

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

August 9, 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: Foreman Kenneth Meyer, Foreman Joseph Garavelli, Building Inspector Gary Ziegler, Fire Chief Matt Carner, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

PUBLIC: 4

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 August 9, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Keegan with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Trustee Martin, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the July 12, 2021 Regular Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Sue Donnelly, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, thanked Mayor Keegan for including Main Street Day in the Castletonian. Main Street Day will be held on September 25, 2021, and the Main Street Association is asking that the Village contribute half the cost of the portable toilet. The Main Street Association would like to have the Village block off the municipal parking lot across from the Store so that vendors can set up there. The Main Street Association is also looking into having food trucks and the possibility of serving alcoholic beverages. M. Donnelly stated that she would like Zoom to be an option for participating in Village Board meetings. Suzanne Cecala, of the Main Street Association, stated that she would like Zoom to be an option for participating in Village Board meetings. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Mayor Keegan:** Mayor Keegan reported that he would be visiting the City of Amsterdam, along with Trustee D'Aquanni, to meet with the city engineer and tour the bridge there that the New York State Department of Transportation built to connect them to the river. Mayor Keegan reported that the paving of First Street and Willow Street would be completed this week. Mayor Keegan reported that the Green Avenue Bond refinancing process is continuing on. Mayor Keegan reported that he is waiting for the contract to be signed by the potential MS4 coordinator candidate which would cap the amount paid out to him to \$2,000.00 annually. Mayor Keegan reported that candidates for the Comprehensive Plan committee are currently in the pre-screening phase.

- **Deputy Mayor Pratico:** Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that she had met with Trustee Martin, Stuart McKnight, of the Castleton Fire Company, and a surveyor regarding the lot line change between the Village and the Castleton Fire Company. The lot line change is estimated to cost \$4,500.00, which will be split between the Village and the Fire Company, and will be completed within the next few weeks. Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that the Castleton Fire Department will be holding its 150th anniversary on September 26th. Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that the Cemetery Committee has trimmed the trees in Mountain View Cemetery. Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that paperwork needed to be completed by the end of August for the \$50,000.00 grant from Assemblyman Ashby to stabilize the Noyes Engine House.
- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin reported that the tree inventory has been completed and that the web link was published in the Castletonian. Trustee Martin reported that there will be information on the tree inventory and upcoming tree management plan at the Village table at the Village picnic. Trustee Martin reported that she is pricing out tablets to be used in the field with the tree management plan.
- **Trustee D'Aquanni:** Trustee D'Aquanni reported that she has asked Tara Dinadio, of the Capital District Planning Committee, to present to the Board at the September 27th meeting on becoming a clean energy community. The Village currently has completed 2 of the 4 impacts needed to receive the grant. Trustee D'Aquanni reported that Scenic Hudson will be having an upcoming webinar on river access and that she is currently working on completing the 2nd quarter report for the Estuary Grant.
- **Trustee Samarija:** Trustee Samarija reported that there had not been a meeting for the Eastern Rensselaer County Solid Waste Management Authority since the previous Board meeting. Trustee Samarija reported that residents asked that the brush and bushes be trimmed along fence line on North Main Street.

REPORTS:

1. **Library Report:** Director Tacke thanked the Village for the ongoing financial support of the Castleton Public Library and reported that the summer reading program would conclude on August 30th.
2. **DPW Report:** Absent.
3. **Water Report:** Foreman Garavelli reported that the water sites are having communication issues due to the new software upgrades at some of the sites. There have been frequent alarms and Foreman Garavelli will be meeting with Smith Controls on Wednesday to discuss solutions. Mayor Keegan asked that Trustee Samarija attend the meeting as the Mayor will be out of town that day on other Village business. Foreman Garavelli reported that he is filing a waiver with Rensselaer County to complete PFOA testing annually instead of quarterly as the past three tests have come back non-detect and that it is a relatively high cost to the Village.
4. **Wastewater Report:** Foreman Meyer reported the highest flow since he had been monitoring it was recorded in the last month due to the excessive rain. Foreman Meyer reported that the permit by National Grid to connect service over Amtrak property to the waste water treatment plant had been completed and that he is waiting on work to be scheduled.
5. **Building Inspector:** Inspector Ziegler reported that there were two new constructions within

the Village and new businesses looking to open on South Main Street.

6. Code Enforcement: Absent.

7. Fire Department Report: No further report.

8. Clerk-Treasurer Report: Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that Spectrum service had been installed at the Village Hall and the Department of Public Works garage and that he would be presenting a quote for a new phone system to the Board next month. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that Mayor Keegan would like all department heads and Board members to notify both the Mayor and the Clerk of any scheduled vacations as well as knowing how to lock the front door and activate the alarm at the Village Hall.

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

BUSINESS:

1. 2021 APRA Funding: Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that half of the approximately \$149,000.00 from the American Rescue Plan Act had been deposited into the Village's account with the other half to be deposited next May. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that he had attended a NYCOM seminar on how the funds could be spent and suggested that the best use of funds would be updating equipment at the water sites due to recent issues. It was suggested by the Board that part of the funds could be used for the lot line change at the Fire Company as it qualified as improvement and expansion of green space. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis will need to make the first report on fund usage on October 1, 2021 although funds do not need to be spent until five years after the initial deposit.

2. Firefly Engagement Letter: The Board agreed to have Mayor Keegan sign the engagement letter for Firefly Inc., who oversee the LOSAP program for the Village, for the 2021-2022 year with annual fees remaining at \$2,150.00

3. Fire Department Chiefs Vehicle/Budget: Chief Carner stated that the Fire Department has purchased one chief's vehicle and has the intention of purchasing another chief's vehicle with money from the current year's budget. The vehicle that was purchased was at the cost of \$4,500.00 and the one to be purchased is at the cost of \$6,000.00. The Board stated concern for the Fire Department spending as Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that 45% of the 2021-2022 budget had already been allocated.

4. Library Tent on Village Hall Lawn: Director Tacke asked that the tent that the library has placed on the front lawn of Village Hall be allowed to remain up until October 1st to which the Board was agreeable.

5. Village Picnic: Plans were confirmed for the Village Picnic which is set to take place after the Village Wide Garage Sale at Castleton Elementary School including confirming that Kiwanis will help with the cooking and that the Village will have an information table.

6. Access Options for the Board Meetings: The Board discussed options for remote access for the public to stream Village Board meetings while the need to have the board present at the Village Hall in order to comply with Open Meeting Law.

7. APPROPRIATIONS: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion to approve payment of the abstracts.

Abstract # 3 – Vouchers # 87 - # 137 in the amount of \$ 46,373.78.

General Fund: \$ 27,120.10

Water Fund: \$ 4,554.24

Sewer Fund: \$ 14699.44

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. Chris Carner, of the Castleton Fire Department, recommended the Village get a Tough Book for the tablet that the tree inventories will be maintained on. Matt Carner, of the Castleton Fire Department, recommended that the Village attempt to have a student from the school's audio/visual club help run meetings if the Board chooses to do them over Zoom. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:37 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer