TMDL and Phosphorus Removal – the Village is now committed to an upgrade to its Waste Water Treatment Plant in order to address the DEC-mandated removal of phosphorus from its effluent. While the total estimated project cost of this mandate is \$5,600,000, the grant will provide 25% of the cost and sewer rents will provide the remaining costs. We continue to look for added funding in order to pay for the remaining cost of the mandated project so that our sewer users are not overwhelmed with burdensome sewer rents. Our hope is that additional funding will NOT be necessary to further escalate the cost of sewer usage, than they are at present, but this will depend on our ability to secure more funding.

Village Taxes – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present, including penalties, totals approximately \$126,336.91 from 20 property owners, a figure significantly larger than last year because of demolition costs associated with the lower Crown Mill and one property owner. The demolition costs alone totals over \$93,500 in unpaid taxes from this one property owner. Residents may continue to pay unpaid taxes to the Village until October 31, 2017, when they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.

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

New Business Opening in Village – FINDERS KEEPERS MINING – 16 East Main Street, Marcellus

**Gemstone & Fossil Shop - Owner, John Lischak – Retail Store, Gemstone Panning, Party Room
Opening Tuesday, October 10th**

Hours	Tues-Sat	10am-7pm
	Sun	11am-4pm
	Mon	Closed
	Phone	315-494-1074

Announce Village Meetings for November 2017 – 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 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm, that the Village Office will be closed on Friday, November 10th in honor of Veterans’ Day and in addition, the Village Office will be closed on November 23rd and 24th for the Thanksgiving Day holidays. Also, the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Thursday, November 30th, in the Village, at the Point.