

Marcellus Town Board
End of Year Meeting
Monday, December 30, 2024
6:30 PM

An End of Year Meeting of the Town of Marcellus, County of Onondaga, State of New York was held on Monday, December 30, 2024, in the Town Hall, 22 East Main Street, Marcellus, New York.

Present: Laurie Stevens Supervisor
Jeff Berwald Councilor
Percy Clarke Councilor

Also Present: Mike Ossit, Highway Superintendent; Jim Gascon, Town Attorney; Phil Coccia, Recreation Director; Jim Rossiter, Bill Southern, Steven Bolewski, John Pawlewicz, Tim and Erica Leubner, Christina Kohler, Andrea Quick, Dave Card, Fire Department; Suzanne Tobin, Deputy Town Clerk; Rosemary Tozzi, Town Clerk

Public Hearing- Local Law D-2024 Regulating Solar Energy System: Supervisor opened the public hearing for comments and questions. Bill Southern said he had reviewed the proposed law, and it looks good. There were no other questions or comments from the Town Board or the public. Councilor Clarke made a motion seconded by Councilor Berwald to close the public hearing regarding regulating solar energy systems at 6:33pm.

Public Hearing- Proposed 2025 Contract for Fire Service: The public hearing was opened for discussion. There were no comments or questions from the Town Board or the public. Councilor Clarke made a motion seconded by Councilor Berwald to close the public hearing regarding the 2025 Fire Service contract at 6:35pm.

Public Hearing- Proposed 2025 Contract for Ambulance Service: The public hearing was opened for discussion. There were no comments or questions from the Town Board or the public. Councilor Berwald made a motion seconded by Councilor Clarke to close the public hearing regarding the 2025 Ambulance Service contract at 6:36pm.

Ayes –Berwald, Clarke and Stevens Carried

Abstract of Audited Vouchers: The Abstract of Audited Vouchers was given to the Board Members as submitted by the Town Clerk. Abstract #12 as of December 13, 2024. Claim #'s 157460-157485.

Expense

General Fund \$3,819.02

Part Town General	5.16
Townwide Highway	26,957.04
Total	\$30,781.22

The Abstract of Audited Vouchers was given to the Board Members as submitted by the Town Clerk. Abstract #12 as of December 27, 2024. Claim #'s 157486-157498, 157508-157520, 157530-157540.

Expense	
General Fund	\$13,042.67
Part Town General	1,768.42
Townwide Highway	3,044.07
Total	\$17,855.16

Councilor Clarke made a motion seconded by Councilor Berwald to approve the Abstract of Audited Vouchers and pay the bills as of December 18, 2024, and December 30, 2024. Ayes –Berwald, Clarke and Stevens Carried

Ayes - Berwada, Stark and Stevens
Spared -

Old Business:

Tim's Pumpkin Patch PUD: This topic has been tabled for discussion.

Sewer Contract with the Village: This topic has been tabled.

30-Day Sewer Extension Agreement: The Town Board agreed to sign an extension for the sewer contract at the December 4, 2024, Town Board Meeting. The Village presented the Town Board with a 30-day extension contract as they did not want it open ended.

Councilor Clarke made a motion seconded by Councilor Berwald to approve Supervisor Stevens to sign the 30-day extension agreement.

New Business:

Appoint Deputy Court Clerk: Marcellus Justice Court has offered the position of Deputy Court Clerk to Olivia Dunn. She will start on January 6, 2025. The Deputy Court Clerk position will be 10 hours per week, at \$18.00 per hour, there are no benefits offered at this time.

Councilor Berwald made a motion seconded by Councilor Clarke to approve the appointment of Olivia Dunn as Deputy Court Clerk.

Re-Introducing Local Law C-2024- Outdoor Concerts: After a brief introduction by attorney Jim Gascon and responding to comments from Board members, the formal process of introducing Local Law C-2024 began. Attorney Gascon read aloud the entire Long Form Environmental Assessment Form. It was determined that the outdoor concert law, as proposed, will have no adverse impact on the environment. Jim Gascon read aloud the Town Board Resolution

Introducing Local Law C-2024. The resolution went to vote and was not passed due to not having a quorum vote.

Comprehensive Plan: Onondaga County Planning Board reviewed the referral for the Comprehensive Plan from the Town of Marcellus at the request of the Town of Marcellus. The Board commends the Town of Marcellus for its well-considered comprehensive plan as it relates to current and projected needs to protect and preserve its agriculture, increase housing options in response to demographic shifts, and focus on the Town's invaluable natural resources, open spaces and recreational opportunities, themes which are compatible with those of the Onondaga County's Comprehensive Plan. The Onondaga Planning Board meet on December 4, 2024, and responded with an action of no position with comment.

TOWN OF MARCELLUS TOWN BOARD

SEQRA NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2024 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

December 30, 2024

The following resolution was offered by Councilor Clarke, who moved its adoption, and seconded by Councilor Berwald, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Town of Marcellus Town Board has previously appointed a Special Board (the "Comprehensive Plan Committee") pursuant to Town Law §272-a for the purposes of preparing an update and amendments to the Town's Comprehensive Plan for consideration by the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board was previously advised that the Comprehensive Plan Committee completed its work and prepared a draft update to the Comprehensive Plan document, after additional public participation to said proposed update and amendments in June of 2024 and August of 2024, for the Town Board's review and consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Marcellus, at its regular meeting of November 6, 2024, received from the Comprehensive Plan Committee copies of the proposed update and amendments to the Town of Marcellus Comprehensive Plan (titled "Town of Marcellus 2024 Comprehensive Plan"), all in accordance with Town Law; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on the proposed Town of Marcellus 2024 Comprehensive Plan on December 4, 2024 by the Town Board of the Town of Marcellus and proofs of publication of notices of such public hearings, as required by law, have been submitted and filed, and all persons desiring to be heard in connection with said proposed Comprehensive Plan have been heard; and

WHEREAS, Volume 6 N.Y.C.R.R., Sections 617.3 and 617.6 of the Regulations relating to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law of New York (SEQRA), requires that as early as possible an involved agency shall make a determination whether a given action is subject to the aforementioned law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the Full Environmental Assessment Form Part 1, which was prepared in connection with the proposed update and amendments to the Town of Marcellus 2024 Comprehensive Plan, and previously on November 6, 2024 determined that:

1. This action, which anticipates the adoption of an updated and amended Town of Marcellus 2024 Comprehensive Plan, will require SEQRA review;
2. This action is a Type I Action;
3. The Town Board of the Town of Marcellus shall act as Lead Agency;
4. The following are interested agencies in connection with the SEQRA review:
 - a. **Village of Marcellus**, c/o Hon. Chad Clark, Mayor, 6 Slocombe Ave. Marcellus, NY 13108;
 - b. **Onondaga County Planning Department**, Attn: Martin Voss, Chair, Carnegie Building 335 Montgomery Street, 1st Floor, Syracuse, NY 13202; and
5. The Town Board directed that a Lead Agency notification letter be circulated among the interested agencies, together with a copy of the proposed “Town of Marcellus 2024 Comprehensive Plan”, the Full Environmental Assessment Form and such other information as has been prepared and submitted to date; and

WHEREAS, more than thirty (30) days has elapsed since said Lead Agency notification to all interested agencies and as no objections or environmental comments were received by the Town Board, the Town Board hereby confirms that it shall act as Lead Agency for purposes of SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board, as Lead Agency, has now completed and submitted the Full Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 and 3, has carefully reviewed same, as well as all comments and concerns received from interested agencies and the public in general concerning the potential environmental impacts of the action; and

WHEREAS, each of the various areas of environmental concern, as identified pursuant to the Regulations, the Town Board and local residents have been fully considered, analyzed and discussed by the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has fully considered and discussed the advisability of adopting an updated Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Marcellus; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board believes it is in the best interest of the Town to adopt said updated Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Marcellus.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Town of Marcellus Town Board hereby reaffirms that the proposed action is a Type I Action; and it is further

RESOLVED that the Town of Marcellus Town Board hereby determines that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and that this Resolution shall constitute a Negative Declaration for the update and amendments to the Town's Comprehensive Plan, as proposed and subsequently amended, for purposes of Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, Volume 6 of the NYCRR Section 617.3 for the reasons set forth in the findings attached hereto as Appendix "A"; and it is further

RESOLVED that the Town of Marcellus Town Board hereby adopts the updated Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Marcellus, titled “Town of Marcellus 2024 Comprehensive Plan”, pursuant to Town Law §272-a and such document shall serve as the Town’s Comprehensive Plan and shall guide the Town Board in furtherance of its future actions relating thereto; and it is further

RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute any necessary documentation relative to this matter.

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

Terry Hoey	Councilor	Absent
Gabe Hood	Councilor	Absent
Percy Clarke	Councilor	Voted Yes
Jeff Berwald	Councilor	Voted Yes
Laurie Stevens	Supervisor	Voted Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

DATED: December 30, 2024

The Comprehensive Plan may be viewed at the Town’s Clerk’s office or on the Town of Marcellus’s website.

Local Law D-2024 Regulating Solar Energy Systems: Onondaga County Planning Board has considered and reviewed the referral for Local Law No. D-2024- regulating solar energy systems from the Town of Marcellus Town Board at the request of Town of Marcellus. The Onondaga Planning Board met on December 23, 2024, and responded with an action of no position. The Town Board of the Town of Marcellus, Onondaga County, New York, does hereby enact proposed Local Law No. D-2024 as Local Law No 4-2024. This Law may be viewed at the Town’s Clerk’s office or on the Town of Marcellus’s website.

Councilor Clarke made a motion seconded by Councilor Berwald to enact the Local Law No.4-2024 regulating solar energy systems. The vote was determined by roll call:

Laurie Stevens	Town Supervisor	Yes
Jeff Berwald	Councilor	Yes
Percy Clarke	Councilor	Yes

OCMBOCES 2025 Contract: This is our annual contract to provide safety training. There were no questions or concerns from the Board regarding the contract.

Councilor Berwald made a motion seconded by Councilor Clarke to approve Supervisor Stevens to sign the 2025 contract with OCMBOCES.

Ayes –Berwald, Clarke and Stevens

Carried

Joey's Wish Inc: Ann Morrell is the chairperson for Joey's Wish Inc. It is a not for profit to raise funds to support research to aid in ending the addiction crisis after losing their son to fentanyl poisoning in 2022. Joey's Wish held an event at Marcellus Park in 2024. The organization would like to hold another walk to raise funds on June 21st or 22nd. It was the recommendation of the Recreation Director to hold the event on June 22, 2025. The Town Board had no concerns with approving the event to take place on June 22, 2025.

Discussion Agenda:

Fire Department: Dave Card reported he will be giving the Town Board the end of year financials after the Fire Department has paid all of December's bills. The 2023 audit should be completed soon and will be submitted once complete. Dave asked the status of the service award and if it will be going to vote during a Special Election or on the November Election. Jim Gascon, Town attorney is going to investigate this matter.

Councilor Berwald asked Dave Card if the Fire Department Board is bonded through insurance. He asked Dave to produce proof of the insurance policy. Dave Card said he will provide documentation.

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

Ayes –Berwald, Clarke and Stevens

Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Tozzi
Town Clerk