SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MARCH 28, 2016

PRESENT: John Curtin, Mayor — See List
Sara Tallman, Trustee
Jeff Brown, Attorney

ABSENT: Patrick W. Cox, Trustee

Mayor Curtin asked for a motion to open the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. Trustee Tallman made a motion to open the hearing, seconded by Mayor Curtin. Both board members voted aye, and the public hearing was opened.

The Village Clerk read the legal notice of the public hearing to those in attendance.

Trustee Tallman explained that the purpose of the public hearing was to allow all interested parties the opportunity to be heard regarding Local Law #2, which will allow the Village Board to override a property tax cap that is in excess of the tax levy limit of 2%, mandated by the State of New York

Trustee Tallman went on to say that the property tax cap of 2%, which is another State mandate, complicates the Village budget and that at a recent workshop, the Board had decided to override the tax cap. Trustee Tallman explained that the Governor proposed a property tax cap freeze if the Village stayed under the tax cap and moved towards some sort of consolidation. The Board expects to be able to stay under the property tax cap and has also moved towards consolidation, particularly of the village, town and school district sewer districts. However, the Governor's "tax cap freeze" proposal complicates the Village budget process and the Board is unable to abide by the formula devised by the State for a tax freeze. The Board favors a tax cap of 2%, and Trustee Tallman mentioned that the Board would probably stay within the cap, but a tax freeze is not possible. There are too many variables in the Governor's tax cap freeze proposal for the Village and the savings, according to NYCOM, would be quite minimal.

Trustee Tallman also mentioned that having learned from the experience of several towns, it is best to override, if only to protect the Village from penalty. Should the adopted budget vary from the actual budget, resulting in a tax hike of more than 2 percent, the Village would be responsible for a host of fines for violating the Governor's tax cap. The public might think that the Village, by overriding the cap, is just ignoring the law and not in support of a tax cap, when in actuality the Village is very much in favor of it. However, with the Village continuing to receive unfunded mandates from the State, coupled with a cap on its ability to raise revenue, it is very difficult for the Village to plan or even survive. Therefore, the Village Board proposed the local law to vote to override the tax cap.

Mayor Curtin asked for questions or comments from the public on the proposed local law. There were no comments for or against the proposed local law. Trustee Tallman made a motion to adjourn the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.. The motion was seconded by Mayor Curtin. Mayor Curtin called for a vote. Both board members voted aye and the public hearing was closed.

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Dawn M. O'Hara, Village Clerk