

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

June 24, 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, DPW Foreman Richard Saville, Superintendent John Shortsleeve, Library Director Melissa Tacke, Planning Board Chair Carol Stockman, Deputy Clerk Janice Better, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

PUBLIC: 6

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 June 24, 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 Martin seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2019 Regular Meeting with Deputy Mayor Carner abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Library Director Tacke reported that the ribbon cutting for the annex would be held at 5:00 pm on June 26, 2019 and that all of the board members were invited. She also reported that that day would be the kick-off for the summer reading program and provided the board members with the summer reading program packet. Michael Martin, head of the Tree City Committee, reported that the committee was in the process of completing the approved tree list for the village. He also reported that the committee would like to plant arborvitae on the village's property at 2 Green Avenue behind Grant's Auto. Deputy Mayor Carner also requested a tree for the front of the Village Hall to replace the tree that had been removed.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Mayor Schmidt:** Mayor Schmidt reported that he has been meetings with Core Ventures, C.T. Male Engineering, and Jack Bonesteel from Rensselaer County regarding the plans for construction on the site of the former Fort Orange site.
- **Deputy Mayor Carner:** Deputy Mayor Carner reported that parking on First Street between Green Avenue and Stimpson Avenue has congested the street to the point where emergency vehicles cannot get through. While there are signs that indicate no parking is allowed on the west side of First Street between Green Avenue and the Village Hall parking lot, there is no signage at all on the east side of the street. According to Local Law no. 1 of the year 1994 parking on First Street is prohibited wherever signs designate that parking is not allowed. Deputy Mayor Carner would like signs installed on First Street so that parking on either side of the street would not be allowed between Green Avenue and Stimpson Avenue. Foreman Saville will see what signs are currently in place regarding parking.

- **Trustee Martin:** The Village Board wished Trustee Martin a happy birthday by celebrating with cake.
- **Trustee Pratico:** Trustee Pratico reported that the flag pole dedication was well attended and wonderful.
- **Trustee Giuliano:** No report.

BUSINESS:

1. **George Barna Water/Sewer/Refuse Bill:** Mr. Barna provided the Village Board with the water, sewer, and refuse rates over other communities in which he owns properties. He stated that he does not believe that he should be charged refuse fees for his property at 9-11 South Main Street since he has not used the service since gaining ownership of the building. It was explained that the Village Code states that all properties, with the exception of commercial properties and apartment buildings with more than six units, are charged a refuse fee. The Village is billed monthly by County Waste for refuse pick up for the number of properties listed when the contract was put out to bid. The Village has to pay for this number of units monthly whether the property owner makes use of this service or not.
2. **C.T. Male Presentation – Fort Orange Site Development:** Stephen Read and Eric Lawrence of Core Ventures addressed the board concerning to Fort Orange Site. The company is planning to build a mill on the site and has county support, including Jack Bonesteel, also present. The mill will produce 100% recycled container board. The initial step will be a clean-up of the brownfield site which will cost between \$3 and \$5 million. The mill will process corrugated cardboard into container board which will be shipped out to clients. Core Ventures has experience in the creation and running of this type of mill, including a plant in Syracuse which is the 8th largest container board plant in North America. During the construction process, 200 jobs will be created with 100 permanent jobs being created once the mill is up and running. The first major deadline will be receiving their air permit from the state by December of this year. Jack Bonesteel stated that of the village industrial district not currently occupied by Cogen, Core Ventures would be purchasing 84%. The remaining 16% would be designated either a county or a village park. Concerns for the project were raised by the Village Board, Planning Board Chair Stockman, and Superintendent Shortsleeve. The first concern is the sound that would be generated by to mill, which will be run 24 hours a day, 360 days a year. The construction plans will include noise mitigation materials which will greatly reduce the amount of noise that is released into the community. The second concern is traffic into and out of the plant. Various alternatives to trucking were discussed, including reopening the railroad tracks into the property and the possibility of a dock for barges to unload. The final concern was the use of water and sewer by the mill, as the daily input and output would be close to one million gallons per day. The Village is not capable of handling that much input or output on either the water and sewer systems. Possibilities for sewer include Rensselaer County running pipe down 9J to their treatment plant or building a self-contained treatment plant on the property. Water can be procured from the two dams on the property. Superintendent Shortsleeve also stated that a well had been dug on the property. Both the Village and Rensselaer County are supportive of the project and are willing to provide support so that they can break ground by the end of the year.
3. **Release of Escrow funds to KSR upon completion of Drainage System:** Upon the completion of the drainage system on the property owned by KSR Holdings, a request has been made for the return of escrow funds that were put aside for this purpose. Planning Board Chair Stockman granted her approval. Tad Johnston, of Delaware Engineering, stated that he inspected the site

and recommended the release of funds. Mr. Johnston also stated that the “For Sale” sign on the property was illegal. Deputy Mayor Carner asked Clerk-Treasurer Ellis to notify Officer Lance of the sign. Foreman Saville stated that Scott Avenue is a state road and that if the State has granted their permission then he would be in agreement. Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried to return funds which were held in escrow to KSR Holdings due to the drainage on the Scott Avenue property being completed.

4. **Resolution # 23 – Credit for Time Warner Property Tax:** Trustee Pratico moved, Mayor Schmidt seconded, motion carried to credit Time Warner’s tax bill payment from the franchise fees the village receives annually.
5. **Resolution # 24 – Agreement for Kinderhook Bank/Community Bank Merger:** Trustee Martin moved, Deputy Mayor Carner seconded, motion carried to have Mayor Schmidt sign a revised copy of the agreement with Kinderhook Bank/Community Bank with the signature page revised to show his name instead of the Clerk-Treasurer.
6. **APPROPRIATIONS:** Trustee Pratico moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion to approve payment of the abstracts.
 - Abstract # 2 - Vouchers- # 40 - # 42 in the amount of \$ 9,909.17.
 - General Fund: \$3,319.57
 - Water Fund: \$3,627.90
 - Sewer Fund: \$2,961.70

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:49 pm, Trustee Pratico moved, Deputy Mayor Carner seconded motion to move into Executive Sessions. At 9:25 pm, Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion to exit Executive Session.

7. **Rate Increase for Barbara Sherman** – Trustee Pratico moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried to increase the pay rate of Barbara Sherman from \$11.67 per hour to \$12.67 per hour.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:27 pm, Mayor Schmidt moved, Deputy Mayor Carner seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer