

Marcellus Town Board
Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 4, 2026
6:30 PM

A Regular Meeting of the Town of Marcellus, County of Onondaga, State of New York was held on Wednesday, March 4, 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; Bill Southern, Linda Wilcox, Chris Christensen, Dave Card, Fire Department; Tom Lathrop, Art Hudson, Nancy Hudson, Patricia Bishop, Chad Clark, Kathleen Gardiner, Grace Ann Gardiner, Phil Coccia, Marlene Spencer, Blake Robinson, Matt Thorpe, Griffin Barney, Travis Stack, Finn Criss, Ernie Estlinbaum, Drew Criss, Rebekah Andre, Jacob Saxton, Thomas Moses, Gavin Foy, Suzanne Tobin, Deputy Town Clerk; Rosemary Tozzi, Town Clerk.

Waive the Reading and Accept the Minutes: Councilor Hoey made a motion seconded by Councilor Berwald to waive the reading and accept the minutes as submitted by the Town Clerk for February 4, 2026, Town Board meeting and February 18, 2026, Workshop meeting.
Ayes – Attley, Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Pollard Carried

Monthly Activity: The Abstract of Audited Vouchers was given to the Board Members as submitted by the Town Clerk. Abstract #2 for February 24, 2026, Claim #'s 159273-159276.

Expenses

General Fund	\$15,297.72
Part Town General	2,517.13
Townwide Highway	2,562.36
Part Town Highway	2,562.36
Trust and Agency	755.77
 Total	 \$23,695.34

The Abstract of Audited Vouchers was given to the Board Members as submitted by the Town Clerk. Abstract #3 for March 4, 2026, Claim #'s 159277-159290, 159301-159310, 159313-159314.

Expenses

General Fund	\$5,291.18
Townwide Highway	36,386.73
Water District	43,795.00

Total \$85,472.91

Board Members were given the Activities Report as of February 25, 2026. Fiscal year 2026 Period 2.

	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expense</u>
General Fund	(1,177,588.00)	197,943.17
Part Town General	(1,189.68)	34,333.95
Townwide Highway	(84,045.88)	112,755.57
Part Town Highway	(5.75)	8,466.76
Fire District	(188,248.75)	108,613.25
Hydrant Fund	(0.33)	0.00
Ambulance Fund	(311,756.14)	77,941.25
Sewer District	(215,803.74)	49,039.73
Water District	(0.06)	30,617.28

Bank Balances:

The total of all Bank Balances for January 2026 is \$4,023,244.73

Councilor Clarke asked for clarification regarding the Southern Onondaga Area Water District invoice.

Councilor Pollard stated it is the taxes collected for the Marcellus portion of the district. It is an annual invoice.

Councilor Clarke made a motion seconded by Councilor Hoey to approve the Abstract of Audited Voucher Reports for February 24, 2026, March 4, 2026, Activities Report as of February 25, 2026, and the bank balance as of January 2026.

Ayes – Attley, Berwald, Clarke Hoey and Pollard Carried

Old Business:

Marcellus Press-Observer: A motion was made at the February 18, 2026, Workshop meeting to pay the yearly subscription for the Marcellus Press-Observer. The Press-Observer will return to a paid subscription business model. An annual subscription will cost \$78.00. After this motion was made it was discovered that the Town of Marcellus will not be required to pay the fee due to being a municipality. Councilor Hoey made a motion second by Councilor Berwald to not pay the \$78.00 bill for the Press-Observer and to receive our free copy.

Ayes – Attley, Berwald, Clarke Hoey and Pollard Carried

New Business:

David’s Refuge 5K Run/Walk: David’s Refuge is a nonprofit based in Central New York. They have offices in Liverpool, Syracuse, and Rochester. They serve caregivers that have children with special needs or life-threatening medical conditions. It was founded in 2012, and serves over a thousand families a year, across New York State, but mostly in Central and Western New York, and serves caregivers that are based in Marcellus. **Rebekah Andre** from David’s Refuge is requesting permission to host a 5K run/walk fundraiser at Marcellus Park. The organization will coordinate with Willow Running. The event will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2026, with a start time around 8:00 AM. The organization will coordinate with the Village Police Department and Fire Department to ensure emergency vehicles will be on site. David’s Refuge is requesting the use of pavilions during the event.

Councilor Hoey made a motion seconded by Councilor Pollard to waive the pavilion rental fee and allow David’s Refuge to host a 5K run/walk fundraiser at Marcellus Park on July 25, 2026.

