

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

April 26, 2021

**PRESENT:** Mayor Joe Keegan, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Jenifer Pratico, Trustee Sharon Martin, Trustee Lissa D'Aquanni, Trustee Erik Samarija (arrived 7:10 pm) (all via Zoom video conference)

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Attorney Benjamin Hill, Fire Chief Matt Carner, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis (all via Zoom video conference)

**PUBLIC:** 5

**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 April 26, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Mayor Keegan with the Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting will be posted to the Village website in accordance with the Village's best efforts to comply with New York State Open Meeting Law and Executive Order 202.1.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Trustee Martin moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the March 22, 2021 Regular Meeting.
- Deputy Mayor Pratico moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the April 12, 2021 Regular Meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Suzanne Cecala, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, invited the Village Board to participate in the Riverkeeper Sweep from 9:00 am to noon on May 1. She also stated that there were fences on Main Street that were in disrepair. Suzanne Donnelly, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, invited the Village Board to participate in Main Street Clean-Up Day on May 15. She also stated that there was a bench on Main Street that was in disrepair. Carol Stockman, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, reported that COHMSA would like to hang murals at the Store and 52 Hilton on Main and will check with Building Inspector Ziegler on the regulations to do so. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

**BUSINESS:**

1. **Estuary Grant Update:** Estuary Grant Attorneys Gary Bowitch and David Devaprasad updated the Board on the progress of the Estuary Grant. They spoke to Scenic Hudson in regard to river access. In 2010, the New York State Department of Transportation agreed to a bridge over the railroad tracks with an elevator on each side. The Department of Transportation will not agree to an at-grade crossing but is willing to build the bridge if the Village takes ownership and agrees to maintain it. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to

open public comment. Marianne Carner, former Village Trustee, stated that the bridge would be paid for using federal funds to which Attorney Bowitch agreed but stated that the Department of Transportation would still need to approve the design. Suzanne Cecala, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, asked if the public would have input on river access to which the Board stated that the public will have a chance to have input once more is known about the progress of the project. Carol Stockman, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, asked if the process would be easier if the property on the other side of the tracks were under private ownership to which the Board responded by stating that they had no plans to sell the property to a private order. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

2. **Connection to Water Sites:** Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to sign agreements with Spectrum and Doyle Security to upgrade the Village Water sites.

3. **Workers' Compensation Insurance:** Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion carried to accept the new quote for Workers' Compensation insurance for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

4. **Ransom Avenue and Trailer Parking:** Mayor Keegan reported that trailers have been parking on the east side of Ransom Avenue and that this has become a difficulty for parents who are dropping off their children at Castleton Elementary School. Code Enforcement Officer Lance has issued violations to the owners of the trailers but has not met with them face to face. The Board would like for Officer Lance to meet with the owners and if the problem persisted the Board will look at taking steps to adopting a local law to limit parking on the east side of Ransom Avenue.

5. **Appointment of Code Enforcement Officer:** Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to appoint James Lance to the position of Code Enforcement Officer for the term of April 26, 2021 to April 3, 2022.

6. **Appointment to Fire Department:** Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to appoint Eric Barber as car 3 Chief with the Castleton Fire Department until the next fire chief election.

7. **Legalization of Marijuana and Impact on Local Government:** Mayor Keegan and Clerk-Treasurer Ellis attended the NYCOM webinar regarding the legalization of marijuana and the upcoming role of local government in the process. Deputy Mayor Pratico added additional information about the process moving forward. After discussion, the Board decided not to opt out of having dispensaries or on-premises consumption locations in the Village limits.

8. **Resolution 11 – Purchase of Department of Public Works Truck:** Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to use monies from the Capital Reserve Equipment Fund for the purchase of the new Department of Public Works vehicle subject to permissive referendum.

9. **2021-2022 Village Budget:** The board reviewed the changes made to the Budget since the previous Board meeting. The public hearing for the 2021-2022 Village Budget has been set for the May 10, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Village Board.

10. **Resolution 12 – Adoption of 2020 LOSAP Points:** Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to adopt the 2020 LOSAP points for the volunteer firefighters subject to Chief Carner supplying the point list to the Board and review by the Attorney for the Village.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Matt Carner, of the Castleton Fire Department, stated that he has the contact information for Michael Martin, of the Tree City USA committee, and will contact him regarding replacing the trees in front of the Firehouse. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 8:37 pm Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Padraic Ellis  
Village Clerk-Treasurer