

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

August 12, 2019

**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, Library Director Melissa Tacke, Building Inspector Gary Ziegler, Chief Operator Kenneth Meyer, Superintendent Joseph Garavelli, Deputy Clerk Janice Better, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

**PUBLIC:** 2

**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 August 12, 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, Deputy Mayor Carner seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the July 26, 2019 Special Meeting, with one correction – the appointment of a new alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be from January 1, 2019 to January 1, 2024.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Rhonda Van De Wal, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, invited the Board to attend Main Street Day on Saturday, September 7, 2019 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The Main Street Association would like to have a portable toilet for attendees and request \$125.00 from the Village to cover the cost. The Main Street Association would also like to have interactive mural painting and requested \$350.00 from the Village to cover the artist's fee. The Board will discuss the requests and decide if and how the Village will pay for them.

**TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

- **Mayor Schmidt:** Mayor Schmidt reported that he attended the LWRP meeting. Future meetings would be held monthly. Chairman Ashby contacted Clerk-Treasurer Ellis to inform him of the date of the next meeting as well as request that the members receive a hard copy of the current LWRP plan. Once the LWRP board has determined an update plan they will look to set up a meeting with the New York State Department of State. Mayor Schmidt reported that Scenic Hudson may be looking to split into two separate groups, one representing Dutchess County and the other representing Columbia and Rensselaer Counties. Mayor Schmidt reported that he and Trustee Giuliano cut down knotweed at the Trees for Tribes site. About two thirds of the trees have died but replacements are available through the Department of Environmental Conservation. Mayor Schmidt reported that he had attended the required annual training for ERCSWMA. Mayor Schmidt thanked 52 Hilton on Main for donating dinner to all the Repair Café volunteers on Friday.

- **Deputy Mayor Carner:** Deputy Mayor Carner reported that she had presented Zippy the Clown with a proclamation for National Clown Week.
- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin reported that Superintendent Shortsleeve had retired the previous month and that Kenneth Meyer and Joseph Garavelli were interviewed and hired for Chief Wastewater Plant Operator and Water Superintendent, respectively. Trustee Martin reported that she is continuing to do interviews for open positions in the Village and that a new Motor Equipment Operator has been hired for DPW.
- **Trustee Pratico:** Trustee Pratico reported that she and Trustee Giuliano have contacted SUNY Albany in hope over securing a contact for GIS surveying. Trustee Pratico reported that she, in conjunction with Assemblyman Ashby, is continuing to discuss crosswalks on Main Street with the Department of Transportation. Trustee Pratico reported that since Castleton Kids has separated from the Village that she would like to take over the role of Fire Department liaison from Trustee Martin, to which no one objected.
- **Trustee Giuliano:** Trustee Giuliano reported that Repair Café was well attended on the previous Friday with a knife sharpener being a large draw. Trustee Giuliano reported that the Farmers' Market has new vendors attended, including a boutique and maple syrup producer. Trustee Giuliano reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report for the Estuary Grant has been approved and that she will be looking into further grants including the Urban and Community Tree Grant, the Rensselaer County Arts Grant, and the AARP Community Challenge Grant for Public Arts. Trustee Giuliano reported that she is looking into having a Fellow from the Center for Women in Government intern at the Village during the first half of 2020.

#### **REPORTS:**

1. **DPW Report:** Absent.
2. **Water Report:** No Additional Report.
3. **Wastewater Report:** No Additional Report.
4. **Library Report:** Director Tacke reported that the Summer Reading Program is beginning to wrap up. Story time with the Firefighters will be held on September 20 and the End of Summer Party will be held on September 22.
5. **Building Inspector:** Mayor Schmidt asked if any progress had been made on 9-11 South Main Street. Inspector Ziegler reported that there was a building permit to renovate and that he was currently waiting on design plans for the retaining wall behind the building. Inspector Ziegler reported that the new owner of 13 Scott Avenue had received a highway access permit from the Department of Transportation for the driveway that had been built.
6. **Clerk-Treasurer Report:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that painting on the Village Hall had been completed and that the painter would need additional funds to repaint the top of the DPW building. The Board decided not to spend any further funds on the painting project.

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

**BUSINESS:**

1. **Rensselaer County Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Mayor Schmidt and Clerk-Treasurer Ellis have been working with Rensselaer County to complete the Village's submission for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Areas of concern include the ravines behind Green Avenue, Seaman Avenue, and Benedict Street. The repair and maintenance of storm sewers on Main Street to reduce flooding is also a concern. If a disaster occurs anywhere in New York State, the Village can apply for funds. It was recommended that the Village submit a grant every time this occurs so that when a disaster is declared in Rensselaer County the Village will be more likely to receive funding. Mayor Schmidt will be completing the final paperwork for submission within the next week.
2. **Tree City Committee Update:** Chairman Martin reported that a tree list had been completed and that planting would be beginning at the 2 Green Avenue site and the Trees for Tribes site. He thanked Rensselaer County for their assistance in getting the program up and running. The next meeting has not yet been set.
3. **21 Green Avenue Demolition:** Attorney Hill will check with the County Attorney to see if Rensselaer County has taken possession of the property. The results will be shared with the board at the next meeting.
4. **Water Shut Off – 1165 Maple Hill Road:** Attorney Hill reported the Schodack Police will not assist the Village with water shut off at 1165 Maple Hill Road without a court order. Attorney Hill will draw up the paperwork to file the court order with Judge Peters.
5. **Employee Cell Phones:** All of the employees that have Village phones are eligible for new phones. New phones will be assigned to the Water Department, the Sewer Department, the Department of Public Works, and the Building Inspector. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis will order the new phones this week.
6. **Volunteer Firefighters Cancer Benefit Insurance:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis has not received a bill for the Volunteer Firefighters Cancer Benefit Insurance and is concerned that the paperwork has not been turned in. Trustee Pratico will find out if the paperwork was filed, as she is the new fire department liaison.
7. **MS4 Meetings:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that someone would need to attend future county MS4 meetings now that Foreman Saville was retiring.
8. **APPROPRIATIONS:** Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion to approve payment of the abstracts.
  - Abstract # 5 – Vouchers # 82 - # 136 in the amount of \$ 99,297.61.
  - General Fund: \$ 47, 283.86
  - Water Fund: \$ 6,263.70
  - Sewer Fund: \$ 48, 850.05

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 8:35 pm, Trustee Pratico moved, Mayor Schmidt seconded motion to move into Executive Sessions. At 9:25 pm, Trustee Martin moved, Mayor Schmidt seconded, motion to exit Executive Session.

9. **Portable Toilet for Main Street Day:** Trustee Giuliano moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion carried for the Village to pay for the portable toilet for Main Street Day, as requested by the Main Street Association.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 9:30 pm, Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Padraic Ellis  
Village Clerk-Treasurer