

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

September 26, 2022

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Benjamin Hill and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

PUBLIC: 8 (in person), 15 (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 September 26, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Keegan with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Deputy Mayor Pratico moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to accept the August 8, 2022 minutes with changes from the Board.
- Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to accept the September 12, 2022 minutes with changes by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Jeff Anzevino, of Scenic Hudson, stated that Scenic Hudson opposes moving forward with bridge designs and supported the Village reopening the ALJ ruling. Arlene McGuane, no address provided, stated that she is concerned about the liability for the Village installing an at-grade crossing due to someone being killed on the tracks a few years ago and feels that the Village should look at the proposed bridge designs. Barbara Milano, of North Main Street, stated that she remembers the reason for the Village turning down the bridge designs from her days on the planning board was due to elevator maintenance but thinks the Village should look into new designs without elevators so that no one gets hit crossing the tracks. Erin McGrath, of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan committee, stated that she thinks some residents are not clear on the understanding of an at-grade crossing and is concerned about disturbing the riverbed if a bridge is installed. Amy Ryan, of Edgewood Terrace, stated that she agrees with Ms. McGuane and is concerned that someone was killed on the tracks a few years ago. Suzanne Cecala, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, gave a timeline of river access events from November 2021 to the present and asked the Village to move ahead with reopening the ALJ ruling. Mark Wochinger, of Benedict Street, stated that he believes that the Board should be made aware of all the information available and believes that people should not spread information that only supports their position. Susan Megna, of the Planning Board, stated that she would like to hear the discussion by the Board about river access before she makes comments and that she believes that there is no consensus on what to do moving forward. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

BUSINESS:

1. **Public Hearing Local Law 3 - Parking on Campbell Avenue:** Mayor Keegan moved,

Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to open the Public Hearing for Local Law 3 of 2022. Carol Stockman, of Campbell Avenue, stated that most of the cars that are parking in the area that will be regulated belong to teachers that work at Castleton Elementary School. Jason Chevrier, the Superintendent of Schodack Central Schools, thanked the Village for proposing the Local Law and stated that the school parking lots on Ransom Avenue will be expanded in the coming years. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to close the Public Hearing on Local Law 3 of 2022. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to adopt Local Law 3 of 2022 to regulate parking on Campbell Avenue in front of Castleton Elementary School.

2. Fire Department Member Approval – Frank Houser: Deputy Mayor Pratico stated that the proposed new member is a veteran with a wife and two children. Deputy Mayor Pratico moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried for the Board to approve Frank Houser as a member of the Castleton Fire Company.

3. Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon: With the success of the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon last year, the Board would like to hold the event again on Friday, December 16, 2022. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis and Deputy Clerk Better will book the Ambulance Hall and begin working on the menu and guest list.

4. Planning Board Historic District Letter: Carol Stockman, of the Planning Board, presented a letter to the Board that she would like to have sent out to property owners in the Historical Overlay District (North and South Main Street as well as the west side of First Street) to remind them of the need to get permits and approval from the Planning Board. Ms. Stockman would also like to remove the need for Planning Board approval of solar panels and to have the code updated so that the Zoning Board of Appeals would hear solar panel cases. The Board will check with Building Inspector Ziegler on changing the code and ask Ms. Stockman to provide unofficial minutes for Planning Board meetings to Clerk-Treasurer Ellis within two weeks of the meeting.

5. Response to Town Sewer Extension: The Town of Schodack responded formally to the Delaware Engineering report on the adding of the County Garage to the Village sewer system after two months. Delaware Engineering stated that the Village sewer system would be able to handle the two inch line for the County Garage at this point but that New York State will need three years' worth of data before any upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant can be discussed. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried for Mayor Keegan to sign the letter to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to allow the Town of Schodack to connect the County Garage, and only the County Garage, into the Village sewer system pending discussion with Delaware Engineering and upon review by Attorney Hill.

6. River Access Update: The Board stated that the attorneys for the Estuary Grant were present online for the meeting to speak to the Board regarding moving forward with river access. The Board voted in April to reopen the ALJ ruling and confirmed with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation that money from the Estuary Grant could be used to pay the attorneys as the Village attempted to secure river access. The Village then met with the New York State Department of Transportation regarding river access and possible bridge designs. The Board will hold the second public comment period and then have the Estuary Grant attorneys speak to the Board in Executive Session.

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

Abstract # 6 – Vouchers # 208 in the amount of \$ 6,728.14

General Fund: \$ 1,227.74
Water Fund: \$ 2,250.92
Sewer Fund: \$ 3,249.48

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Carol Stockman, of the Planning Board, stated that she was under the impression that the Town of Schodack will be running sewer lines all the way into Columbia County and wonders why they want to connect the County Garage onto the Village line. Jeff Anzevino, of Scenic Hudson, stated that the gates in Illinois that have been referenced in Board Meetings are tracks rated for 110 mph and have modern electronic gates. Susan Megna, of the Planning Board, thanked the Village for doing the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and stated that New York State DOT and the State of Illinois have reservations about at-grade crossings in high speed train areas. Crystal Knapp, of Allendorph Way, asked if the Village Board has seen the new designs that were drawn up by DOT for the proposed bridge and asked who would be in charge of maintenance of the gates if the Village seeks to get an at-grade crossing. Mark Wochinger, of Benedict Street, stated that he was glad that the Board was going into Executive Session to meet with the Estuary Grant attorneys as they would want to share the Village's strategy and that of 220 completed surveys for the Comprehensive Plan only three mentioned an at-grade crossing. Anne Defiglio, no address given, Stated that she has travelled on Amtrak and that Amtrak treats different communities with different rules. Erin McGrath, of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan committee, stated that while New York State Department of Transportation may be designing the bridge, the Department of State and the Department of Environmental Conservation will still need to agree to it. Suzanne Cecala, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, responded to Mr. Wochinger's comment that not all of the facts are being presented and that they are bias to a certain position by stating that all of the information the COHMSA has is being shared on Facebook and the R2theR website. Eric Stewart, of North Main Street, stated that he did not appreciate public officials rushing through public comment and that crosswalks were needed at the bottom of Seaman Avenue, Scott Avenue and Green Avenue and that the stop signs needed to be closer to Main Street. Trustee Samarija moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

EXECUTIVE SIISSION: At 8:10 pm, Deputy Mayor Pratico moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to enter executive session to meet with the Estuary Grant attorneys. At 9:32 pm, Trustee Samarija moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to exit executive session.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:33 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer