

Marcellus Town Board  
Workshop Meeting  
Wednesday, March 18, 2026  
6:30 PM

A Workshop Meeting of the Town of Marcellus, County of Onondaga, State of New York was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, in the Town Hall, 22 East Main Street, Marcellus, New York.

Present: Jane Attley	Supervisor
Jeff Berwald	Councilor
Percy Clarke	Councilor
Terry Hoey	Councilor
Karen Pollard	Councilor

Also Present: James Gascon, Town Counsel; Mike Ossit, Highway Superintendent; Don MacLachlan, Park and Recreation Director; John Houser, Codes Officer; Linda Wilcox, Tom Lathrop, Bill Southern, Josilynn Howell, Cole Austin, Juliana Demperio, Zachary Redfield, Suzanne Tobin, Deputy Town Clerk; Rosemary Tozzi, Town Clerk.

**Abstract of Audited Vouchers:** The Abstract of Audited Vouchers was given to the Board Members as submitted by the Town Clerk. Abstract #3 for March 18, 2026. Claim #'s 159324-159383, 159393-159398.

	Expense	
General Fund		\$22,543.17
Part Town General		1,776.25
Townwide Highway		31,507.01
Part Town Highway		5,670.25
Fire District		10,199.75
Hydrant Fund		1,797.83
Ambulance Fund		1,216.25
Water District		13,540.62
Trust and Agency		0.00
Total		\$89,383.63

**Abstract of Audited Vouchers:** The Abstract of Audited Vouchers was given to the Board Members as submitted by the Town Clerk. Abstract #3 for March 19, 2026. Claim #'s 159399-159402.

	Expense	
General Fund		\$15,297.72
Part Town General		2,517.13
Townwide Highway		2,402.63
Part Town Highway		2,402.64

Trust and Agency	755.77
Total	\$23,375.89

Councilor Clarke made a motion seconded by Councilor Hoey to approve the Abstract of Audited Vouchers and pay the bills for March 18, 2026, and March 19, 2026.

Ayes –Attley, Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Pollard Carried

**Old Business:**

**NYSEG Delivery Charge Resolution:**

**TOWN OF MARCELLUS  
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION  
March 18, 2026**

**A RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF  
ELECTRIC DELIVERY CHARGES, DEMANDING IMPROVED COST  
CONTROLS AND TRANSPARENCY, AND AUTHORIZING FORMAL  
COMPLAINTS TO THE NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION REGARDING THE ESCALATING  
COST OF ELECTRICITY**

Councilor Pollard, made the following motion, which was seconded by Supervisor Attley, the following Resolution was put before the Town Board of the Town of Marcellus for its consideration:

**WHEREAS**, residents, seniors, and small businesses in the Town of Marcellus are experiencing unsustainable, repeated, and compounding increases in electric bills that are placing a growing financial strain on households and the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, a substantial portion of these increases are not attributable to increased energy consumption, but to escalating delivery charges, fees, and approved rate adjustments imposed by the utility companies; and

**WHEREAS**, electric delivery charges and rate structures are regulated and approved by the New York State Public Service Commission, which is statutorily charged with ensuring that utility rates are just, reasonable, and affordable for ratepayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has received complaints from residents who are struggling to afford basic electric service and who have expressed serious concern regarding the frequency, magnitude, and lack of transparency surrounding recent and ongoing rate increases; and

**WHEREAS**, rural and low-density communities such as the Town of Marcellus are disproportionately impacted by delivery charge increases and cost-recovery mechanisms that fail to adequately account for affordability, equity, and the cumulative burden placed on ratepayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board finds that continued approval of rate increases without stronger cost controls, greater transparency, and meaningful affordability protections, is unacceptable and contrary to the public interest;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Marcellus formally and strongly urges the New York State Public Service Commission to conduct a thorough and immediate review of electric delivery charges, rate increases, and cost-recovery practices applicable to utility customers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board calls upon the Public Service Commission to prioritize ratepayer affordability, demand greater transparency from the utility companies, and require demonstrable cost-containment and operational efficiency measures before approving any future rate increases; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Board expressly opposes continued or automatic rate increases that shift rising operational, infrastructure, and administrative costs onto ratepayers without clear justification or adequate protection for rural communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized and directed to submit formal complaints, written comments, and supporting documentation to the New York State Public Service

Commission on behalf of the Town and its residents, objecting to excessive electric costs and requesting regulatory intervention; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the New York State Public Service Commission, the utility companies, the Governor of the State of New York, members of the New York State Legislature, and neighboring municipalities served by the utility companies, and to encourage coordinated action among affected towns; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Jane Attley	Town Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Terry Hoey	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jeff Berwald	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Percy Clarke III	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Karen Pollard	Councilor	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**DATED: March 18, 2026**

**New Business:**

**Introductory Local Law No. A of 2026 (12) Month Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems:**

**TOWN OF MARCELLUS  
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION  
March 18, 2026  
TOWN OF MARCELLUS LOCAL LAW NO. A OF 2026  
("A Local Law Imposing a Twelve (12) Month Moratorium on  
Battery Energy Storage Systems within the Town of Marcellus")**

Councilor Berwald introduced proposed Local Law No. A-2026, titled "A Local Law Imposing a Twelve (12) Month Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems within the Town of Marcellus", and made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Hoey:

**WHEREAS**, proposed Local Law No. A-2026 has been introduced and will be considered for enactment pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law and Town Law; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposed moratorium will enable the Town of Marcellus to undertake a review to comprehensively address the issues involved with battery energy storage systems within the Town of Marcellus, including but not limited to siting, establishment, placement, installation, construction, erection, modification and/or enlargement of said systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town recognizes the potential benefits and desirability of renewable forms of energy, including battery energy storage systems, but has determined that time and research are necessary to determine how to properly regulate such systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has deemed this moratorium urgent and immediately necessary in order to preserve the status quo while this issue is examined by the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve or directly undertake the enactment of a local law in the Town of Marcellus, such that there are no other involved agencies within the meaning of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) with respect to the proposed enactment of said Local Law; and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of said Local Law is a Type II action for purposes of environmental review under SEQRA thus concluding the environmental review process.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is

**RESOLVED AND DETERMINED** that the Town Board shall conduct a public hearing as to the enactment of proposed Local Law No. A-2026 at the Town Hall located at 22 East Main Street, Marcellus, New York on April 15, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at which time all persons interested in the subject shall be heard; and it is further

**RESOLVED AND DETERMINED** that notice of said public hearing shall be provided at least five (5) days prior to the date of said public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town of Marcellus; and it is further

**RESOLVED AND DETERMINED** that pending action of this Local Law, the Town of Marcellus will neither accept nor process any application pertaining to battery energy storage systems.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Jane Attley	Town Supervisor	Voted	Yes
Terry Hoey	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Jeff Berwald	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Percy Clarke III	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Karen Pollard	Councilor	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**DATED: March 18, 2026**

**A copy of the full law is available in the Town's Clerk Office for review during normal business hours.**

**Vision Insurance for Town Employees:** Three plans were provided to the Town Board for vision insurance through Excellus; simply vision gold, simply vision platinum and simply vision platinum plus. The simply vision platinum plus has coverage for safety glasses for the subscriber only. After some discussion the Town Board selected simply vision platinum plus for vision insurance offered to employees. The cost for this plan is \$21.31 for employees, \$35.05 for employees plus spouse, \$36.42 for employees and child/children or \$47.75 for employees and family. All active full-time employees are eligible, and the Town will contribute 50% of the cost. The Town's portion for the vision insurance will be paid from the Tax Stabilization Reserve.

Councilor Berwald made a motion seconded by Supervisor Attley to select simply vision platinum plus as the vision insurance offered to employees and approved the Town to pay half of the monthly cost.

Ayes –Attley, Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Pollard

Carried

**After-the-Ball Party:** Gerri Stearns, Grant Committee Chairperson asked the Town Board to donate funds towards the Marcellus after-the-ball party. In the past years the Town has donated \$500.00. The Town Board decided to increase the donation to \$600.00 due to the cost-of-living increase. Supervisor Attley made a motion seconded by Councilor Clarke to make a \$600.00 donation to the Marcellus after-the-ball party.

Ayes –Attley, Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Pollard

Carried

**Stormwater Presentation of Draft Annual Report for Public Comment:** John Houser, Codes Officer, is requesting Supervisor Attley to sign the 2025 annual report and the interim progress certification for the annual stormwater report. This report once signed will be electronically sent to the DEC. The report is available on the Town's website for review and comments.

**Councilor Pollard** asked what it means when the form says **not due this year**.

**John Houser** responded, in 2024 the DEC created a new permit process for the MS4 municipalities, that year is considered year one. Current regulations are being added and required over the next five years. When the form says not due this year it means it was not part of the current stormwater management plan but will be required in the future.

Councilor Berwald made a motion seconded by Councilor Hoey to accept the form and approve Supervisor Attley to sign the MS4 Operator Certification Form for eReports to be sent to the DEC regarding stormwater.

Ayes –Attley, Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Pollard

Carried

**Discussion Agenda:**

**Supervisor Attley**, we will be meeting the Fire Department on March 25, 2026, at the Marcellus Fire Department for a special meeting for a tour and discussion of their wants and needs. The public is welcome.

**Councilor Hoey**, the Fire Department, provided a list of proposed topics to discuss during the special meeting. The Fire Department will be hosting a pancake breakfast on March 29, 2026.

**Councilor Pollard**, as a Board do we have a list of questions we want to ask the Fire Department?

**Councilor Hoey**, so we are doing a tour and a sit-down discussion on March 25, 2026.

**Councilor Pollard**, are we going to have a presence at the Municipal Housing Summit?

No Board member committed to going to the meeting.

**Adjournment:** Councilor Clarke made a motion seconded by Supervisor Attley to adjourn the Workshop Meeting at 7:15 PM.

Ayes –Attley, Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Pollard

Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Tozzi  
Town Clerk