

Monthly Updates – from the Mayor – September 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.

Public Hearing – Local Law #3 of 2016 – following a public hearing, the Board approved Local Law #3 of 2016 which repeals and replaces the Flood Damage Prevention Law (Chapter 89) presently on the books with a new law that reflects the most current and effective flood management measures. The repeal and replacement of the Village's Flood Damage Prevention Law has become necessary because of new FEMA regulations and maps that have been devised.

Deputy Code Officer/Stormwater Designee – New Hire – following the recent retirement of Kurt Field as Deputy CEO and Stormwater Designee, the Board approved a motion to appoint David Weber, effective September 27, 2016, as his replacement in the same position, and at a salary of \$5,306.56 per year.

Police Officers – New Hires – the Board also approved a motion to appoint two new officers to the Marcellus Police Department, including Officer Sean Clere who will serve as a Village Patrolman and as a School Resource Officer at Marcellus High School, following his retirement and a distinguished career at the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, and following Officer Ray Herrick's departure to serve as a School Resource Officer at Tully High School. This appointment will be effective on October 3, 2016, and at a rate of \$18.04 per hour for patrol and \$25.50 per hour as a School Resource Officer. In addition, the Board appointed Officer Rich Curran as a part-time Village Patrolman, following his retirement and a distinguished career at the Syracuse Police Department. This appointment will be effective on October 10, 2016, and at a rate of \$18.04 per hour.

Stormwater Resolution - CNYPDB – Storm Water Management Program – a motion to approve a Resolution Supporting Participation in the CNY Storm Water Coalition Staff Services and Education Compliance Assistance Program. This pertains to the requirements of the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) and the permit that accompanies storm water discharge in the Village of Marcellus.

Leaf and Brush Pickup – a motion to approve the fall brush and leaf pickup dates was approved. Brush pickup for 2016 will extend from Monday, September 26th to Monday, October 10th and leaf pickup will extend from Tuesday, October 17th to Sunday, November 7th. Residents should also be aware of the Town Transfer Station Dates for fall 2016. Those dates are Fridays, September 30th and October 7th, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Saturdays, October 1st and October 8th, from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Charter Communications Cable Franchise Agreement – the Board once again tabled the Charter Communications Cable Franchise Agreement, because of the change in ownership from Time Warner Cable, and until the Village Attorney has been able to negotiate successfully, the terms of a new agreement, with Charter Communications.

Methodist Church Nursery School Emergency Off-Site Shelter – the Board approved a request by the director of the Marcellus Church Nursery School to designate the Village Hall as its emergency off-site shelter, should the need arise.

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 Monday this year.

Intermunicipal Agreement – Village and Town – the Board authorized the Mayor to sign an Intermunicipal Agreement between the Village of Marcellus and the Town of Marcellus whereby employees of the Village and Town would complete some of the work involved in the construction of the Village creek walk, particularly the clearing and grubbing that is necessary. NYS DOT has extended approval for the use of what is called force account work for building the trail by the Village. Parts of the trail need to be competitively bid, but Village and Town employees can complete some of the basic work involved. The details of the IMA are on file in the Village Office for public inspection.

Lower Mill Is No Longer – following a public hearing, the Village Board authorized, as a public emergency and at the behest of the Code Enforcement Officer, the immediate demolition of the lower mill on the property at 71 North Street. The Village also approved a resolution to finance the demolition, retained a demolition contractor and assigned the expenses of such demolition as a charge against the property owner and land on which it is located. The contractor completed his work last week, the mill no longer exists and the site has been cleared and graded. The mills gave birth to Marcellus, dating back to the very beginning and they nurtured the community for over 200 years. The lower mill is the last of hundreds that used to line the banks of Nine Mile Creek. Many in the community view its demolition with much nostalgia, as well as a sense of loss.

Creekwalk – as was mentioned earlier, the NYSDOT has given permission for the Village, together with the Town, to construct part of the trail, particularly the clearing and grubbing, excavation, drainage pipes placement of sub-base and stone dust, signage, railings and plantings. That work has begun and it is hoped that much of the work can be completed in the fall of 2016, with the exception of an eight foot wide section that requires a retaining wall to be built, along with asphalt paving, concrete work and pavement striping. These will be competitively bid in the spring of 2017.

Code Enforcement and Officer – several properties have been cited for lack of property maintenance including some buildings on Main Street. Fortunately, a responsible property owner has recently purchased 20-22 West Main Street and a new roof has already been installed on what has been a disgraceful blight on Main Street for far too long.

Household and Hazardous Waste – Do not pour hazardous waste or grease down the drain. Household hazardous waste products (such as paints, cleaners, oils, and pesticides) dumped down the drain are most often not removed by the wastewater treatment process. Harmful chemicals from these wastes end up in rivers, creeks, and lakes where they can eventually enter the natural food chain. Additionally, pouring hazardous waste down the drain can endanger the health of municipal workers, disrupt the treatment process, and accumulate pollutants in aquatic ecosystems. Residential users can rid their homes of dangerous chemicals lurking around by dropping off such waste at Environmental Products and Services of Vermont, 532 State Fair Blvd, Syracuse, NY, Monday through Friday, 6:30 am to 6:00 pm, WITH AN APPOINTMENT. Appointments must be made (453-2866) five days in advance of your drop-off date. We also remind residents to cover garbage cans since those uncovered often attract crows and other pests. Washing out garbage cans and recyclable bins every so often, also helps promote a healthier environment.

Roads, Sidewalks, Trees – road reconstruction on Orchard Street and Austindale Ave, as well as part of Beach Road has recently been completed, and we are certain that the residents of these areas are pleased. Unfortunately, budget considerations limited our ability to include additional repaving on other streets. Some

sidewalk reconstruction on South Street and smaller areas on Bradley and First Streets have also taken place. Several tree stumps have been removed and several new trees will be replanted as well. We are very grateful to Village employees for all of their efforts this summer in having this reconstruction work completed.

Parking - as we approach the winter months, we 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.

Repair Plans - owning a home has its challenges and dealing with emergency repairs is definitely one of them. Not knowing who to call or how much the repair will cost can be overwhelming and frustrating. Home-Serve USA is a company that offers Emergency Repair Service Plans that protect the property owner from expensive repairs that are not typically covered by basic homeowners insurance, a local utility or a municipality. As your home ages, so does the exterior water service line that brings fresh water to your house and to the drainage system that removes sewage from your house to the Village sewer main in the street. If these lines fail, repair or replacement can be expensive and most basic homeowners insurance doesn't cover repairs to the water and sewer lines on your property. Home-Serve offers an exterior Water Service Line coverage as well as an exterior sewer line repair plan. If you are interested, we urge you to contact Home-Serve at 1-888-752-6740 or info@homeserveusa.com

School has begun – we urge residents to be aware of the fact that there are students walking to school, particularly on First Street. Also, the State DOT has begun 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.

Striping of Crosswalks – on some Village streets (by the Village) has taken place, fortunately before school starts. Road striping on Main Street (by the County) has taken place, but that on North Street (by the State) will not take place this year as this does not fit into their schedules.

Village Taxes – most have been paid, while the amount of unpaid taxes at present, including penalties, totals \$32,229.05, from 19 property owners, a figure slightly more than last year. Residents may continue to pay unpaid taxes to the Village until October 31, 2016, when they will be turned over to the County for reimbursement.

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 has no access to the Internet, please call the Village Office (673-3112) and a copy of that letter will be mailed.

Thank You To Our Employees – the Village would like to thank all who participated in the work they did on the flower boxes this year, particularly Village employee Kathy Welsh, and our highway crew, whose attention to their care all summer was exceptional and enabled all in the community to enjoy their beauty. In addition, we call your attention to the green space on the corner of Scotch Hill and North Street. Village treatment plant employees continue to address landscaping there and provide another advertisement of the benefits that natural fertilizer can bring. Compost is mixed in with the plantings in the flowerbeds and broadcasted over the lawn area –showcasing the use of compost to the residents of Marcellus and its visitors. It looks just great!

Harold Muncy – after almost 25 years of service in the Highway Department, the last several as Chief, Harold Muncy has decided to retire. Harold has served the Village and its resident faithfully and both his experience and concern for the village will be sorely missed. We wish him well in his well-deserved retirement.

Planning Board – has not met recently due to few issues being considered.

Sex Offender Registry – A Village resident recently expressed some concern about several individuals who are on the Sex Offender Registry and living in the Village. There is little that can be done to alter this situation, but residents should be aware that these individuals are living in the neighborhood, and that there may be restrictions or conditions attached to their supervision. Our Police Chief and Department are monitoring the situation and constantly aware of any individual who may be a threat to the community. Residents, especially parents, should make sure that members of the family are conscious of any situation and to go to a neighbor's house if they feel threatened. Residents should be aware of this situation. They also are able to examine each individual on the registry and the conditions of their supervision by going to the website below and entering the zip code of any community they wish to review. If parents feel that the terms of a sex offender's supervision have been violated, they should immediately call the Village Office (673-3112) or Village Police Department (673-2079) and file a report – <http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/nsor/>

Announce Village Meetings for October 2016 – 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 Columbus Day, October 10th, BUT that there will be NO delay in trash pickup that week. The brush and leaf pickup dates are also listed on the handout, and there is another reminder that First Street will be closed from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Halloween, October 31st.