

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

May 28, 2019

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

**ABSENT:** Trustee Sharon Martin

**ALSO PRESENT:** Attorney Benjamin Hill, DPW Foreman Richard Saville, Superintendent John Shortsleeve, 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 May 28, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Schmidt with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Mayor Schmidt moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2019 Regular Meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Michael Martin, chair of the Tree City committee, reported that the group held their first meeting on the previous Thursday with three residents, including Deputy Mayor Carner, attending. Mr. Martin presented a PowerPoint presentation that had been supplied by the Arbor Day Foundation. Deputy Mayor Carner pointed out some locations for the planting of trees throughout the Village. The Tree City committee stated that they would like to have an informational table at the Flag Day ceremony on June 14, 2019. Mayor Schmidt asked that Schermerhorn Park be considered for the planting of trees. Trustee Pratico recommended contacting Assemblyman Tonko concerning the committee's efforts to increase the amount of trees in the Village.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

- **Mayor Schmidt:** Mayor Schmidt reported that the meeting between Amtrak, the Department of Transportation, and the mayors and supervisors of municipalities on the west bank of the Hudson River has been scheduled for June 14, 2019 in Hudson. This meeting will discuss Amtrak's efforts to separate riverside towns and villages from accessing the river.
- **Deputy Mayor Carner:** Deputy Mayor Carner reported that the Village would like to thank Foreman Saville for his dedication and hard work in hanging the veterans' banners for the Memorial Day Parade. Not only were residents thrilled with the quality of the banners, but also with Foreman Saville's efforts to hang banners near the family homes of those pictured.
- **Trustee Martin:** Absent.

- **Trustee Pratico:** Trustee Pratico reported that a number of cars had been broken into on Benedict Street the previous night. The Schodack Police are aware of the incidents and Trustee Pratico hopes that they will have an increased presence in the area. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that he had received word that someone was also attempting to break into houses on Latham Street that night. Trustee Pratico reported that she will be meeting with the Department of Transportation tomorrow on the possibility of a crosswalk study on Main Street.
- **Trustee Giuliano:** Trustee Giuliano reported that she has submitted the paperwork for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative and has received confirmation that it was received by the State. Trustee Giuliano also reported that the next Repair Café would take place at the first Farmers' Market on the year on June 7, 2019.

#### **BUSINESS:**

1. **Approval of the Campbell Avenue Water Line Relocation:** Superintendent Shortsleeve reported that the Superintendent of Schodack Schools is in favor of moving forward with the relocation of the water main under Castleton Elementary School. The School Board will still need to approve the district's funding of the project but the School Superintendent stated that the district should have enough funds to cover the construction. Mayor Schmidt voiced his concern that the School Board had not approved the cost for the completion of the design portion of the project. Trustee Pratico stated that she believed that moving forward would be in the district's best interest and that she would be in communication with the district as the project progresses. Tad Johnston of Delaware Engineering, the firm that agreed to complete the design process, stated that in order for the project to be completed before that beginning of the next school year the Village needed to sign off on the contract immediately. Trustee Pratico moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried for Deputy Mayor Carner to sign the contract with Delaware Engineering to complete the design process for the Campbell Avenue Water Line Relocation, with Mayor Schmidt abstaining.
2. **Street Sweeper Purchase with Town of Schodack:** The Town of Schodack has proposed a partnership with the Village for the completion of a grant to partially fund the purchase of a new street sweeper. The Town provided the Village with the specifications of the proposed street sweeper but the Village was not provided with a copy of the grant. One stipulation that has been set down by the Town is that the Laberge Group be paid \$ 10,000.00 for the completion of the grant. Foreman Saville stated that the current street sweeper is 18 years old and, while it belongs solely to the Village, it is borrowed by the Town for use in their more densely occupied communities. The Town offers maintenance on the street sweeper in exchange for its use under a shared services agreement. Foreman Saville stated that concerns regarding this grant would be the question of ownership and insurance liability for the street sweeper between the Village and the Town. The Village Board decided not to act further on this matter until a copy of the grant could be obtained and reviewed.
3. **In Village Residents with Broken Meters:** A letter had been sent to a Village resident that has a broken water meter and has not responded to the Village's letters that this needed to be corrected. The resident was sent a letter stating that they could appear before the board to explain why the meter has not been repaired. The resident did not respond to this letter nor did they attend the board meeting. The resident will now receive a certified letter stating that they may present their case at the June 10, 2019 Board Meeting. If they do not attend or have the meter fixed, the Village will proceed with the water shut off process.

4. **Zoning Board of Appeals Appointments:** Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Mayor Schmidt seconded, motion carried to reappoint Norm Wiley to the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson Zoning Board of Appeals for a five year term ending in April 2024. The Village Board was notified that with this appointment there are currently two openings on the Zoning Board of Appeals.
5. **Introduction of Amendment to Vacant Property:** Attorney Hill drafted a proposed change to the Village's Vacant Property Registration Law which would require property owners to provide proof of insurance in order to avoid being listed as a vacant property. The Board Members were all provided with a copy of the proposed law change. Trustee Pratico moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried to hold a public hearing at the June 10, 2019 Board Meeting regarding the proposed change to the Vacant Property Registration Law.
6. **Charter Communications Franchise Fees Agreement:** Attorney Hill summarized where negotiations with Charter Communications currently stand: Charter Communications has agreed to renegotiate the Franchise Fee Agreement early, as the current agreement does not expire until 2021. Initially, Charter was asking that the Village rescind its claim for shortages that are owed under the current contract but have agreed to move forward with renegotiation of the agreement while the claim is still open. Deputy Mayor Carner motioned, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion carried to hold a public hearing at the June 10, 2019 Board Meeting regarding the renegotiation of the Franchise Fee Agreement with Charter Communications.
7. **APPROPRIATIONS:** Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion to approve payment of the abstracts.
  - Abstract # 20 - Vouchers- # 691 - # 706 in the amount of \$ 16,651.33.
  - General Fund: \$ 10,596.72
  - Castleton Kids: \$ 1,296.69
  - Water Fund: \$ 2,124.43
  - Sewer Fund: \$ 2,633.49

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 7:50 pm, Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Mayor Schmidt seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Padraic Ellis  
Village Clerk-Treasurer