

Marcellus Town Board
Workshop Meeting
Wednesday, December 17, 2025
6:30 PM

A Workshop Meeting of the Town of Marcellus, County of Onondaga, State of New York was held on Wednesday, December 17, 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

Also Present: Mike Ossit, Highway Superintendent; Jim Gascon, Town Attorney; Don MacLachlan, Park and Recreation Director; Gary and Linda Wilcox, Bill Southern, Tom Lathrop, Tim and Jane Attley, Priscilla Carmody, Karen Pollard, Lisa Slater, Jim Rossiter, Vicki Servello, Ray and Toni Heer, Art and Nancy Hudson, Pat Koloski, Brandy Witthoft, Steven and Robyn Bolewski, Dave Card, Fire Department; Suzanne Tobin, Deputy Town Clerk; Rosemary Tozzi, Town Clerk.

Proclamation Honoring the Life and Service of Gabriel J. Hood: Supervisor Stevens read a proclamation dedicated to Gabe Hood, who unfortunately recently lost his battle with cancer.

*Town of Marcellus
County of Onondaga, New York
Proclamation Honoring the Life and Service of Gabriel J. Hood*

WHEREAS, the Town of Marcellus mourns the passing of our esteemed Town Board Member, Gabriel J. Hood, who faithfully served our community with dedication, integrity, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure on the Town Board, Gabriel J. Hood worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for all residents, championing initiatives that strengthened our town's infrastructure, preserved our natural beauty, and fostered a spirit of unity; and

WHEREAS, Gabriel J. Hood was known not only for his leadership and vision, but also for his kindness, humility, and unwavering commitment to the people of The Town of Marcellus; and

WHEREAS Gabriel J. Hood's, legacy will endure in the projects he helped bring to life, the policies he shaped, and the countless lives he touched; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board, staff, and residents join together in expressing our deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and all who were privileged to know him;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Marcellus hereby honors and remembers Gabriel J. Hood for his exemplary service, leadership, and devotion to our community, and directs that this proclamation be entered into the official record as a lasting tribute to his life and contributions.

Adopted December 17, 2025

Laurie A Stevens

Supervisor

Town of Marcellus

Abstract of Audited Vouchers: The Abstract of Audited Vouchers was given to the Board Members as submitted by the Town Clerk. Abstract #12 for December 15, 2025. Claim #'s 158994-158998.

	Expense
General Fund	\$2,225.00
Total	\$2,225.00

Abstract of Audited Vouchers: The Abstract of Audited Vouchers was given to the Board Members as submitted by the Town Clerk. Abstract #12 for December 17, 2025. Claim #'s 158959-158993.

	Expense
General Fund	\$43,907.06
Townwide Highway	34,223.98
Fire District	16,100.00
Total	\$94,231.04

Councilor Hoey made a motion seconded by Councilor Berwald to approve the Abstract of Audited Vouchers and pay the bills for December 15, 2025, and December 17, 2025.

Ayes –Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Stevens

Carried

Old Business:

MAVES and Fire Department 2026 Contracts: These have been tabled until January 7, 2026, Town Board meeting. A public hearing is scheduled for 6:30 PM.

New Business:

Town Councilor Resignation: Councilor Clarke resigned from his position of Town Councilor at the Town of Marcellus effective December 17, 2025. A formal letter of resignation was accepted by the Town Clerk.

Councilor Berwald made a motion seconded by Councilor Hoey to accept the resignation of Councilor Clarke from Town Councilor of the Town of Marcellus.

Ayes –Berwald, Hoey and Stevens

Carried

Town Councilor Appointment for Unexpired Term of Gabriel Hood: Percy Clarke III was appointed to the unexpired term of Gabriel Hood for a term of December 17, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

Councilor Hoey made a motion seconded by Councilor Berwald to approve the appointment of Percy Clarke III for a term of December 17, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

Ayes –Berwald, Hoey and Stevens

Carried

The Town Clerk administered the oath of office to Councilor Percy Clarke III, and he signed the oath book.

Councilor Hoey addressed the room giving the reasons why the Town Board decided to appoint Percy Clarke to the unexpired term of Gabriel Hood.

“For the public, two weeks ago, our friend, our colleague Gabe Hood, died. That left a vacancy on the Board. We were at the December 3, 2025 meeting two weeks ago and he passed at this time, and we didn’t know until we got home and received the news. It is our hope and our intention that Percy Clarke will be appointed to Gabe’s term for multiple reasons. One, Percy is great at this job; he is well respected and has been an outstanding member of the Town Board. Two, in terms of the last election, Percy was next in line in the number of votes he received, close to 50 votes. Third, and most important to me, there isn’t anyone else Gabe would have wanted to fill his term and his seat, and the people that voted for Gabe would want Percy Clarke to fill his vacancy. This is being stated so that everyone knows what is going on. This is not a secret. It is our hope that the new board will support this goal and approve the appointment of Percy for Gabe’s vacancy.”

Letter of Support for Heer Farms - NYS Farmland Protection Implementation Grant: Raymond and Toni Heer are requesting the support of the Town Board for the grant application through NYS Farmland Protection Implementation. As owners of a third-generation farm, the Heer’s are advocating to sustain the land his grandfather and father farmed as agricultural only for future generations. It is their priority to sustain the valuable asset of farmland that will continue to have a positive impact on the community. Councilor Clarke made a motion seconded by Councilor Berwald to approve Supervisor Stevens to sign a letter of support for the Heer Farm grant application.

Ayes –Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Stevens

Carried

Appointments to the Board of Assessment Review: Jeff Lowe the Town Assessor recommends appointing Matt Leveroni to a term expiring September 30, 2029, and Jason Hubbard to a term expiring September 30, 2030, to fill vacancies on the Board of Assessment Review.

Councilor Berwald made a motion seconded by Councilor Clarke to approve the appointments of Matt Leveroni and Jason Hubbard to the Board of Assessments Review.

Ayes –Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Stevens

Carried

Discussion Agenda:

Fire Department: Dave Card asked for a copy of the 2026 Fire Department contract for review.

Fire Department Financials: The Marcellus Fire Department turned in their financial statements through November 30, 2025. A copy is available at the Town Clerk’s Office upon request.

Highway Department: Mike Ossit addressed the Town Board to inform them that the pump station at Platt Road is currently uninsured. He contacted Reagan Insurance and they will prorate and begin coverage on December 18, 2025.

Councilor Hoey met with the Village Mayor Chad Clark and the Cub Scouts at Town Hall. They discussed government with the Scouts and the difference between the Village and the Town. Councilor Hoey said it was a nice meeting.

Adjournment: Councilor Hoey made a motion seconded by Councilor Berwald to adjourn the Workshop Meeting at 6:50 PM.

Ayes –Berwald, Clarke, Hoey and Stevens

Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Tozzi
Town Clerk