

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

January 24, 2022

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Benjamin Hill, Foreman Kenneth Meyer, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis (all via Zoom)

PUBLIC: 12 (all 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 January 24, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Mayor Keegan with the Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting will be posted to the Village website in accordance with the Village's best efforts to comply with New York State Open Meeting Law and Executive Order 202.1.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2022 Regular Meeting, with revisions from Trustee Martin and Trustee D'Aquanni.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to open public comment. No public comment at this time. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

BUSINESS:

1. Sewer Rate Presentation: Mayor Keegan introduced the panel that would be answering questions regarding sewer rates which included: Ken Meyer, Waste Water Foreman, Padraic Ellis, Village Clerk-Treasurer, Mary Beth Bianconi, Consultant from Delaware Engineering, and the members of the Village Board. Mayor Keegan presented a slideshow discussing the waste water plant upgrade and the debt associated with it. The presentation included a history of the plant, what customers are served by the plant, what operations and maintenance costs are, and how the Village plans to pay for the upgrade. Mayor Keegan presented the recommendation of sewer rate from Clerk-Treasurer Ellis, with assistance from Foreman Meyer and Delaware Engineering. This recommendation includes using reserve funds of \$90,000.00 the first year and \$45,000.00 the second year to help offset the cost of the debt. Ms. Bianconi, stated that the need was strong for an upgrade to the plant as the current one has been in use since 1987. Ms. Bianconi stated the Village plant has been run very well thanks to past and present operators and has followed the regulations and standards set down by the State and Federal authorities. She stated that the new rate would be in line for a community the size of the Village and that a 50/50 split between operations and maintenance and debt was the sign of a healthy budget. Delaware Engineering had predicted a rate of \$632 annually in 2016 which is very much in line with the

rate of \$604 in the third year thanks to low interest rates. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to open a public comment period for the discussion of sewer rates. Joseph Wartroba, of Green Avenue, asked if a capital charge would be applied annually on top of or instead of a quarterly charge. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that once the Village has two years of actual operations and maintenance cost on paper the Board will be able to revisit the idea of an annual capital charge. Marianne Carner, formerly of the Village Board, asked what the capital charge was going to be. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that there would be no capital charge initially and that the rate increase would be going entirely towards operations and maintenance and debt service. The Village would be billing the Town of Schodack proportionately for the sewer units that are located outside of the Village. Trustee Samarija asked if the Village should start a capital sewer fund. Ms. Bianconi stated that to start a capital fund the Village would need to pass a permissive referendum and renegotiate the sewer agreement with the Town of Schodack. Trustee Pratico asked when the rate increase would go into effect. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that the latest the increase should take effect is the June billing cycle. Suzanne Donnelly, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, asked about sewer billing for vacant lots. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that vacant lots would continue to be billed at half of a sewer unit, but at the new rates. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

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

Abstract # 12 – Vouchers # 397 - # 401 in the amount of \$ 67,787.73.

General Fund: \$ 26,361.78

Water Fund: \$ 21,157.27

Sewer Fund: \$ 20,268.68

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. Mayor Keegan thanked the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association for the great event that was the Winterlight festival the weekend prior. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:57 pm Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer