

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

September 9, 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, Chief Operator Kenneth Meyer, Superintendent Joseph Garavelli, Library Director Melissa Tacke, Code Enforcement Officer Jim Lance, Fire Chief Matt Carner, Planning Board Chair Carol Stockman, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

**PUBLIC:** 7

**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 9, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Schmidt with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Trustee Pratico moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the August 12, 2019 Regular Meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Tad Johnston, of Campbell Avenue, stated that there was a tree that was dying in his front yard. Two other trees were previously growing alongside it and were taken down by the Village. Mr. Johnston was asked to contact the DPW regarding the tree's removal. Carol Stockman, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, thanked the Board, the Mayor, and the DPW for their assistance with Main Street Day. She informed the Board that the next COHMSA event would be a reading of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow at the Village Inn on October 27, 2019.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

- **Mayor Schmidt:** Mayor Schmidt reported that he had attended the LWRP meeting the previous Thursday. He thanked Trustee Pratico for having the LWRP reports copied. Mayor Schmidt believes that they are making good progress and has high hopes for the group's future. Currently, the LWRP is reviewing the previous plan and the list of protected species that it contains.
- **Deputy Mayor Carner:** Deputy Mayor Carner thanked the Main Street Association for the success of Main Street Day. She stated that she had not seen an event that large on Main Street since the 1980s.
- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin also thanked COHMSA for a successful Main Street Day. She also reported that interviews had begun to find a replacement for the DPW Foreman. Trustee Martin reported that she had helped Michael Martin clean up the site of the Tree City Park the previous Sunday.

- **Trustee Pratico:** Trustee Pratico reported that she had met with Chief Carner and that they are working on completing the Firetruck Grant and the Volunteer Firefighters Cancer Benefit Insurance. She stated that the one positive consequence of the failed firehouse consolidation plan was that the fire departments have committed more to shared services. Trustee Pratico reported that she attended the last Planning Board meeting about CorrVentures, LLC and wanted to thank the Planning Board for being well-prepared and having on point questions.
- **Trustee Giuliano:** Trustee Giuliano reported that Landmark would be taking a look at the engine hose on September 19, 2019 regarding the Preserve NY grant. Trustee Giuliano reported that Repair Café would be held this Friday at the Farmers' Market and that there were only 3 more Farmers' Markets left.

#### **REPORTS:**

1. **Water Report:** No further report.
2. **Wastewater Report:** No further report.
3. **Library Report:** Director Tacke stated that September is Library Card Sign-Up Month and that the library would be giving a prize away to all those that sign up. The library will be holding its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Costume Giveaway. On Saturday, the library will hold a Drug Take Back Day in conjunction with the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department.
4. **Fire Department Report:** Chief Carner stated that the fire that occurred at the former Fort Orange Paper Company is still under investigation.
5. **Code Enforcement Report:** Officer Lance reported that he will be in court with Attorney Hill for code violations on Wednesday.
6. **Building Inspector:** Absent.
7. **Clerk-Treasurer Report:** No further report.

Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion to approve all departmental reports.

#### **BUSINESS:**

1. **Local Law Change - Garage:** The Village code currently prohibits the construction of front facing garages within the historic district. Residents would like to have this changed as per Planning Board Chair Stockman. New construction is limited on the first floor due to the area being within the flood plain. Lots on Main Street properties tend to be narrower and this would not allow for garages that are side facing. The Board will take this under advisement and discuss it further at the next board meeting.
2. **CorrVentures, LLC Update:** Delaware Engineering had presented their proposal for engineering fees for the CorrVentures LLC project and would like to ask for an initial \$10,000.00 to be put in escrow for the cost. They will determine if an Environmental Impact Study will need to be completed. There will be an informational meeting on Thursday to answer questions about the project.

Mayor Schmidt moved, Deputy Mayor Carner seconded, motion carried for the Planning Board to retain Delaware Engineering for the CorrVentures LLC project.

3. **Rensselaer County Village Property Tax Collection:** The Village of Castleton-on-Hudson currently has a shortfall in property tax due to Rensselaer County forgetting to include the veterans' exclusions on the property tax bills. Attorney Hill will speak with the county attorney in an attempt to rectify the situation.
4. **Fort Orange Hazardous Site:** Chief Carner reported that the fire at the Fort Orange Paper Company has left the building in a dangerous condition. Officials from Rensselaer County were there the day after the fire to inspect the site but will not agree to take the building down. Chief Carner did not feel that the site was safe for firefighters to enter should the building catch fire again.
5. **21 Green Avenue Demolition:** Attorney Hill has no new updates on if Rensselaer County has taken ownership of the property.
6. **Water Shut-Off – 1165 Maple Hill Road:** Attorney Hill has no new progress regarding the filing of a court order to shut the water off at 1165 Maple Hill Road.
7. **Volunteer Firefighters Cancer Benefit Insurance:** The paperwork for the Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Benefit Insurance was due on February 15, 2019 and has not been completed. Chief Carner stated that he hopes to have the paperwork completed on Tuesday at the next Firehouse Meeting.
8. **APPROPRIATIONS:** Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion to approve payment of the abstracts.
  - Abstract # 5 – Vouchers # 137 - # 184 in the amount of \$ 166,745.43
  - General Fund: \$ 66,689.37
  - Water Fund: \$ 62,394.89
  - Sewer Fund: \$ 37,661.17

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Betsey Prohonic, of Boltwood Avenue, is concerned about the development of the former Fort Orange Property by CorVentures LLC. She is concerned for the safety of firefighters and police that may have to enter the building due to the contaminated materials that remain there. Daniel Hershey, of Boltwood Avenue, is also concerned about the former Fort Orange site. He is concerned that the building will be 100 feet tall and about the air pollution that will possibly be released. He is also concerned about the 125 daily trucks that will be entering and exiting the property and the air pollution that they will cause. Both Attorney Hill and Tad Johnston of Delaware Engineering stated that the Village Board has no part in this process and that the Planning Board will work independently to handle these concerns. The Board suggested that the concerned citizens attend the informational meeting that will be held on Thursday.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 8:27 pm, Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded motion to move into Executive Sessions. At 9:20 pm, Mayor Schmidt moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion to exit Executive Session.

**9. Refund of Water Agreement** - The developer of properties in Castleridge paid the fees for a water connection on a proposed property. After the paperwork had been filed with Rensselaer County the buyer backed out and the developer would like their money back. Trustee Pratico moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to return the money for water hook-up fees to the developer of Castleridge.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 9:25 pm, Trustee Pratico moved, Deputy Mayor Carner seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Padraic Ellis  
Village Clerk-Treasurer