

THE CASTLETONIAN

JULY 2009

TAXES AND FEES

This year has been a difficult one in preparing our budget. At the time of preparation, no municipalities had been given any amounts of revenue sharing they could expect from the State. For this reason, we figured our revenues at exactly that of the previous fiscal year in the hope that they would be no less.

Our unexpended fund balance was almost entirely depleted, thereby increasing the amount we needed to raise by taxes. The trustees worked hard to bring down the total appropriations, from a preliminary amount of \$1,056,511 to \$962,561. Obviously to do this, some important areas of the budget had to be reduced. Even after this, we finally had to pass a budget with almost a ten per cent increase.

Lorne Dawes retired from the waste water treatment facility, and John Shortsleeve assumed his position. Kenneth Meyer moved over from the DPW to replace John, reducing the personnel at the DPW to four. Donald Cripps has now retired from the DPW, and we will be working with three men at that facility for at least this fiscal year.

We will pay off two pieces of DPW

equipment in 2010 which will make some funds available to help absorb the additional costs for Green Avenue. This is a huge undertaking that we will try to stretch out for as long as possible to make the impact less severe.

\$500,000.00 of the cost for Green Avenue has to be allocated to water expense. This amount will be bonded and will mean an increase in our water fees.

We will also have to bond about \$125,000 for the new Ultra Violet installation that was mandated by the state for the wastewater facility, and that will mean an increase in that fee. Fortunately, we have a grant to defray some of that expense, but the shortfall will be about \$125,000.

Our refuse contract was bid this year, and the lowest bid was \$108,000. This was an increase of \$38,000 over the last bid and the tipping fees and tonnage charges have increased. Although it may be surprising, it seems that the "totes" that have been provided by the hauler actually allow them to use fewer personnel on the route and to get done more quickly.

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EPA AUDIT

The Environmental Protection Agency recently audited the village for compliance with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, (MS4) regulations. This three day audit took place in June, with results due within 90 days. An extensive report was completed by Clark Engineering for the audit and can be viewed on the village website, www.castleton-on-hudson.org. Several links can be accessed to see just what obligations we have as citizens to protect and improve the environment. Please use the website to see how you can help.

Our public works personnel have undergone training by Rensselaer County to maintain certain standards with regard to our discharges and will continue to monitor any situations that might threaten the river.

QUADRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Castleton and Schodack residents had a wonderful opportunity on June 12 to gather at the Schodack Island State Park for the arrival of the flotilla that sailed from New York City to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's trip up the Hudson River. A comfortable evening concluded with music and fireworks.



Saturday, June 13, saw the group of boats depart from the Castleton Boat Club and head to the Albany Yacht Club for the blessing of the fleet. The Clearwater, Half Moon, Onrust, Navy vessel, tugboats and a New York City fireboat made a spectacular arrival in Albany to conclude the festivities.

REFUSE NEWS

On June 1, our new refuse hauler began service to the village. Since then, some complaints have surfaced – some to say the “totes” were not big enough, some to say they were too large.

When refuse rates were first established, information was gathered about the needs of the average family and rates were established in accordance with that research. Two 30-gallon containers were adjudged to be sufficient for each unit. Recycling has been simplified by allowing co-mingling of items, and is collected weekly.

The containers provided are the 65 gallon size; therefore 5 gallons more than originally allowed. Please be sure that all refuse is contained within the tote and the lid is in place. Extra bags will not be picked up, nor will any other containers be emptied. These rules have been in place for many years, and with the considerable extra costs involved with trash removal these days, it is more important than ever for us to comply with them.

Please note that the new containers have an imprint on the top cover that indicates which side should face the street.



CASTLETON FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Castleton Fire Department has requested an increase in the annual amount that is credited to their accounts by the Length of Service Award Program, (LOSAP). At the present time, \$480 is deposited for each person who has accumulated a prescribed number of points that are earned by training programs, participation in drills, firefighting, etc.

An average of 22 firefighters earn these points each year. The program has been in effect for several years at this dollar amount.

The firefighters are requesting an increase to \$800, which is the maximum dollar amount allowable. This program was originally voted on in a March referendum, and can be increased only through the same process in March of 2010. Look for it on the ballot at that time.

ZONING

The Village Board of Trustees and the Planning Board have concurred on a proposed change in permissible building lot sizes. A public hearing will be held on August 10 at 7:15 PM.

The minimum building lot in our zoning is 10,000 sq. ft. Existing smaller lots must be built upon within six months from the date of the adoption of this law, after which lots must be 10,000 sq. ft. in size.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Village will have another village-wide garage sale on September 19. Many of our residents felt that the autumn sale is a better idea, and we should return to that schedule. The consensus seems to be that we should include this year in that schedule in order to maintain continuity. A form is included to return to Barbara Milano so that your sale can be included on the map.

CFC FIRECRACKERS

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Castleton Fire Department continues to mentor a group of youngsters. Their ongoing project is the collection of deposit bottles to help finance their field trips and other recreational adventures. A receptacle for the bottles is located at the rear of the firehouse and they will appreciate any amount of bottles you can bring them. If you would like them to be picked up, please call 732-4342 and leave a message to that effect.

DOGS*DOGS*DOGS

As you walk your dog through the village, please be mindful of the need to clean up after your dog. Carry a plastic bag with you and use it. Keep your dog on a leash and do not allow the dog to run free on your neighbors' properties. This courtesy will benefit everyone.

CASTLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

To see the schedule of events for the library, please go to the Village's website — www.castleton-on-hudson.org — and click on Library Calendar. The Library hours are Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 2-8 PM; Tuesdays from 11 AM—7 PM and Saturdays from 10 AM—2 PM.

**VILLAGE OF CASTLETON-
ON-HUDSON**

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Office hours are 9:00 - 3:00,
Monday - Friday

CALL THE DPW GARAGE
AT 732-2983...

IF YOU ARE A NEW
RESIDENT AND NEED A
RECYCLING BIN. THEY WILL
DELIVER ONE TO YOUR
HOME.



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PAUL POWERS

VILLAGE CLERK/TREASURER
DONNA MESICK

OFFICE ASSISTANT
BARBARA SHERMAN

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These increases will be seen in the fees that will be sent out in January 2010. All of the trustees regret the need to make so many increases at one time. We are all taxpayers too, and fully understand the impact these additions will have. Please be patient with any delays that may occur in reduced services. We have tried to avoid actually eliminating any services, although we may have to wait a little longer for them.

-Mayor Marianne Carner

VILLAGE CALENDAR

Each December, we are provided with a calendar for the upcoming year by the Eastern Rensselaer County Solid Waste Management Authority (ERCSWMA). This calendar provides dates for cleanups, brickyard dates, garage sales, recycling collection days, hazardous waste collections and other important matters that residents need.

Consult it often to keep abreast of what's going on in the village.

