

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

April 11, 2022

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

ABSENT: Trustee Erik Samarija

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Benjamin Hill (via Zoom), Foreman Daniel Lebrecht, Foreman Kenneth Meyer, Foreman Joseph Garavelli, Fire Chief Matt Carner, Library Director Melissa Tacke, Building Inspector Gary Ziegler, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

PUBLIC: 8 (in person), 7 (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 April 11, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Keegan with the Pledge of Allegiance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:02 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded motion to move into Executive Sessions. At 6:45 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion to exit Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the February 28, 2022 Regular Meeting.
- Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the March 28, 2022 Regular Meeting.
- Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2022 Organizational Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Eric Stewart, of North Main Street, stated his support for an at-grade crossing by reading from a prepared statement. He hopes that the Village will present this option to Amtrak and the New York State Department of Transportation and that increased advanced notice and reduces noise can also be taken into consideration. Jeff Knaack, of Van Buren Avenue, stated that he was a forty year resident of the Village and supports an at-grade crossing if it is paid for by the Department of Transportation. Suzanne Donnelly, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, stated that she emailed the Board a summary of COHSMA's meeting on Friday to discuss river access. Ms. Donnelly also asked that the Department of Public Works coordinate with Rensselaer County to use their bucket truck to replace the light on the top of the flagpole of Main Street. Ben Fedak, of Chestnut Street, stated that he would rather have nothing for river access if the bridge is the only option as the bridge would be an eyesore and take up too much land. Trustee D'Aquanni stated that had eight additional letters from Village residents to present to the board. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Mayor Keegan:** Mayor Keegan reported that the State paving of Route 9J has begun and that the Village employees are sharing the information that they receive on the progress with each other and the Board. The paving will affect Village residents for at least the next two weeks and temporary parking is being made of First Street behind the DPW garage and at Sacred Heart Church. Mayor Keegan stated that the Castleonian will be completed this week.
- **Deputy Mayor Pratico:** Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that she is working with Attorney Hill to get the deed for the land transfer with the Castleton Fire Company and that she would like to make plans to start beautifying the area.
- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin reported that she is working to close the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Tree grant now that the services have been completed. Trustee Martin stated that the Village would be planting a tree in a yet to be determined location for Arbor Day. Trustee Martin stated that she participated in the cemetery clean-up and will be cleaning up the Village park at 2 Green Avenue in the near future.
- **Trustee D'Aquanni:** Trustee D'Aquanni reported that the Comprehensive Plan committee collected over 250 completed surveys and stated that the survey is now closed. Trustee D'Aquanni stated that she presented at the COHMSA meeting the previous Friday and that 56 people attended in person and 27 attended via Zoom. Trustee D'Aquanni stated that library would like to work with the Village to raise funds to improve that front lawn of Village Hall. Trustee D'Aquanni stated that the welcome packet was in draft form and that she was working with Lisa Samarija to complete it. Mayor Keegan asked for an update of the Clean Energy program and Trustee D'Aquanni stated that she is meeting with Clerk-Treasurer Ellis this week and will provide an update at the next meeting.
- **Trustee Samarija:** Absent.

REPORTS:

1. **Library Report:** Director Tacke stated that in-person story-time was returning and explained other upcoming programs that are listed in her report.
2. **DPW Report:** Foreman Lebrecht gave a brief update on the paving of Rout 9J stating that the milling process will begin in Rensselaer and make its way down to the Village sometime next week. Foreman Lebrecht reminded the Board that the DPW will be street-sweeping every Friday starting April 15th and that the Spring Clean-Up Day will be on May 7th.
3. **Water Report:** Foreman Garavelli stated that the Village has no PFOAs found in the testing and is able to reduce its testing from quarterly to annually.
4. **Wastewater Report:** Foreman Meyer stated that the ribbon cutting for the wastewater treatment plant upgrade will be in the late spring or early summer. Foreman Meyer stated that DEC had conducted their annual inspection and that the results are still pending.
5. **Building Inspector:** Inspector Ziegler advised the Board not to accept the property at 19 Green Avenue if it was offer as the site has still not been cleaned up. Attorney Hill stated that the case was pending.

6. Code Enforcement: Absent.

7. Fire Department Report: No report. Chief Carner stated that the final Firehouse breakfast of the season will be on May 8th.

8. Clerk-Treasurer Report: Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported to the Board that the Village had received the levy from Rensselaer County and that the workers compensation insurance price decreased for the second straight year as no claims were filed.

Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded motion to approve all departmental reports.

BUSINESS:

1. Castleton Boat Club Parking Request: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to not enforce the two hour parking regulation on Main Street for two Saturdays on which the Castleton Boat Club is holding events.

2. River Access: The Village Board discussed the next steps to take to achieve river access after hearing from the public. Mayor Keegan stated that the attorneys that the Village had hired with funds from the Estuary Grant are able to reopen the administrative law judge order from 1994 to clarify the Department of Transportation responsibility in the Village achieving river access. Trustee D'Aquanni moved, Mayor Keegan seconded, motion carried to have the Estuary Grant attorneys revisit the administrative law judge orders regarding river access with the funds being paid out of the Estuary Grant and not exceeding \$15,000.00.

3. Tentative Budget Overview: Clerk-Treasurer Ellis will prepare a final budget for the Board to review at the next meeting so that the public hearing on the budget can be held at the first meeting in May. The Board agreed to raise the tree budget with \$8,000.00 being used to remove dead trees and \$7,000.00 being used for tree pruning. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis will look at the accounts to see where the funds for a new backhoe can come from. The new forklift for the sewer department will be purchased in the current budget year. Deputy Mayor Pratico will meet with the Fire Department to finalize their budget.

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

Abstract # 17 – Vouchers # 512 - # 556 in the amount of \$ 42,728.62

General Fund: \$ 29,153.21

Water Fund: \$ 4,044.40

Sewer Fund: \$ 9,531.01

ONLINE BANKING TRANSFERS: Deputy Mayor Pratico moved, Mayor Keegan 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. Teresa Scandurra, of Green Avenue, stated that the Friends of the Castleton Public Library are also raising funds to make improvements to the front lawn of the Village Hall. Suzanne Donnelly, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, reminded the Board that the area around the flagpole on Main Street needs to be landscaped. Ms. Donnelly asked if the Village know what the Department of Transportation was going with a blocked off piece of her property on the corner of Seaman Avenue and Main Street. Carol Stockman, of the Planning Board, stated that she had spoken to the Department of Transportation the previous night and that they had set up a temporary sidewalk while they

are upgrading the current sidewalk. Marianne Carner, formerly of the Village Board, asked why the sidewalks needed to be redone when they were just installed a few years ago, how many backhoes does the Village need, and how are the outfalls being cleaned. The Board responded that the sidewalks were being upgraded to be ADA compliant, the Village needs two backhoes and will sell the oldest one when a new one is purchased, and DPW is working with Callahan to take care of the outfalls. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:31 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded motion to move into Executive Sessions. At 8:50 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion to exit Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:52 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer