

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

August 8, 2022

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

ABSENT: Trustee Sharon Martin and Trustee Erik Samarija

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Benjamin Hill (via Zoom), Foreman Daniel Lebrecht, Foreman Kenneth Meyer, Fire Chief Eric Barber, and Clerk-Treasurer Pdraic Ellis.

PUBLIC: 11 (in person),14 (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 August 8, 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, Mayor Keegan seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the July 11, 2022 Regular Meeting, with corrections from the Board.

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, asked the Board co consider a resolution requesting the NYS DOT work with the Village to design "a safe at-grade crossing at Scott Avenue using state of the art technology with enhanced audible and visual warning devices, and signage to enable public access to Riverfront Park." Others supporting the resolution included Patricia Pillsworth, Eric Stewart, Les Waite, Laura Hamlin, and Jeff Knaack. Kim Schlosser asked if there were any updates regarding river access to which the Board replied that there was not. Susan Megna, of the Planning Board, stated that she is awaiting the the impartial hearing by the ALJ to determine the possible options for river access. Andrew Schwartz, asked how maintenance and upkeep of a bridge to Riverfront Park would be paid for. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Mayor Keegan:** Mayor Keegan read a letter from Senator Daphne Jordan detailing her meeting with New York State Department of Transportation where they stated that they would not approve the an at-grade crossing for Riverfront Park due to public safety concerns. Mayor Keegan stated that he met with Director Tacke and a landscaper to discuss the front lawn of Village Hall. Mayor Keegan stated that the Castletonian will be disturbed with the week. Mayor Keegan stated that the wastewater treatment plant upgrade was 99% complete and came in \$100,000.00 under budget. Mayor Keegan stated that he is waiting to hear back from the Town of Schodack regarding the sewer line connection for the County Highway garage. Mayor Keegan sated that he had met with Scenic Hudson to look at Riverfront Park and that they encouraged the Village to keep all options open.
- **Deputy Mayor Pratico:** Deputy Mayor Pratico stated that she has hired a local designer to complete the Welcome Packet for the Village. Deputy Mayor Pratico stated the information

regarding the Noyes Engine House grant was being reviewed by New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. Deputy Mayor Pratico stated she is expecting the deed for the firehouse land exchange to be filed with Rensselaer County by the 1st of September.

- **Trustee Martin:** Absent.
- **Trustee D'Aquanni:** Trustee D'Aquanni stated the Town of Schodack/Village of Castleton Local Waterfront Committee had submitted the grant to update the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan. Trustee D'Aquanni stated that she will have Civic Plus send information to the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer to schedule a meeting regarding upgrading the Village website.
- **Trustee Samarija:** Absent.

REPORTS:

1. **Library Report:** Absent.
2. **DPW Report:** Foreman Lebrecht reported that he is working on securing a price and date for tree removal. Foreman Lebrecht reported that the traffic control signs are up on Scott Avenue.
3. **Water Report:** No report.
4. **Wastewater Report:** Foreman Meyer reported that the Village will be posting the water position and the former Water/Sewer Superintendent, John Shortsleeve, has been assisting in the mornings.
5. **Building Inspector:** Inspector Ziegler reported that the number of permits issued for the month was low.
6. **Code Enforcement:** Officer Lance reported that he issued tickets for street sweeping on Main Street. Officer Lance was notified.
7. **Fire Department Report:** No further report.
8. **Clerk-Treasurer Report:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that the first payment was made on the wastewater treatment plant upgrade bond.

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

BUSINESS:

1. **Schodack Central Schools Parking Request of Campbell Avenue:** Representatives from Schodack Central School District (Superintendent James Chevrier, Principal James Derby, and Transportation Supervisor Rhonda Greenway) asked that the Village place no parking signs from the corner of Castleton Elementary School closest to Green Avenue to the entrance of the bus lane on Campbell Avenue for the hours of 7:30-8:30 am and 2:30-3:30 pm. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis will draft the local law for the first September meeting and the public hearing will be set for the second meeting in September.
2. **Attorney for the Village:** Attorney Hill stated that he would be stepping down as Attorney for the Village but that he would not be leaving until a new attorney was in place.

3. NY Forward Letter of Intent: The Board reported that Mike Wiley, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, will be assisting the Village by drafting a letter of intent for Castleton-on-Hudson to apply for the NY Forward grant. Deputy Mayor Pratico will assist in this effort.

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

Abstract # 4 – Vouchers # 100 - # 151 in the amount of \$ 146,992.32

General Fund: \$ 124,885.17

Water Fund: \$ 11,763.26

Sewer Fund: \$ 10,343.89

ONLINE BANKING TRANSFERS: Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico 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 Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, stated that she still supports a resolution for the Village Board to enact a resolution to only pursue an at-grade crossing at Riverfront Park. Eric Stewart, of North Main Street, stated that there were hundreds of people crossing the railroad tracks at the Boat Club crossing on Saturday for Horsepower on the Hudson. Susan Megna, of the Planning Board, stated that she would like to see from-the source factual information about Illinois train speeds at pedestrian grade crossings practices. Jeff Knaack, of Van Buren Avenue, stated that the Village could request information on the railroad crossings in California and Illinois through the Freedom of Information Act. The Board stated that Scenic Hudson had already done this for the crossing in California. Andrew Schwartz requested that the Village ask for better safety measures at the crossing to Riverfront Park. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:39 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion to move into Executive Sessions. At 9:01 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion to exit Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:02 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.