

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

May 8, 2023

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Steven Wilson, Foreman Daniel Lebrecht, Foreman John Paul Mastan, Fire Chief Matt Metzger, Library Director Melissa Tacke, Code Enforcement Officer James Lance (via Zoom), Deputy Clerk Janice Better and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

PUBLIC: 3 (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 May 8, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Keegan with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Bai seconded, motion carried to accept the April 24, 2023 minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Suzanne Donnelly, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, stated that 360 pounds of garbage were collected and 5 trees were taken down this weekend at the Riverkeeper sweep. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Mayor Keegan:** Mayor Keegan reported that Saturday was Clean-Up Day and he thanked the Department of Public Works and the Board members that attended. Mayor Keegan reported that Saturday was also the Riverkeeper Sweep. Mayor Keegan stated that the mortar repairs for the Noyes Engine House were under way. Mayor Keegan reported that he completed the RFP to be distributed for the design of the new website. Mayor Keegan wished Deputy Mayor Pratico a happy birthday. Mayor Keegan will be attending the PERMA and NYCOM trainings over the next two weeks.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Trustee D'Aquanni moved, Mayor Keegan seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Robert Gray, of 9 Green Avenue, stated that he had received violations for parking his vehicle on the new Village road next to the firehouse despite the fact that he has been parking there for twenty years. Mr. Gray does not want to park his car in front of his house due to the fact that it is more likely to be hit by fire or delivery vehicles. The Board notified Mr. Gray that the road had been changed from private to public and that he would be unable to park there until the Village has determined the new parking regulations. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Deputy Mayor Pratico:** Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that Sunday was the last firehouse breakfast of the season. Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that she will meet with the Fire chiefs and Attorney Wilson to work on the Chief's vehicle policy.
- **Trustee D'Aquanni:** Trustee D'Aquanni reported that the Riverkeeper sweep and the Friends of the Library plant sale were successful and well attended on Saturday. Trustee D'Aquanni reported that the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan committee will be meeting on the 17th of May. Trustee D'Aquanni reported that the comprehensive plan is nearing completion and that it can be put up for public hearing this summer.
- **Trustee Timerman:** Trustee Timerman reported that there was a revised proposal from K&N Landscaping to redesign the front lawn of Village Hall. Trustee Timerman reported that she will be attending the Firehouse meeting this week with Deputy Mayor Pratico. Trustee Timerman reported that she will be meeting with Mayor Keegan this week to discuss the Castleonian.
- **Trustee Bai:** Trustee Bai reported that she is working on the Clean Energy Grant and that there are two more steps to complete before the Village is eligible for the initial \$5,000.00 grant. Trustee Bai reported that she will also be working on the Climate grant, which is a sister program to the Clean Energy grant.

REPORTS:

1. **Library Report:** Director Tacke stated that summer reading program will be beginning on June 24th.
2. **DPW Report:** Foreman Lebrecht stated that Clean-Up Day was steady and that new trees were planted for Arbor Day.
3. **Water Report:** Foreman Mastan stated that he has completed the first of his water/sewer courses and has two more to complete.
4. **Wastewater Report:** Absent.
5. **Building Inspector:** Absent.
6. **Code Enforcement:** No further report.
7. **Fire Department Report:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis will check on glass coverage through MMIR on all Village vehicles, including fire trucks.
8. **Clerk-Treasurer Report:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that postage would be increasing from 63 cents to 66 cents. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that Jayne Robinson had completed the PERMA Safety Coordinator training and that the Board would need to discuss her pay rate as safety coordinator in executive session.

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

BUSINESS:

1. Public Hearing – 2023-2024 Village Budget: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Bai seconded, motion carried to open public comment for the 2023-2024 budget. No comments. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public hearing for the 2023-2024 Village budget.

2. Public Hearing – Unpaid Out of Village Water Bills: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Timerman seconded, motion carried to open the public hearing for the unpaid out of Village water bills. No comments. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Bai seconded, motion carried to close public hearing for the unpaid out of Village water bills.

3. Extension of County Waste Agreement: Attorney Wilson stated that he is waiting on information from Matt Curley, of the Eastern Rensselaer County Solid Waste Management Authority, regarding the extension and the matter should be resolved by the end of the week.

4. CDTC Complete Streets Memorandum of Understanding: Attorney Wilson reviewed the memorandum of understanding for the CDTC Complete Streets grant and stated that it was ready to be signed by Mayor Keegan.

5. Castleton Fire Department Chief Vehicle Policy: Deputy Mayor Pratico asked for the chief policy to be tabled until she has spoken to the Fire Chiefs and Attorney Wilson.

6. Castleton Boat Club Parking Request: The Castleton Boat Club requested the suspension of the two-hour parking limit on Main Street on the Saturdays of two of their events. The topic was tabled until Attorney Wilson can look into any legal issues regarding this.

7. Government Speak and Promotion of Non-Village Organizations: Attorney Wilson has been in contact with NYCOM regarding other Village's policies regarding the promotion of non-Village organizations and he will circulate an article to the Board regarding this. The topic will be further discussed at the next Board meeting.

8. River Access Update: The agreement for the consultant and the renderings are being drawn up to be signed by Mayor Keegan.

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

Abstract # 18 – Vouchers # 534 - # 586 in the amount of \$ 76,176.99

General Fund: \$ 57,293.51

Water Fund: \$ 6,497.58

Sewer Fund: \$ 12,385.90

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, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Deputy Clerk Better stated that she would like to see less groups meeting in the Village Hall office and more meeting in the annex. Mayor Keegan stated that the only groups meet in the office should be the Board of Trustees, the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the river access committee. Suzanne Donnelly, of COHMSA, stated that she has a garbage can on her property that the Village can use if they can find a location for it. Carol Stockman, of the Planning Board, is working to get a draft of the comprehensive plan to the Board for the second meeting in June. Ms. Stockman reported that

there are grant opportunities available in conjunction with Safe Streets and infrastructure funding. Steven Rivers, of the Castleton Boat Club, stated to the Board that although the boat club charges for their events, there are many free activities and proceeds are donated to fire and ambulance services. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Timerman seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:55 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried for the Board to enter executive session. At 9:06 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Timerman seconded, motion carried for the Board to leave executive session.

BUSINESS:

10. Safety Coordinator Rate: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Timerman seconded, motion carried to pay Jayne Robinson at the rate of \$25.00 per hour for the duties of safety coordinator.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:07 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer