

TOWN OF MARCELLUS
TOWN BOARD BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

September 2, 2026

A Budget Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Marcellus, County of Onondaga, State of New York was held on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, in the Town Hall, 22 E. Main Street, Marcellus, New York. Those present were:

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

Also Present: Lori Petrocci, Budget Officer, Steve Knapp, Director of MAVES, Dave Card, Bobby Mayers, Nancy & Art Hudson from the Fire Department. Mike Ossit, Highway Superintendent and John Houser, Code Enforcement Officer.

Stephen Knapp, Director of MAVES, went over the proposed 2027 budget for MAVES, stating there would be a \$25,000 decrease to the budget. He stated that the bottom line has improved. MAVES has offset the costs to the Town by answering calls for several other towns.

Mike Ossit, Highway Superintendent, stated that 2 of his employees had left for other jobs and the main reasons for this are salary and retirement. He stated that the hourly wage the employees earn is lower than other towns and would like to see it raised from \$28.90 to \$32.00 per hour. The Board asked Mike to check into where new employees could be trained for the special license needed to drive a plow truck and what the cost may be. He also proposed increases in portals, phone stipend, comp time and clothing allowances for his employees. He also requested that the truck reserve be increased from \$60,000 to \$75,000 to cover the rising costs of the plow trucks that will need to be replaced. For himself, he proposed a stipend in the amount of \$5,000 for sewer maintenance. The sewer maintenance stipend was discussed last year, and it was decided that for the first year, he would see how it goes as far as time and what's needed to be done and that a stipend would be discussed for the following year.

John Houser, Codes Enforcement Officer proposed a storm water stipend in the amount of \$2,000 for the work he performs concerning storm water. He also stated that he is the chairman of the storm water committee. The Board asked how many fire inspections are scheduled per week by the Deputy Codes Enforcement Officer. Between 1-3 inspections are scheduled per week. Building inspections are decreasing and there will be no change in amount for the demolition of buildings.

Dave Card, President of the Marcellus Fire Department, gave an overview of the budget requesting an increase to the Truck Reserve of \$75,000 for a total amount of \$160,000 for a purchase of an Aerial Fire Engine. These are specialized fire vehicles equipped with extendable ladders or booms to provide access to high places, elevating platforms or water tower devices, each designed for a specific firefighting need. The selection of an Aerial Firetruck depends on the community's needs and the fire department's mission. Discussion ensued regarding the amount requested for the truck reserve. Dave Card is looking for a commitment from the Town to put \$160,000 each year into the Truck Reserve. He would like notification when the amount is decided.

To increase the Truck Reserve, Dave Card suggested billing an additional \$500 per parcel to each taxpayer. The Board stated that this will need to go to a referendum along with getting voter approval to purchase the fire truck.

With regards to the possible Worker' Comp change, Councilor Pollard stated that each year, the Town will on pay what the 1st quote stated. Should the premium increase, the fire department would be responsible.

The amount of the Reserve will be \$100,000, which is an additional increase of \$15,000 from 2025.

The next budget meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9th at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting concluded at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Petrocci
Budget Officer