

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

April 10, 2023

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Keegan, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Jenifer Pratico, Trustee Lissa D'Aquanni, Trustee Rebekah Timerman, and Trustee Baileen Bai (arrived 7:02 pm)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Steven Wilson (via Zoom), Foreman Daniel Lebrecht, Foreman John Paul Mastan, Foreman Kenneth Meyer, Building Inspector Gary Ziegler, Fire Chief Matt Metzger, Library Director Melissa Tacke, Deputy Clerk Janice Better and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

PUBLIC: 4 (in person), 5 (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 10, 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 D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to accept the March 21, 2023 minutes.
- Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to accept the March 27, 2023 minutes, with edits.
- Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to accept the April 3, 2023 minutes, with edits.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to open public comment. No public comment. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Mayor Keegan:** Mayor Keegan reported that the New York State Troopers would be using Schermerhorn Park on Wednesday, April 12 at 9:00 as part of their training. The Village will put out a Facebook message and a text alert to notify residents. Mayor Keegan reported that he and Foreman Lebrecht met with the historic mason that will be stabilizing the Noyes Engine House. Work will begin within the next two weeks.
- **Deputy Mayor Pratico:** Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that the Castleton Cemetery Committee has been cleaning up the cemeteries for the spring and to get ready for the Memorial Day parade. Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that the Cemetery Committee would not be meeting in April but will be meeting before the parade. Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that April's Fire House breakfast was busy and that the final breakfast of the season will be May 7th.
- **Trustee D'Aquanni:** Trustee D'Aquanni reported that she will be completing the report for the estuary grant for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation this week. Trustee D'Aquanni reported that the Town of Schodack has filled all of its vacant seats on the Local

Waterfront Revitalization Plan committee with the following individuals: Glenn Camingo, Mike Wiley, Steven Rivers, and Tom Phillips. The Town of Schodack will administer the \$75,000.00 grant that was obtained to update the current plan.

- **Trustee Timerman:** Trustee Timerman reported that she will be joining the river access work group. Trustee Timerman reported that she will be meeting with Clerk-Treasurer Ellis on Thursday to review the budget and bills. Trustee Timerman reported that she was introduced to Library Director Tacke and Library Board President Shane Mitchum by Trustee D'Aquanni.
- **Trustee Bai:** Trustee Bai requested a meeting with Clerk-Treasurer Ellis to review the budget.

REPORTS:

1. **Library Report:** Director Tacke reported that that Castleton Public Library has put a referendum on the school budget vote to create a new tax line that would directly fund the library. The vote will take place at Maple Hill High School on May 16th and Director Tacke will be meeting with the school and Town boards in the next month.
2. **DPW Report:** Foreman Lebrecht reported that the tree on Campbell Avenue and one of the trees at the Lutheran Church would be coming down this week.
3. **Water Report:** Foreman Mastan reported that he has three weeks left until he completes his sewer course. Foreman Mastan explained hydrant flushing to the new Board members and stating that flushing would begin next week.
4. **Wastewater Report:** Foreman Meyer reported that the flow for March was 240,000 gallons. Foreman Meyer explained inflow and infiltration to the new Board members.
5. **Building Inspector:** Inspector Ziegler reported that he has been conducting apartment inspections since the end of COVID regulations and that a new art studio is coming in on Main Street.
6. **Code Enforcement:** Absent.
7. **Fire Department Report:** No further report.
8. **Clerk-Treasurer Report:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that the budget process would continue next meeting and that the budget public hearing will take place on May 8th.

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

BUSINESS:

1. **Rules for Promotion of Non-Village Organizations:** Attorney Wilson has looked into the consequences of the Village promoting non-Village organizations on the kiosk, the Village Facebook page, and the Castletonian. Attorney Wilson stated that it was a very complex constitutional issue dealing with the first amendment. Attorney Wilson advised the Board that if they were interested in moving forward, they should approve non-Village use and then develop a

well-crafted policy. Attorney Wilson reported that he has inquired at the New York Conference of Mayors to see how many municipalities in the state have a policy involving this issue. Trustee D'Aquanni will forward Attorney Wilson the current Facebook policy for the Village.

2. Extension of County Waste Agreement: The extension of the County Waste agreement, which will grant the Village an additional year of refuse service, is tabled until the next meeting so that the Board is able to review the letter from County Waste.

3. Budget Overview: Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that he had made the changes to the budget based on the expected refuse cost and the staff increases provided by Mayor Keegan. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reviewed the reserve accounts with the Board and suggested a 200% increase in reserve funding in the 2023-2024 budget.

4. River Access Update: Trustee D'Aquanni shared an update from the river access committee. The committee spoke with Pace Legal due to both the Village Attorney and the estuary grant attorneys believing that the Village had a low chance of winning if the ALJ case was reopened. The committee split into three groups to pursue different issues: 1) to determine how to get a decision from the New York State Department of Transportation; 2) to build support from the community; and 3) reach out to the new elected officials. The committee would like to hire Peter Melewski, an engineer who has worked on cases involving DOT and Amtrak, to draft a petition to the DOT commissioner and to assist in moving forward. Mayor Keegan asked if the petition would require opening the ALJ or creating a new case. Mr. Melewski stated that he does not know at this point and will only be able to determine that when he gets farther into the process. Mr. Melewski stated that the Town of Marlboro recently won an ALJ case but stated that case involved freight trains and not high-speed commuter rail. The estuary grant currently has around \$30,000.00 left and this project would use about \$23,000.00 of the remaining balance. Attorney Wilson stated that he could not corroborate any of what was stated and asked that the Village table to issue until he has time to review it. The Board agreed to table the matter until next meeting.

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

Abstract # 16 – Vouchers # 497 - # 532 in the amount of \$ 175,179.16

General Fund: \$ 53,945.10

Water Fund: \$ 73,990.35

Sewer Fund: \$ 47,243.71

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 Timerman seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Suzanne Cecala, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, stated that the renderings of the at-grade gate and park were in the initial stages and that there would also be an overhead view. Ms. Cecala stated that that Riverkeeper sweep will be held on May 6th and that there are two trees that need to come down on the park land. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Bai seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:19 pm, Deputy Mayor Pratico moved, Mayor Keegan seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer