

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

March 14, 2022

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

ABSENT: None

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

PUBLIC: 0 (in person), 6 (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 March 14, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Mayor Keegan with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Trustee D'Aquanni moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to table the acceptance of the minutes of the February 28, 2022 Regular Meeting until the March 28, 2022 Regular Meeting for further review.

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 the Poke Jar, a new business on Main Street, will be opening the following day. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Mayor Keegan:** Mayor Keegan reported that he, along with Trustee Martin, attended a meeting at the Town of Schodack with Supervisor Peter and representatives from Delaware Engineering and Laberge Engineering to discuss additional sewer connections on Maple Hill Road. The County garage at the corner of Maple Hill Road and Route 9 will be connected to the Village sewer system at Maple Hill High School as it is currently located in consolidated sewer district 1. The garage will average about 120 gallons of waste per day and no other connections are currently planned for this sewer line. Mayor Keegan and Trustee D'Aquanni also met with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regarding river access. Mayor Keegan stated that he declared a snow emergency the previous Saturday.
- **Deputy Mayor Pratico:** Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that the Village has the ability to place the Noyes Engine House on the Historic Registry but that there are pros and cons of doing so. Deputy Mayor Pratico stated that the May Fire House breakfast will be moved to the second Sunday in May to better align with Mother's Day.
- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin reported that the Town of Schodack asked the Mayor to sign the easements to allow the construction of the sewer pipe under Amtrak on the Village's land on

Maple Hill Road. Delaware Engineering and Laberge Engineering will monitor the flow for the waste water treatment plant upgrade to determine if other users will be able to connect to the line. Deputy Mayor Pratico stated that the Village is in the final stages of completing the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade and that the Town of Schodack decided to send their waste to East Greenbush instead of asking the Village to increase plant capacity five years ago.

- **Trustee D'Aquanni:** Trustee D'Aquanni reported that the Capital District Transportation Committee presented to the comprehensive plan committee and notified them that there has been no significant increase in traffic in the Village for the past 15 years. Trustee D'Aquanni stated that Scenic Hudson is asking for the Village to support the New York-New Jersey Watershed Prevention Act and she will have more information about it at the next meeting. Trustee D'Aquanni stated that she is still working on the extension for the Department of Environmental Conservation Estuary Grant.
- **Trustee Samarija:** Trustee Samarija reported that he attended the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association meeting and that he is working with the New York State Department of Transportation on the power request to River Rest Park.

REPORTS:

1. **Library Report:** Director Tacke presented the Board with the events calendar for the upcoming month and stated that in person activities would be increasing of the next month.
2. **DPW Report:** Absent. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that the Department of Public Works thanked Mayor Keegan for issuing the snow emergency on Saturday as it helped with residents moving their vehicles.
3. **Water Report:** Foreman Garavelli stated that he had a phone meeting with Senator Paul Tonko's office regarding grants that could help the Village acquire funds for water system improvements.
4. **Wastewater Report:** Foreman Meyer stated that the garage at the waste water treatment plant is almost completed and the average flow is down in the sewer system.
5. **Building Inspector:** No further report.
6. **Code Enforcement:** No further report.
7. **Fire Department Report:** Chief Carner stated that the Village had received a check for over \$8,900.00 from Rensselaer County for reimbursement from COVID materials for the Fire Department.
8. **Clerk-Treasurer Report:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reminded everyone that Village Election Day was Tuesday, March 15, 2022 from noon to 9:00 pm at the Village Hall.

Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded motion to approve all departmental reports.

BUSINESS:

1. **River Access:** The Board stated that Clerk-Treasurer Ellis was looking into elevator service plans and insurance options of all of the proposed river access plans. The Board stated that Scenic Hudson and the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association have written letters to

the Village to support an at-grade crossing.

2. Town of Schodack Utility Easements: Trustee Martin moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried for Mayor Keegan to sign the utility easements with the Town of Schodack to install sewer pipes under the Amtrak crossing on the Village's land on Maple Hill Road pending attorney approval.

3. Resolution 6 – Noyes Engine House SEQR Report: Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to approve the resolution to submit the SEQR report for the Noyes Engine House to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

4. Preliminary Budget Overview: Clerk-Treasurer Ellis gave the Board a general overview of the budget based on the budget request forms submitted by the department heads: the water budget remains the same besides a 3% increase for personnel; the sewer budget has been drastically scaled back to accommodate the increased debt service from the waste water treatment plant upgrade; and the Fire Department is requesting a 10% increase for the Department. Mayor Keegan asked that the tree budget be increased to accommodate for the actions that need to be carried out in the Tree Management Plan. The Board will meet individually with department heads at the next Board meeting on March 28.

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

Abstract # 15 – Vouchers # 462 - # 510 in the amount of \$ 56,291.52.

General Fund: \$ 30,138.94

Water Fund: \$ 9,951.78

Sewer Fund: \$ 16,200.80

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. Susan Megna, of the Planning Board, asked for clarification on what the extent of the sewer expansion was and this was clarified by the Board. Ms. Megna asked if there was anywhere that the information on the New York-New Jersey Watershed Prevention Act was posted and the information was given to her by Trustee D'Aquanni. Carol Stockman, of the Planning Board, asked about the insurance for the crossing at Scott Avenue to which Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that he was looking into the issue. Ms. Stockman had questions regarding the easements with the Town of Schodack and the ownership of the land and the permission to use it. The Board stated that this is the reason that the Village attorney is reviewing the documents. Suzanne Cecala, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, asked when the next issue of the Castletonian would be distributed to which Clerk-Treasurer Ellis responded that the next issue would be going out in April. Ms. Cecala stated that the Riverkeeper Sweep would be held on May 7 and that Main Street Clean-Up Day would take place on May 14. Chris Carner, of the Castleton Fire Department, asked if painted parking spaces and no parking on one side of the street by the post office could be looked into if the Village talking to the Department of Transportation regarding paving. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:30 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded motion to move into Executive Sessions. At 8:59 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion to exit Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:00 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer