

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

May 14, 2018

**PRESENT:** Mayor Robert Schmidt, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Marianne Carner, Trustee Gina Giuliano, Trustee Sharon Martin, Trustee Jenifer Pratico

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Attorney Benjamin Hill (arrived 7:30), Superintendent John Shortsleeve, Castleton Kids Director Scott Mocerine (arrived 7:50), Library Director Melissa Tacke, Code Enforcement Officer James Lance, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

**PUBLIC:** 3

**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 14, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Mayor Schmidt with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the March 12, 2018 Regular Meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Marie Bladow asked about the status of the issues which she had raised at the previous board meeting regarding Smith Drive. Trustee Pratico stated that DPW Foreman Saville was currently away but the Board would follow up with him upon his return concerning the storm sewers. As for the issue of the rocks on Smith Drive, Ms. Bladow was informed that Attorney Hill would be arriving at the meeting later and that she would be able to discuss the issue with him.

Schodack Central Schools Superintendent, Jason Chevrier notified the Board that the annual school budget vote would be held on the following day. Superintendent Chevrier also shared with the Board that Castleton Elementary School would be installing an electronic sign on the corner of Scott and Campbell Avenues. The sign would shine at 100% capacity during the day and at half capacity at night. The Superintendent stated that he wanted to work with the Village to make sure that residents would not be disturbed by the sign and that it would be a good tool for the promotion of Village events. Trustee Martin asked if there could be a discussion between the School District and the Village regarding the movement of the water main located under the gymnasium of the Castleton Elementary School, to which the Superintendent agreed.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

- **Mayor Schmidt:** Mayor Schmidt reported that the Riverkeeper Sweep conducted on May 5, 2018 at the site of Riverfront Park was successful and thanked the Main Street association for their help.  
The Mayor also reported that after the Riverkeeper Sweep, he was confronted by two individuals that claimed to be engineers from Amtrak, though they refused to state their names or produce any form of identification. The individuals stated that it was unsafe for the Village to open the gate for the railroad crossing at which point Trustee Giuliano produced the agreement that allows the Village to conduct maintenance on the site.

The Mayor also reported that the New York State Department of State toured the riverfront with officials from the Village and from the Town of Schodack for their plan review. Due to the lack of agreed upon appointments to the LWRP, the Department of State has been making decisions upon behalf of the Village and the Town. The Mayor stated that he is working with Town Supervisor, David Harris, to appoint all members to the LWRP.

The Mayor then stated that the New York State Department of Transportation required more specifications for the proposed Main Street Association flagpole to locate on Route 9J. The Department of transportation required these specifications for review by Amtrak, but could not provide specifics for what further information was required. Main Street Association President, Nathan Hans, provided a sketch for the foundation of the flagpole.

The Mayor was interviewed by the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce and the article highlighting Castleton will be featured in their June publication.

- **Deputy Mayor Carner:** Deputy Mayor Carner relayed the thanks of the Castleton Seniors for the Village's ongoing support and contribution.
- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin participated in Spring Clean Up Day with Trustee Pratico on May 5, 2018. Trustee Martin reported that new water rates would be discussed at the second Board Meeting of June.
- **Trustee Pratico:** Trustee Pratico reported that the Spring Clean Up Day was a success and brought in \$420.00. Trustee Pratico also reported that there would a Gold Award student decorating the cemetery with flowers in preparation for the Memorial Day Parade. Trustee Pratico suggested that newly elected Assemblyman Jake Ashby be invited to an upcoming Board Meeting, to which the Board agreed.
- **Trustee Giuliano:** Trustee Giuliano reported that the Village had received an organic seed donation for the Community Garden. Trustee Giuliano also applied for a grant for a bench and planter for 2 Green Avenue. Trustee Giuliano asked the Clerk-Treasurer to acquire Certificates of Insurance for the Driver Feedback sign.

#### **REPORTS:**

1. **DPW Report:** Absent.
2. **Water & Wastewater Report:** Supervisor Shortsleeve reported that an individual on Van Housen Road had asked him about providing water and sewer for a proposed development. The Supervisor stated that a sewer connection from the Village would be possible but stated that the development may require more water than the Village would be able to provide and that a connection to the Town's water may be needed. Supervisor Shortsleeve also reported that the sewer connection for Maple Hill High School and the possible warehouse needed to be discussed with the Town of Schodack.
3. **Library Report:** Library Director Melissa Tacke reported that Summer Reading would begin on the final day of the school year and that an outreach program to Castleton Kids was ongoing. The Director reported that she would be conducting a class on June 5<sup>th</sup> utilizing the Ancestry Library Program.

4. **Code Enforcement:** Code Enforcement Officer James Lance reported that he had issued several tickets for building in violation of the vacant buildings registry and those individuals would be taken to court on May 30, 2018.
5. **Building Inspector:** Absent.
6. **Planning:** Carol Stockman of the Planning Board reported that a slope test was requested for the buildable parcel on Seaman Avenue. Ms. Stockman suggested that a Public Hearing for the modifications to the roof to keep a pre-existing sign.
7. **Clerk-Treasurer Report:** No report.

Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried to approve all departmental reports.

#### **BUSINESS:**

1. **Hudson River Foods Water Billing:** Attorney Hill will review billing for Hudson River Foods and notify the Clerk-Treasurer on how to proceed with billing, due to meter reading irregularities in prior readings.
2. **Out of Village Water Billing:** No members of the public present were in attendance to grieve their Out of Village Water Bill Payments.
3. **Code Books for Planning Board:** The Planning Board requested copies of the Village code books. Softcover versions containing the portion of the Village Code dedicated to Zoning will be ordered for Planning Board members.
4. **Budget Transfers:** See Attached Resolution.
5. **Water Bond Payment:** The Clerk-Treasurer notified the Board that the principal on the Water Bond would be paid in the amount of \$35,000.00.
6. **APPROPRIATIONS:** Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to approve payment of the abstracts.
  - Abstract # 24 - Vouchers- # 656 - # 711 in the amount of \$ 58,362.30.
  - General Fund: \$ 48,370.76
  - Castleton Kids: \$ 673.61
  - Water Fund: \$ 849.74
  - Sewer Fund: \$ 8,468.19

**ONLINE BANKING TRANSFERS:** Trustee Pratico moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to approve the online banking transfers according to the schedule presented to the Board.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 8:28 pm, Trustee Martin moved, Deputy Mayor Carner seconded, motion carried to move into Executive Sessions to discuss Castleton Kids. Motion carried. At 9:22 pm, Trustee Pratico moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried to exit Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 9:23 pm, Trustee Pratico moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Padraic Ellis  
Village Clerk-Treasurer