

VILLAGE OF CASTLETON-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

October 12, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Keegan, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Jenifer Pratico, Trustee Sharon Martin, Trustee Lissa D'Aquanni, and Trustee Erik Samarija

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Benjamin Hill, Foreman Daniel Lebrecht, Foreman Kenneth Meyer, Building Inspector Gary Ziegler, Code Enforcement Officer James Lance, Fire Chief Chris Carner, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

PUBLIC: 1 (in person), 6 (via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Village of Castleton-on-Hudson was held at Castleton Village Hall, 85 South Main Street on October 12, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Mayor Keegan with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Mayor Keegan, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the September 27, 2021 Regular Meeting, with corrections from Trustee D'Aquanni.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Frank Palladino, of First Street, stated that the current parking regulations on the west side of South Main Street need to be enforced. The Board stated that the matter was on the night's agenda. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Mayor Keegan:** Mayor Keegan reported that he attended the 150th Anniversary event at the Castleton Fire Department and that he was glad to see the community participation. Mayor Keegan reported that he had participated in a ride-along with Department of Public Works Foreman Lebrecht to take a look at signage in the Village, with the goal of installing speed signs on Scott Avenue near Castleton Elementary School. Mayor Keegan reported that he spoke with Foreman Lebrecht about hiring a landscaper to trim the trees and brush along the west side of North Main Street. The Board will contact the Department of Transportation to see if they will trim the trees before looking into a landscaper. Mayor Keegan responded to the Town of Schodack's letter regarding adding additional Town units onto the Village sewer system.
- **Deputy Mayor Pratico:** Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that the Castleton Fire Company has requested an increase in their LOSAP contributions which will be discussed in the business portion of the meeting. Deputy Mayor Pratico stated that Trustee Martin will present information on the tree inventory at the next Cemetery meeting.

- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin asked that the Department of Public Works trim the trees that are growing out of the boat at the fire house so that Code Enforcement Officer Lance can have the boat towed. Trustee Martin reported that she and Clerk-Treasurer Ellis had completed and submitted the quarterly report for the Urban Forestry Grant.
- **Trustee D'Aquanni:** Trustee D'Aquanni moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to ask the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for a contract extension for the Estuary Grant. Trustee D'Aquanni stated that the Comprehensive Plan committee will be meeting over Zoom and that Delaware Engineering will be creating a website for the Comprehensive Plan. Trustee D'Aquanni stated that the Capital District Regional Planning Commission is offering a technology grant that the Village may be able to use for a traffic study.
- **Trustee Samarija:** Trustee Samarija reported that the Eastern Rensselaer County Solid Waste Management Authority has passed their budget for the upcoming year. Trustee Samarija reported that the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association has requested that the Department of Public Works remove the weeds from the municipal parking lots in the Village and to replace the bags in the dog waste stations.

REPORTS:

1. **Library Report:** Director Tacke reported that the Library will be partnering with the Castleton Fire Company and the Main Street Association for the Halloween parade this year.
2. **DPW Report:** Foreman Lebrecht reported that the Town of Schodack would be holding their clean-up day on Saturday at the Transfer Station. Foreman Lebrecht reported that the storm sewers have been marked so that the Department of Public Works knows where they are during leaf pick-up.
3. **Water Report:** Absent.
4. **Wastewater Report:** Foreman Meyer reported that National Grid and Amtrak have finally completed the new electrical service at the waste water treatment plant.
5. **Building Inspector:** Inspector Ziegler reported the there are two tattoo parlors opening on Main Street.
6. **Code Enforcement:** Officer Lance reported that progress was being made on the clean-up of houses on Green Avenue.
7. **Fire Department Report:** Trustee Pratico reported that the first fire house breakfast since the beginning of the COVID pandemic was well attended.
8. **Clerk-Treasurer Report:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that he had been working with Trustee Martin on the Urban Forestry Grant quarterly report and with Deputy Mayor Pratico on the Fire Truck Grant.

Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion to approve all departmental reports.

BUSINESS:

1. Parking Signs for Existing Code Regulations: In the Village code there is a regulation limiting parking on the west side over Main Street between the post office and Scott Avenue to two hours on weekdays. Currently, this is not being enforced. The Village will look at enforcing this regulation, as well as alternate parking on Fridays for street sweeping, by creating a flyer to go out in the next water bill and to be placed on car on Main Street. The Village will also post about the regulation on Facebook and enforce it through Code Enforcement Officer Lance. In addition, Foreman Lebrecht will be getting two hour parking signs for the area affected.

2. Fire Department LOSAP Increase: The Castleton Fire Company requested that the Village increase Length of Service Agreement contributions from \$750.00 per member to \$1,200.00 per member. The Board will ask Anthony Hill of Firefly Admin Inc. to present to the Board on how best to proceed.

3. Volunteer Appreciation Party – December 10, 2021: Trustee Samarija moved, Mayor Keegan seconded, motion carried to approval the use of a maximum of \$800.00 from the celebrations budget for a volunteer appreciation party on December 10th, once the ambulance garage has been contacted to see if that date is available.

4. Holidays on the Hudson – December 5, 2021: The Board and the Castleton Public Library will hold the Holidays on the Hudson celebration outdoors on December 5, 2021, with a tree lighting and hot beverages. The Village will ask the Main Street Association to donate a tree.

5. River Access Update: The Board will contact the Castleton Fire Department to use there hall for a public forum on river access at 7:00 pm on January 24, 2022. The attorneys for the Estuary grant will be asked to speak at the event and the Board will give a brief overview of the history of the project. Trustee D'Aquanni will reached out to the new Governor's Deputy Secretary for the Department of Transportation and the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of State regarding river access.

7. APPROPRIATIONS: Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion to approve payment of the abstracts.

Abstract # 6 – Vouchers # 198 - # 236 in the amount of \$ 60,558.39.

General Fund: \$ 41,268.06

Water Fund: \$ 5,770.61

Sewer Fund: \$ 13,519.72

ONLINE BANKING TRANSFERS: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion to approve the online banking transfers according to the schedule presented to the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Suzanne Cecala, of the Main Street Association, asked that the Department of Public Works remove the remaining brush from Riverfront Park to which Foreman Lebrecht responded that 80% of the Brush had been clear. Carol Stockman, of the Planning Board and Comprehensive Plan committee, stated the Planning Board and Comprehensive Plan committee are aware of the brownfield that needs to be cleaned up an the former Fort Orange site. Michael O'Neal, of the Planning Board, reported that there have been many cars speeding on North Main Street and the he would like to see a traffic study as well as

a higher police presence. Mark Wochinger, of the Planning Board and Comprehensive Plan committee, stated the he would supplies minutes from the Comprehensive Plan committee meetings to the Board to make sure that they are being supplied with factual information. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:00 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer