

Marcellus Town Board  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, November 5, 2025  
6:30 PM

A Regular Meeting of the Town of Marcellus, County of Onondaga, State of New York was held on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, in the Town Hall, 22 East Main Street, Marcellus, New York.

Present:	Laurie Stevens	Supervisor
	Jeff Berwald	Councilor
	Percy Clarke	Councilor
	Terry Hoey	Councilor
Absent:	Gabe Hood	Councilor

Also Present: Jim Gascon, Town Attorney; Don MacLachlan, Recreation Director; Bill Southern, Linda and Gary Wilcox, Kaylee and Phil Cooper, Scott Stearns, Kathleen Joy, Jennifer Griffin, Heather Johnson, Nick Delallo, Chris Christensen, Dave Card, Fire Department; Bill Southern, Art Hudson, Nancy Hudson, Patricia Bishop, Suzanne Tobin, Deputy Town Clerk; Rosemary Tozzi, Town Clerk.

**PUBLIC HEARINNG- Preliminary Budget:** Supervisor Stevens reported that currently the Marcellus tax rate is at \$6.22 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value and the Town Board worked hard on the budget to keep it low for the taxpayers. Supervisor Stevens opened the public hearing to questions and comments from the Town Board and audience.

**Attendee and Marcellus Resident, Bill Southern:** Thinks Supervisor Stevens did a good job this year and throughout her years on the Board and Supervisor.

There were no other questions or comments.

Councilor Hoey made a motion seconded by Councilor Berwald to close the public hearing at 6:31pm.

Ayes – Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Stevens

Carried

**Waive the Reading and Accept the Minutes:** Councilor Clarke made a motion seconded by Councilor Berwald to waive the reading and accept the minutes as presented by the Town Clerk. The minutes were from October 1, 2025, Town Board Meeting and October 15, 2025, Workshop Meeting.

Ayes – Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Stevens

Carried

**Monthly Activity:** The abstract of Audited Vouchers for October 21, 2025, given to the Board Members as submitted by the Town Clerk. Abstract #10 as of October 31, 2025. Claim #s 158763-158770.

	<u>Expenses</u>
General Fund	\$15,102.75
Part Town General	2,173.58
Townwide Highway	4,156.62
Trust and Agency	1,815.16
Total	\$23,248.11

The abstract of Audited Vouchers for October 22, 2025, given to the Board Members as submitted by the Town Clerk. Abstract #10 as of October 31, 2025. Claim #s 158787-158790.

	<u>Expenses</u>
General Fund	\$1,490.54
Total	\$1,490.54

The abstract of Audited Vouchers for November 4, 2025, given to the Board Members as submitted by the Town Clerk. Abstract #11 as of November 4, 2025. Claim #s 158849-158854.

	<u>Expenses</u>
Part Town Highway	\$2,503.88
Trust and Agency	4,275.36
Total	\$6,779.24

The abstract of Audited Vouchers for November 5, 2025, given to the Board Members as submitted by the Town Clerk. Abstract #11 as of November 4, 2025. Claim #s 158771-158786, 158791-158794, 158806, 158808-158818, 158828-158838, 158840-158842, 158844-158848.

	<u>Expenses</u>
Trust and Agency	\$113,411.74
Total	\$113,411.74

Board Members were given the Activities Report as of October 29, 2025. Fiscal year 2025 Period 10.

	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expense</u>
General Fund	(1,677,667.71)	1,199,106.11
Part Town General	( 218,943.58)	154,088.26
Townwide Highway	( 654,344.60)	483,426.68
Part Town Highway	( 376,414.58)	348,910.11
Fire District	( 438,976.33)	398,483.00
Hydrant Fund	( 3,316.28)	3,477.00
Ambulance Fund	( 311,775.99)	311,756.00
Sewer District	( 155,350.31)	153,378.85
Water District	( 213,986.66)	189,338.00

**Bank Balances:**

The total of all Bank Balances for September 2025 is \$4,510,925.25.

Councilor Hoey made a motion seconded by Councilor Clarke to approve the Abstract of Audited Voucher Reports for October 21, 2025, October 22, 2025, November 4, 2025, November 5, 2025, and the Activities Report as of October 29, 2025, and the Bank Balances of September 2025.

Ayes – Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Stevens

Carried

**Old Business:**

**Fire Department Letter of Intent & Referendum Aerial Truck:** Dave Card spoke with Jim Gascon and with the direction of the Town Board Jim will assist the Fire Department if needed. The vendor will not hold

the truck with a letter of intent for the timeline that has been proposed. The Fire Department plans to compose a letter of information asking the community for donations for a new aerial truck to help offset the cost to taxpayers. The Fire Department may hold an informational meeting based on community interest. Supervisor Stevens recommended the Fire Department state the cost of the apparatus and ask for donations to offset the cost, any money received will reduce the cost on the referendum. This topic will be removed from the agenda.

**Hometown Heroes Banners:** Hometown Heroes recognizes Heroes for the sacrifices made by our Veterans and those who continue to serve our country. The Village of Marcellus has approved this program to be implemented on the Village streets. Heather Johnson, Kaylee and Phil Cooper are requesting permission from the Town Board to extend the banners into the Town. They would like to extend the banners up to the three-signal light at the corner of Dublin Road and Lee Mulroy, North Street and South Street. They will need a pole count for the NYSEG utilities poles throughout the Town in the areas they plan to place banners. Department of Transportation will need to be contacted for approval on some of the routes. Scott McClurg is in the process of starting a non-for-profit Marcellus First Responders and Veterans Support Committee. This group will be covered under the Fire Department's insurance until the 501C has been established. NYSEG will need a certificate of liability insurance with Marcellus First Responders and Veterans Support Committee listed as being covered by the Town. Jim Gascon said there is very little risk to the Town if the Town Highway employees assist, they will be covered under the Town's workers' compensation insurance. This is beyond the work responsibilities of the Town employees, so they are not required to agree to help with the installation of banners.

Supervisor Stevens made a motion seconded by Councilor Clarke to add Marcellus First Responders and Veterans Support Committee as an additional insured on the Town's liability insurance policy for the installation of the Hometown Heroes Banners.

Ayes – Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Stevens

Carried

#### **New Business:**

**Adopt the 2026 Budget:** There were no questions or requests to modify the budget. Councilor Berwald made a motion seconded by Councilor Hoey to adopt the 2026 Budget.

Ayes – Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Stevens

Carried

**Lakeshore Little League- Proposed Improvements:** A letter was presented to the Marcellus Parks and Recreation Department and the Town Board about proposed improvements. Lakeshore Little League would like the Town to replace backstops, skinning the infield (grass removal) and improve drainage. The Town Board approved the Park Department to repair the backstops at a previous meeting. The cost would be high to complete the requested improvements. At this time the Town Board and Park Department will not be making any more of the requested improvements.

**Town Hall Closing Early on Christmas Eve:** The Town Clerk has requested to close Town Hall at 12:00pm on Christmas Eve.

Councilor Clarke made a motion seconded by Councilor Berwald to approve the Town Clerk's request to close Town Hall early on Christmas Eve at 12:00pm.

Ayes – Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Stevens

Carried

**Town Highway/School District IMA:** The IMA is a contract that parties enter into a shared services agreement with each other for the purpose of sharing services, equipment and materials thereby

providing attendant efficiency and savings associated with said shared services. The current IMA between the Marcellus Highway Department and Marcellus School District will be a continual renewal unless one party wishes to withdraw.

**Otisco Lake Preservation Association:** Kathleen Joy and Jennifer Griffin are members of the Otisco Lake Preservation Association. They spoke about what their organization does to help preserve the lake. They hope to collaborate with the Town of Marcellus in the future to help maintain a clean lake. The exact needs were not discussed but possibly helping with labor, equipment and financial donations.

**Opposition to Government-Mandated Natural Gas Bans:** In 2019, New York State enacted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), mandating aggressive emissions reductions and laying the foundation for sweeping energy restrictions, including efforts to phase out natural gas; and building on the CLCPA, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature enacted provisions in the 2023 state budget banning natural gas and other fossil fuel hookups in most new residential and commercial buildings-effective 2026 for smaller buildings and 2029 for larger buildings-thereby eliminating consumer choice and limiting access to affordable energy. These mandates have raised widespread concerns about increased costs, strained grid reliability, and reduced energy diversity, particularly in rural communities like Marcellus. Congressman Nick Langworthy of New York and Senator Jim Justice of West Virginia have introduced the Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945), federal legislation that would prohibit state and local governments from restricting consumer access to natural gas and other affordable energy sources, thereby preserving energy freedom and reliability; and the Energy Choice Act would protect households, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and support an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy that strengthens affordability and resilience. The Town Board wants to pass a resolution opposing the Government Mandated Natural Gas Bans. This topic was tabled for a future meeting. Councilor Hoey wants time to review the resolution and make a few changes.

**Village/Town Sewer IMA:** The Town was in discussion with the County to contract for the repairs and maintenance of the Town's portion of the sewer. The County will not approve a contract due to special legislation would need to be completed. An agreement was reach between the Town of Marcellus, a municipal corporation, with its offices at 22 East Main Street, Marcellus, New York (hereinafter referred to as the "Town") on behalf of the Marcellus Consolidated Sewer Districts # 1 and 2, and the Village of Marcellus, a municipal corporation of the State of New York, with its offices at 6 Slocombe Ave, Marcellus, New York (hereinafter referred to as the "Village"). the Town has formed, operates and maintains the Marcellus Sewer Districts # 1 and 2 within the Town, to include sewer lines and the Platt Road pumping station, for the purpose of providing public sanitary sewer services to Town residents ("Town Sewer System"), the Village operates and maintains a sewer system within its corporate boundaries, which include sewer lines, pumping stations, and a water pollution control plant ("Village Sewer System"), the Town and Village consolidated the operation, maintenance, and repair of their sewer systems in order to optimize operational efficiency and reduce taxpayer expense. A copy of the full contract is available at the Town Clerk's office. Councilor Berwald made a motion seconded by Councilor Hoey to approve Supervisor Stevens to sign the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Town of Marcellus on behalf of the Marcellus Sewer Districts #1 and #2 and the Village of Marcellus.

Ayes – Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Stevens

Carried

**Moonlight Walk at Marcellus Park:** Marcellus Park will hold two moonlight walks this winter. The events are free to the public and will be held on Saturday evenings; January 3<sup>rd</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup> from 4:00pm-9:00pm. The park crew will provide s'mores and drinks (tea, hot cider, hot cocoa and bottled water).

**Bingo- Recreation Department:** The Recreation Department is interested in running 2-3 bingo nights for the community at the Marcellus Fire Department. A license through NYS Gaming Commission/Games of Chance may need to be obtained. The Town Clerk's Office and Recreation Office will investigate the process and bring more information to the Town Board.

**Department Reports:**

**Codes:** Nothing to report.

**Highway:** Nothing to report.

**Parks/Rec:** The Park will have the skating rink again this year.

**Town Clerk:** Rosemary Tozzi, Town Clerk; presented the monthly report for October 2025

Dog Licensing \$251.00

Certified Copies-Marriage \$10.00

Passport \$245.00

Conservation \$50.30

Freon Removal \$45.00

Marriage Licensing Fee \$52.50

Trash Permit One-trip \$105.00

Mattress \$300.00

Trash Permit- Trailer \$150.00

Tire \$84.00

Trash Permit six-trip Passenger \$145.00

Trash Permit-truck \$200.00

Building \$1,784.00

Zoning Fees \$300.00

Site Plan \$300.00

**Discussion Agenda**

**Fire Department:** The Fire Department presented their financials; this topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Adjournment:** Councilor Clarke made a motion seconded by Councilor Berwald to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Ayes – Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Stevens

Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Tozzi  
Town Clerk