Ayes – Attley, Berwald, Clarke Hoey and Pollard Carried

Department Liaisons: The following are appointed as liaisons for the Departments that are not run by an Elected Official:

MAVES- Councilor Pollard
Fire Department- Councilor Clarke
Codes- Councilor Hoey
Recreation- Councilor Berwald

Councilor Berwald made a motion seconded by Supervisor Attley to approve the changes made to the department liaisons and accept the new liaisons as Councilor Pollard for MAVES, Councilor Clarke for the Fire Department, Councilor Hoey for Codes Department and Councilor Berwald for Recreation Department.

Ayes – Attley, Berwald, Clarke Hoey and Pollard Carried

Safety Committee: Due to an employee resigning from their position the safety committee is down a member. Don MacLachlan will fill the vacancy. The Safety Committee will be John Houser, Mike Ossit, Don MacLachlan and Supervisor Jane Attley.

Supervisor Attley made a motion seconded by Councilor Hoey to approve Don MacLachlan to fill the vacancy on the safety committee.

Ayes – Attley, Berwald, Clarke Hoey and Pollard Carried

Siemens 2026 Contract: Siemens will provide alarm management services, fire monitoring, fire alarm system annual test, inspection, repairs and replacement services. The annual cost for 2026 is \$2,358.13. There was a 5.5.% increase from 2025.

Councilor Berwald made a motion seconded by Councilor Pollard to approve the 2026 Siemens contract and authorize supervisor Attley to sign the contract.

Ayes – Attley, Berwald, Clarke Hoey and Pollard Carried

Proposed 12-month Moratorium on Solar Battery Storage Facilities: The Town Board would like to pass a local law that regulates solar battery storage facilities. The proposal is to put a moratorium in place to allow the Planning and Zoning Board time to research this topic then make a recommendation to Town Board.

Reports From Department Heads:

Codes: John Houser, Codes Officer; will provide his annual Stormwater report at the March 18, 2026 meeting.

Highway Department: Mike Ossit, Highway Superintendent; the Highway Department staff took a dig-safe course. Assemblyman John Lemondes held a press conference at the Highway Department to discuss CHIPS. All the equipment is holding up and the Highway Staff is doing a great job keeping the roads clear and safe, more salt may need to be ordered.

Parks and Recreation: Don MacLachlan, Park and Recreation Director; pavilion reservations have risen to 78. Applications for summer recreation employment have been coming in. Interviews are underway and many 2025 employees for the town have responded positively to returning for 2026. The 2026 Summer Recreation Brochure is nearly complete. Michele is working on Community Pass to upload all the program parameters. The goal is to have it available March 4th to the public. Paper copies will also be produced in-house next month. The park staff are working on getting the park ready for the upcoming season. The last moonlight walk was a success.

John MacLachlan is a proposed new park laborer hire.

Councilor Clarke made a motion seconded by Councilor Berwald to approve John MacLachlan as the new park laborer.

Ayes – Attley, Berwald, Clarke Hoey and Pollard

Carried

Town Clerk: Rosemary Tozzi, Town Clerk; presented the monthly report for February 2026.

Dog Licensing \$214.00

Certified Copies-Marriage \$20.00

Passport \$245.00

Trash Permit- Passenger (6)- \$30.00

Building \$440.00

Trash permits are available for purchase in the Town Clerk's Office.

Discussion Agenda:

Fire Department: Dave Card, Fire Department; the Fire Department will be hosting a pancake breakfast on March 29th. I am requesting a meeting with the Town Board at the Fire Department to discuss the concerns and needs of the department.

The Town Board and Dave Card scheduled a meeting for March 25, 2026, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will take place at the Marcellus Fire Department, and the public is welcome to attend.

Fire Department Financials: The Marcellus Fire Department turned in their financial statements through February 26, 2026. A copy is available at the Town Clerk's Office upon request during business hours 8:30AM-4:00PM Monday through Friday.

Councilor Pollard inquired if money remains in the budget from the building line would it be transferred into the Building Reserve at the end of the year? **Dave**, yes it would but we had to spend money from that line on the doors and other repairs. There was nothing left to transfer to the reserve account.

NYSEG's Delivery Charge Resolution: A resolution passed by the Town of Cincinnatus is requesting immediate review of NYSEG's delivery rates and the lack of transparency behind them. Many Towns have passed similar resolutions. This resolution calls on the New York State Public Service Commission to investigate these escalating charges, require real cost controls, and protect rural communities like ours from being unfairly burdened. **Mr. Gascon** stated that this topic has been discussed at his firm and because the Public Service Commission is the one that sets the rates this resolution might not make an impact on change. After discussion between the Town Board members, it was decided to move forward with the resolution at the March 18, 2026, Workshop meeting.

Councilor Pollard requested a meeting with Counsel after the meeting.

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

Ayes – Attley, Berwald, Clarke Hoey and Pollard

Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Tozzi
Town Clerk