

## Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – August 2018

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 (315-673-3112) or email (marboard@twcny.rr.com) the Village Office.

**Create New Police Positions** – at the request of Police Chief Wicks, a total of six (6) Special Patrol Officer positions were created. The work involves responsibility for maintaining order and providing security in public buildings, schools and courtrooms. Persons employed in this class shall have all of the powers of a peace officer, as set forth in section 2.20 of Criminal Procedure Law, when performing the duties of protecting property or persons on such premises. The work is performed under general supervision of the Police Chief. Persons employed by the Village of Marcellus as Special Patrol Officers will be assigned, for the most part as School Resource Officers and will be able to obtain 211 waivers for the purpose of meeting the needs of the school districts and would therefore not be subject to the \$30,000 salary cap levied against retired officers.

**Police Officers – New Hire** – Is there a motion? – the Mayor made a motion to appoint one new officer to the Marcellus Police Department, including Officer Shawn Broton who will serve as a Village Patrolman and as a School Resource Officer at Onondaga Central School District, following his retirement and a distinguished career with the Syracuse Police Department. This appointment will be effective on August 27, 2018 and at a rate of \$18.95 per hour for patrol. The Onondaga Central School District will determine the rate per hour as a School Resource Officer and will also provide the salary for each officer. As part of the shared services mandate, our Police Department is assisting the school district noted with police administrative responsibilities, and supervision particularly in matters related to any criminal activity. Our Police Department has the ability to facilitate this, providing such services that would not be otherwise available to them.

**LED Contract – M. L. Caccamise Electric Company** – a motion was made to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with M. L. Caccamise Electric Company, which company has been awarded the bid for LED Conversion of Village Lighting, which includes materials and labor for the LED conversion of existing Village owned street lighting and lighting replacement at municipal buildings.

**Request to Waive Sewer Charges** – the Village has received a oral request from the property owner at 32-34 East Main Street, asking that the Board consider adjusting the sewer charges added to the 1st quarter utility bill, attributing the oversight to the fact that OCWA has been overcharging the property owner for several months. OCWA has subsequently provided a credit to the property owner of \$1,097.16. Because the Village bases its sewer charges on water consumption figures provided by OCWA, the Village has also been overcharging the property owner. Because of this situation, a motion was made that the Board cancels the sewer charges of \$444.86 levied upon the property owner for this quarter.

**IMA with Town for Highway and Related Services** – a motion was made to approve an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Marcellus whereby the Village of Marcellus shall, following prior authorization from the Mayor, authorize its D.P.W. Superintendent to make a positive or a negative determination, on a case by case basis, a request made by the Town Highway Superintendent, to offer assistance in the form of Village personnel, materials and/or equipment. This Agreement shall have a term commencing on this date and ending on June 30, 2019 ("initial term"). The parties shall have the right to extend this Agreement for an additional term upon the mutual agreement, in writing, of all parties prior to the expiration of the initial term. Both the Village and the Town reserve the right to

terminate this agreement for convenience, at any time, upon thirty (30) days written notice. Further details of the IMA are available for public inspection in the Village Office.

**School Resource Officer Contract** – a motion was made to authorize the Mayor to sign the School Resource Officer Agreement between the Village of Marcellus and the Lyncourt Union Free School District and Onondaga Central School District, whereby the School Districts and the Village have determined that it is in their mutual best interests to enter into this Agreement to provide for the assignment of three officers of the Marcellus Police Department to serve as School Resource Officers in the Lyncourt Union Free School District and Onondaga Central School District. A copy of the agreement is on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

**Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement** – a motion was again made to table the Spectrum Cable Franchise Agreement until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of a new agreement, with Spectrum Communications.

**Budget Modifications for June and July 2018** – Is there a motion? – Trustee \_\_\_\_ – a motion was made to approve budget modifications requested by the Village Treasurer transferring revenues and appropriations in the June 2018 General Fund and in the July 2018 General and Sewer Funds.

#### **Updates – Mayor and Board**

**Lower Mill Demolition** – last year, the Village was forced to demolish the lower mill and then bill the demolition costs to the owner of the lower mill, Mr. William Lucchetti, for approximately \$100,000. Since the Village did not receive the payment, the Village took immediate steps to assess these costs against the property at 71 North Street. The Village taxes were then re-levied to Town and County taxes and in April 2018, the County of Onondaga made the Village whole in April 2018. Within the last month, the Village was able to pay off the BAN that the Village took out in order to complete the demolition. We thank the County for this reimbursement.

**Creekwalk** – a year later, and Fred’s Trail has had a number of walkers. If some residents are not familiar with the now-completed project, we urge them to click on the Village website <http://villageofmarcellus.com/> and then on News, then Village News, then Creek Walk News.

**Striping of Crosswalks** – we would note that the NYSDOT is expected to complete its striping of crosswalks on North Street (Rte. 174), prior to the start of school. Also, please note that a pedestrian crosswalk has been installed on the east side of the Main Street Bridge, This not only helps to provide pedestrian safety for the creek walk, from Station Lane to Limerick Street, and has also helped to slow down traffic entering the Village from East Hill. Last year the Village received a request for a crosswalk on West Main Street, from the Methodist Church driveway to the Grange Parking Lot. Because this is a County road (Rt. 41), this request was forwarded to the Onondaga County DOT Commissioner for review and the Commissioner noted in a letter to the Mayor that because the crosswalk would be mid-block, connecting two driveways, and not at an intersection with appropriate pedestrian accommodations, the location would not be acceptable nor provide adequate safety for pedestrians. We might also note that the Village expects to paint its crosswalks and parking spaces this week, prior to school opening.

**Code Enforcement and Officer** – building inspections, pools and decks, and several properties have been cited for lack of property maintenance including some buildings on North Street.

**Compost Project** – compost continues to be available for residents and if any residents cannot pick up compost during normal business hours, please call the Treatment Plant (315-673-4491) to make an appointment with one of the operators. The operators are available to answer questions and to help load compost for residents.

**Sidewalks** – per the D.P.W. Chief's recommendations, repairs have been made to selected areas on South Street, and East Main Street and perhaps to Chrysler Street if pending budgetary concerns do not prevent this.

**Street repairs** – acting upon the D.P.W. chief's recommendations, asphalt repairs to Wilson Drive and Dunlap Avenue have been made, as well as fiber micro paving to Reed Street, Bradley Street and Park Street. Budgetary constraints have limited the desire of the Village Board to add other street repairs in this year's budget.

**Trees** – some tree removals and stump removals have been or will be done on South, Maple and Orange Streets, and perhaps another on Chrysler Street, 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 begins** – begins next week and we urge residents to be aware of the fact that there will be students walking to school, particularly on First Street. Also, the State DOT will begin operation of the flashing lights on North Street and the Village Police Department will be even more vigilant in their enforcement of the traffic laws on that street.

**Village Taxes** – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present, including penalties, totals \$39,783, from 40 property owners, a figure somewhat similar to previous years. Of the almost \$40,000 in taxes yet to be paid, about 22% or \$8,537, is from one property owner and another from a second owner totals \$3,268. Property owners may continue to pay unpaid taxes to the Village until October 31, 2018, when they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.

**V.I.P. Monies** – infrastructure grant payments received by the Village of Marcellus from Onondaga County, as part of the Village Infrastructure Improvement Project have totaled \$180,450 this year, with no increase, as was the case last year. While this represents about half of what the Village used to be provided, until the County took the sales tax revenue from the Villages back in 2010, but half is better than nothing. What is of more concern is the fact that the V.I.P. ten-year program ends for the Villages in 2020. We are hopeful that the County will continue to approve this program.

**Highland Flooding** – following our public information meeting regarding the drainage on Highland Drive and related streets, the Village's first step will be that recommended by MRB Group – namely, opening the ditches and replacing the driveway culverts along the west side of Highland Drive. This will, hopefully, prevent storm water from jumping the ditches and flooding those properties below and allow storm water to move quickly to the 24" catch basin at Reed Parkway. Property owners should be aware that the ditches must remain open to allow the water to move north to Reed Parkway. At this time, we are unable to address the storm water and natural springs that overflow into the drainage area behind Meadow Street. Much of this water comes from an area beyond the Village limits and will require a joint effort involving the Village and the Town and town property owners.

**Clean Energy Community** – the Village has been designated a Clean Energy Community by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and has been awarded a \$100,000 grant to implement clean energy projects. The monies granted have been earmarked for clean energy projects this fall, which will include a retrofitting of 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 or will

occur in the Village Hall, the Village garage and the Water Pollution Control Plant. The Village is delighted not only with this designation but also appreciative of the efforts of NYSERDA and others in helping to implement the award.

**Planning Board** – met in mid August to discuss and approve the site plan review as well as approve the SEQR for increased parking and fenced-in trash containers at 34 North Street Townhouse Apartments.

**Marcellus Grange #464 Quilt Trail 2018** – residents and visitors might enjoy a self-walking tour through the Village of Marcellus, starting at the Grange on West Main and then looking for quilt board signs on homes and businesses. Kay Kershaw knows the route and has painted the signs (quilts).

**Other** – we have been requested by the school to make mention of the Marcellus Varsity Football Home Opener this Friday, August 31st, vs. Skaneateles, at the High School Turf. Go Mustangs!

**Announce Village Meetings for September 2018** – the Village Clerk has printed copies of future meeting dates for the Village for the benefit of residents. Please note that the Village Office will be closed for Labor Day, September 3rd, and that there will be a one-day delay in trash pickup that week. We also note that the Fall Trash Days are usually scheduled for the last two weekends in September, from 8 am to 3 pm each day. The Town Board has not yet officially approved this schedule, and when approved, will be posted on the Village and Town websites. The trash transfer station is located on the Town property, across from the Town Highway Garage on the East side of Lee Mulroy Road. A user fee will be charged to offset the cost of this service. Permits may be purchased at the Town Clerk's Office, 24 East Main Street, Marcellus, New York during regular office hours, Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:30 pm. For more information on trash, please call the Highway Garage – 315-673-3127, and for Permit Information, call the Town Office – 315-673-3269 Ext. 1