

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

February 14, 2022

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Benjamin Hill (via Zoom), Foreman Kenneth Meyer, Foreman Joseph Garavelli, Fire Chief Matt Carner (arrived 7:20, left 8:20), Library Director Melissa Tacke, Code Enforcement Jim Lance (via Zoom), and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

PUBLIC: 0 (in person), 10 (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 February 14, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Keegan with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the January 24, 2021 Regular Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Suzanne Donnelly, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, stated that there is an inappropriate sign post in a snow bank on South Main Street. Officer Lance will look into it this week. Suzanne Cecala, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, stated that progress is being made on the welcome packet and that the Riverkeeper Sweep will take place on May 7, 2022. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Mayor Keegan:** Mayor Keegan reported he has been working to complete and submit the necessary documents for the Noyes Engine House grant. Mayor Keegan reported that he is continuing to finalize the new phone system for Village Hall.
- **Deputy Mayor Pratico:** Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation reported that the coyote sighting in the Village should not be a concern. It is a healthy pack and it is breeding season. The coyotes should move on within a month. Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that the May Fire House breakfast is being moved from the 1st the 8th to be closer to Mother's Day and that mothers will eat free.
- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin reported that Plan-It Geo will be presenting the tree management plan to the Board and the Public at the February 28, 2022 Board meeting. Trustee Martin moved, Mayor Keegan seconded, motion carried for the Department of Public Works to install two hour parking sign on the west side of Main Street from Green Avenue to Scott Avenue as per the current Village code.

- **Trustee D'Aquanni:** Trustee D'Aquanni reported that she would be meeting with the New York State Department of State, along with Mayor Keegan, to discuss access to the river. Trustee D'Aquanni stated that she was able to request an extension the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation grant for river access for an additional two years. Trustee D'Aquanni stated that the comprehensive plan has received 124 completed online surveys and that the goal is 250. Trustee D'Aquanni stated that Delaware Engineering has recommended a consultant with knowledge in downtown revitalization. The issue was tabled until the next meeting to allow Trustee D'Aquanni to present the information about the consultant to the board and to determine where the funds to pay the consultant will come from.
- **Trustee Samarija:** Trustee Samarija reported that tipping fees for garbage will be increasing as per the Eastern Rensselaer County Solid Waste Management Authority.

REPORTS:

1. **Library Report:** Director Tacke presented the Board with the 2021 Annual Library report.
2. **DPW Report:** Absent. The Board discussed hiring a landscape company for the area around the flagpole on North Main Street.
3. **Water Report:** Foreman Garavelli stated that there had been several water main breaks in the last week. Mayor Keegan will meet with Foreman Garavelli to discuss the Village's internet needs at the water sites.
4. **Wastewater Report:** Foreman Meyer stated that overall Village flow was down and that the Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade was reaching major completion.
5. **Building Inspector:** Absent.
6. **Code Enforcement:** Officer Lance reported that he had issued tickets for snow and for the fence inspections along the railroad tracks on South Main Street. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis asked that Officer Lance issue tickets to two vehicles that have been unmoved in the lot behind Village Hall.
7. **Fire Department Report:** No report.
8. **Clerk-Treasurer Report:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that the Village employees participated in Harassment and Discrimination Training the previous week and that the Village had received the semi-annual sewer payment from the Town of Schodack.

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

BUSINESS:

1. **VBH Overview to the Board of Alternative Bridge Redesign:** Ryan Winter, of VBH Consulting, presented the Board with the report on alternative bridge designs at Riverfront Park. The alternative that they were able to provide was a series of spiraling ramps and a set of stairs. The plan contains no elevators. A U-shaped design was also looked into but there was not enough land on the river side of the tracks for it to be feasible. The ramp design on the river side could be paired with the U-shape on the street side but the design would not be aesthetically pleasing due to the asymmetry. The ramp structure on each side of the tracks would be 44 feet in length, 44 feet in width, and 25 feet high at the bridge crossing the tracks. A necessary railing or a wall

would add additional height. The board asked for further information from VBH Consulting for the upcoming river access meeting on February 28th. Trustee D'Aquanni motioned to open a public comment period. There was no second and thus the public comment period was not opened.

2. Sewer Rate Schedule: Deputy Mayor Pratico moved, Mayor Keegan seconded, motion carried for accept the sewer rate schedule presented at the previous meeting and for Clerk-Treasurer Ellis to draft a resolution to use funds from the sewer reserve fund for debt service over the next two budget years.

3. Speed Signs on Scott Avenue: Mayor Keegan discussed the need for the project to place speed signs on Scott Avenue to be completed quickly. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis will work with Foreman Lebrecht to complete the necessary paperwork and locations by the end of the week and Mayor Keegan will work with Trustee Samarija to determine which signs will be purchased.

4. Resolution 4 – Noyes Engine House SEQR Report: Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried for the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson to be the lead agency for the SEQR request for the Noyes Engine House grant.

5. Resolution 5 – Poll Workers 2022: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to approve Megan Swartz and James Gibbons to work the Village Election on March 15, 2022 at a rate of \$ 175.00 each.

6. Castleton Fire House Survey: The Board reported the property survey of the Castleton Fire Department has been completed and that the Fire Company has paid their portion of the bill. Trustee Samarija moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to have John Maxwell process the deed paperwork for the Fire Department transaction at a cost of \$775.00 as recommended by Attorney Hill.

7. Fire Protection Agreement: Trustee Samarija moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to have Mayor Keegan sign the 2022 Fire Protection Agreement with the Town of Schodack.

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

Abstract # 13 – Vouchers # 402 - # 458 in the amount of \$ 108,788.76.

General Fund: \$ 67,540.38

Water Fund: \$ 20,285.37

Sewer Fund: \$ 20,963.01

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 Samarija seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Marianne Carner, formerly of the Village Board, asked how much was in the sewer reserve fund and how much would be used this year and next year. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that there was \$181,000.00 in the reserve and that \$90,000.00 would be used the first year and \$45,000.00 would be used the second year. Suzanne Cecala, of COHSMA, asked if the Noyes Engine House was on the Historic Registry. The Board stated that it was not and that the process was incomplete. Ms. Cecala stated that the Main Street Association has connections with the Historic Registry if the Village would like to continue the process. Suzanne Donnelly, of COHMSA, stated that the new equipment that was being used

to broadcast the Board meetings was much better and that the sound was improved. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:45 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer