

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

September 24, 2018

PRESENT: Mayor Robert Schmidt, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Marianne Carner (arrived 7:15), Trustee Gina Giuliano, Trustee Sharon Martin, Trustee Jenifer Pratico

ABSENT: 0

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Benjamin Hill (arrived 7:10), Superintendent John Shortsleeve, Deputy Clerk Janice Better, Fire Chief Matt Carner, Laura Palmer- sewer/water-Town of Schodack, Tad Johnston- Delaware Engineering.

PUBLIC: 1

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 September 24, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Mayor Robert Schmidt with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jan Poznanski, owner of the Village Inn asked to see the Village Attorney. He had questions regarding the LDC paperwork. Mayor Schmidt had spoken with counsel on this matter and Jan and Benjamin Hill spoke in private when Ben arrived at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Schmidt moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of September 10, 2018. (Deputy Mayor/Trustee Carner absent).

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Mayor Schmidt:** Mayor Schmidt reported that \$460 was made at the Fall Clean-up at the Brickyard on Saturday, September 22nd. The Mayor and Trustee Giuliano cut the knotwood around the trees down at the brickyard. Nine trees will need to be replaced next year. It seems that all the dead trees were willows.
- **Deputy Mayor/Trustee Carner:** Trustee Carner reported that the tree on the right-hand side in the front yard of Village Hall needs to be cut down. In speaking with the Library, Trustee Carner was hoping to get another bench or picnic table on that side of Village Hall to make a reading bigger reading area for students and community members. She is looking over the Village insurance with the Library and discussed the front door issue with the Library.

Deputy Mayor Carner reported that the reason she was delayed for the meeting was that she was speaking to the new owners of the Diner on Main Street. They requested that the dumpster on the property be placed in the back corner of the parking lot near the Mahar's

building. They also wished to move the tenants' garbage cans there as well. She suggested to them that the handicapped parking space be moved nearer the Diner entrance and ramp. They had a long discussion about this. It was decided that the Village Attorney, Ben Hill, add this information into the parking lot/ handicapped ramp lease agreement with the Diner owners.

- **Trustee Pratico:** Trustee Pratico reported she has had positive feedback for the driver- "Your Speed Is" sign from many residents. Also, the Castleton Kids after-school program is continuing the move to become a private entity. The timetable looks to be end of 2018.
- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin thanked Laura Palmer and John Shortsleeve for their hard work on the water/sewer rates and the presentation that followed. Padraic Ellis, the Village Clerk-Treasurer was thanked as well. Trustee Martin reported that she and Trustee Carner and Pratico attended the Maple Hill Jr. /Sr. High School ribbon cutting and took tours of the newly renovated combined 7-12 school.
- **Trustee Giuliano:** Trustee Giuliano reported the last Farmer's Market is on Friday, September 28th. They were trying to do some special food item for it. Trustee Giuliano also spent September 22nd at the Fall Clean-Up and cut a ton of knotwood away from the new trees and the area. She reported that the Diner's tentative opening is October 18th and The Store's grand re-opening will be the first week in October, hopefully.

BUSINESS:

1. **Purchase of Fire Truck:** Chief Matt Carner produced the final invoice for the new fire truck. There is \$126,000 in the truck fund per Clerk/Treasurer Ellis (via phone) and \$61,800 needed to be transferred to pay for the balance of the truck. Chief Carner brought completed voucher down for the Board and for Clerk/Treasurer Ellis to complete and pay. There is \$202,000 or so in the fire truck fund on reserve. Per attorney Ben Hill a motion was made to authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to transfer not more than \$62,000 out of reserve fund for the previously approved purchase of a new fire truck. (See Chief Carner for the specifics on the truck, also on invoice.) Motion was made by Trustee Pratico, seconded by Trustee Carner. Motion carried.
2. **Water/Sewer Rates Workshop:** (During this workshop the Board referred to 4 separate spread sheets detailing current water/sewer rates for the Village and the Town of Schodack, proposed changes to these rates and the Town and Village Code book unit schedules. These were provided by Laura Palmer from the Town and John Shortsleeve) Laura Palmer from the Town of Schodack began the workshop by detailing the fee schedule for current water and sewer rates for residential and commercial properties in the Town and the Village with a special look at the nursing home and the Schodack Central Schools' buildings. Ms. Palmer then went over the proposed new schedule of usage and fees. Per the Village 40,000 gallons of water is the average usage of residential properties, therefore they are assigned 1 EDU or -Equivalent Dwelling Unit. If it is a two-family residence or more additional EDU's will be charged. Generally all properties, including vacant, will receive 1 EDU plus for those properties with water, an additional EDU for every 40,000gallons/year, or a portion thereof, of water usage in excess of 40,000gallons/year with the exception of

schools, nursing homes and exempt properties.(taken from the Town of Schodack/Village of Castleton Sewer EDU Summary page).

Ms. Palmer stated that the Town has a public hearing to discuss the new EDU changes on November 1st and she is then hopeful the proposed changes will be approved by the Town Board at their November 5th Board Meeting.

Ben Hill, attorney for the Village, stated that he will look over all the information before a public hearing in the Village is set, The Board after much discussion believes that the changes are fair and equitable. Mr. Hill stated that he will have his opinion and any language *changes by the October 9th board meeting at which time the Board will vote to set a public hearing* and relay this information to the Town of Schodack.

3. Water rates and wastewater treatment issues: Superintendent John Shortsleeve addressed the Board on the trucking contract for transporting the sewer sludge out of the Village Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mayor Schmidt said that his must sent out for bid. Superintendent Shortsleeve and Attorney Ben Hill will work out the specifics for the bid process.

Superintendent Shortsleeve also reported that with the new upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant, all staff will need additional training going forward to keep current with the new equipment. Staff is currently taking classes to obtain and renew licenses. He also reminded the Board that sewer connection reserve fund must be used for capital projects and that he believes more should be placed in that fund for future equipment purchases.

Water rates: With the upcoming increase in water rates a plan must be enacted to alert the residents with explanations and detailed information on the upgraded wastewater treatment plant. Trustee Pratico suggested that a presentation in February or March by Delaware Engineering to inform residents of the upgrade, its progress and the impact on rates. Superintendent Shortsleeve then provided the water rate increase spreadsheet to the Board with clarifications and answered questions. (See spreadsheet)

Superintendent Shortsleeve stated that that specific language needs to be changed in the sewer fee code: removal of impact fee and change to capacity charge. This needs to be changed in all of the hook-up fee charges and also the inter-municipal agreement.

The Board decided a public hearing should be set in December to increase the water rates for next fiscal year which begins in June- \$50.00 a year/ \$12.50 a quarter.

4. APPROPRIATIONS: Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion approved payment of the abstracts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 9:15pm, Mayor Schmidt moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded motion to move into Executive Session. At 9:45pm, Trustee Pratico moved, Deputy Mayor Carner seconded motion to exit Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:46 Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion to adjourn meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenifer Pratico
Village Trustee