

**VILLAGE OF CASTLETON-ON-HUDSON
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING (RESCHEDULED)**

January 30, 2023

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Steven Wilson, Fire Chief Matt Metzger, 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 January 30, 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 Martin seconded, motion carried to accept the January 9, 2023 minutes, with edits.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Bob Mello, of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan committee, discussed the update for the revitalization plan and asked that Ken Malloy be reappointed to the LWRP committee. Suzanne Cecala, of the LWRP committee, stated that the committee received a \$ 75,000 grant to update the 1995 LWRP plan and asked that Ken Malloy be reappointed to the LWRP committee. Ken Malloy, of the LWRP committee, showed the Board a Native American flute that he had made and asked to be reappointed to the LWRP committee. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

BUSINESS:

- 1. Rensselaer County Conservation Alliance Presentation:** Frank Dingman, president of the Rensselaer County Conservation Alliance, presented to the Board about the programs that the RCCA facilitates including fishing, local parks, stream studies, and planning trees. Mr. Dingman asked that the Board grant permission to the RCCA to hang 2 to 3 duck boxes at the Village reservoir as wood duck habitats. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to allow the RCCA to place duck boxes at the reservoir. Mr. Dingman, as a former member of the Castleton Fire Company, stated that the RCCA would help with man power in establishing a park behind the Waste Water Treatment Plant in order to avoid the issues of crossing the railroad tracks at the bottom of Scott Avenue. Mr. Dingman stated that the RCCA will partner with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to give a talk about the local coyote population at the Castleton Ambulance garage on March 2nd.
- 2. LOSAP Increase Request:** The Castleton Fire Department asked that the Board of Trustees raise the current Length of Service Award Program contribution per member from \$ 800.00 to \$1,200.00 annually. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to place a referendum on the March ballot to increase the LOSAP annual contribution from \$ 800.00

to \$ 900.00, with Trustee Samarija opposed.

3. Town of Schodack Fire Agreement: Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried for Mayor Keegan to sign the fire agreement with the Town of Schodack pending attorney approval.

4. Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan Appointment – Ken Malloy: Trustee Martin moved, Mayor Keegan seconded, motion carried to re-appoint Ken Malloy to the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan committee from January 1, 2023 to the duration of the appointment.

5. New Road by Fire House Code Enforcement: The Board tabled this issue until it could be determined what processes would be needed to enforcement new parking regulations on that street.

6. Village Park by Fire House Plans: The Board determined that the first step in the process of developing the park needs to be obtaining a map of the area so that the Village can designate areas for parking and activities.

7. Resolution 2 – Official Polling Place: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to adopt Resolution 2 which designates the time and place of the March 21st Village election.

8. Resolution 3 – Appointment of Election Inspector: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to appoint Megan Swartz to the position of election inspector for the March 21st Village election and the rate of \$175.00 for the day.

9. Wastewater Treatment Plant Ribbon Cutting Event: Tad Johnston, of Delaware Engineering, suggested that the ribbon cutting be scheduled for the end of May. Trustee D'Aquanni suggested that the Rensselaer County Chamber of Commerce, of which the Village is a member, be contacted about assisting with the ribbon cutting, as they do many of them over the course of the year.

10. River Access Update: The Board stated that there is currently no update on river access.

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

Abstract # 11 – Voucher # 408 - 410 in the amount of \$ 63,353.99

General Fund: \$ 27,791.33

Water Fund: \$16,697.46

Sewer Fund: \$ 18,865.20

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Theresa Scandurra, of the Friends of the Castleton Public Library, requested use of Riverrest on May 6th and the front lawn of the Village Hall on August 23rd and September 16th for Friends of the Library events. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to allow the Friends of the Library to use Riverrest and the Village Hall lawn for their events. Suzanne Donnelly, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, stated that the Winterlight event was successful and thanked the trustees that attended. Ms. Donnelly asked why the mayor did not allow COHMSA to advertise their event on the sign entering the Village. Mayor Keegan stated that the Village was advised by the New York Conference of Mayors to only allow Village departments use of the sign to avoid any potential legal issues with outside organizations requested use. COHMSA is not affiliated with the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson and the Department of Public Works does not have the time to change the sign as often as it is requested. Frank

Dingman, of the Rensselaer County Conservation Alliance, stated that the fire house breakfasts should not be advertised on the Village sign as the breakfasts are run by the Fire Company and not the Fire Department. Mr. Dingman stated that a local business owner is living in the commercial space of his business. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:05 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to enter executive session. At 8:18 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to exit executive session.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:20 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer