

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

December 10, 2018

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

**ABSENT:** 0

**ALSO PRESENT:** Attorney Benjamin Hill, DPW Foreman Richard Saville, Superintendent John Shortsleeve, Library Director Melissa Tacke, Building Inspector Gary Ziegler, 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 December 10, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Schmidt with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Trustee Giuliano moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the November 26, 2018 Regular Meeting with the following corrections: under Trustee Martin's report the consolidation meeting was not postponed but poorly attended due to the weather; and under item # 4 under business "vial" should be "vital."

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** James Ostrander of Mann Drive reported that the resident that constructed the building at the end of Campbell Avenue owned an ATV and was driving it over Mr. Ostrander's property. He was instructed to call the police if this happened again. Building Inspector Ziegler will reach out to the property owner and the Clerk-Treasurer will check the Village Code regarding ATVs.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

- **Mayor Schmidt:** Mayor Schmidt thanked Foreman Saville for storing the benches from the AARP grant for 2 Green Avenue for the winter.
- **Deputy Mayor Carner:** Deputy Mayor Carner thanked Foreman Saville for the removal of the tree in front of the Village Hall. She also shared her thanks to the Village from the Castleton Seniors Club, who are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Deputy Mayor Carner asked Building Inspector Ziegler to speak to the owner of the building which houses Cherrybrook Kitchen about moving the garbage cans for the apartments there behind the building. The business will be placing a dumpster in the parking lot, pending insurance coverage and Board approval. Cherrybrook Kitchen will hold a grand opening after the first of the year.
- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin reported that progress was being made on the Inter-Municipal Agreement. Supervisor Shortsleeve and Clerk-Treasurer Ellis will be meeting with Mary Beth Bianconi from Delaware Engineering to review the agreement thus far on Wednesday morning.

- **Trustee Pratico:** Trustee Pratico thanked the library and the fire department for their work in making Holidays on the Hudson successfully and she reported that 85 people attended.
- **Trustee Giuliano:** Trustee Giuliano reported that the next Repair Café would be held at the Village Hall on January 12, 2019. The panel concerning fencing off the Hudson River by Amtrak will be held at 9:30 am on December 15 in Germantown. Five minutes will be allotted to speakers to comment on the economic impact this will have on communities.

#### **REPORTS:**

1. **DPW Report:** Foreman Saville stated that the Schodack Police would like an antenna that the DPW has not used in years. The Board agreed to give the antenna to the Schodack Police.
2. **Water & Wastewater Report:** No report.
3. **Library Report:** The Castleton Public Library will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, and Martin Luther King Day. Beginning in January, the library will no longer be collecting late fees on books and media.
4. **Building Inspector:** A resident in the former church building on South Main Street wishes to recycle. Currently, only a dumpster is provided for the tenants due to the building containing more than six apartments. Building Inspector Ziegler will follow up with the owner of the building and Clerk-Treasurer Ellis will follow up with County Waste.
5. **Clerk-Treasurer Report:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that the Village will be saving \$ 524.00 for paying the New York State Retirement contributions early.
6. **Fire Department Report:** The fire department will be looking to sell two older vehicles now that the new fire truck has come in. A resolution will be added to the next meeting's agenda for the sale of those vehicles.

Trustee Pratico moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion to approve all departmental reports.

#### **BUSINESS:**

1. **Charter Communications Presentation:** Kevin Egan of Charter Communications addressed the Board to discuss franchise fees. Mr. Egan works with over 300 municipalities from the Hudson Valley up to the Canadian Border. The current agreement between Charter and the Village expires in August of 2021, which places the two parties in a period of negotiation for the new contract. Currently, the Village is entitled to a 3% franchise fee. The Village is asking for an increase to 5% with a commitment to a renewal agreement with Charter for the next 15 years. Renewal agreements need to be passed with by the Village by resolution and a public hearing and then must be approved by the State of New York. Currently, Charter has been asked to leave the State of New York and find other providers to take over their network. There is a January 14, 2018 deadline for Charter to comply with the State of New York's requests. Current agreements between Charter and municipalities are currently being "sat" on by the State of New York as this deadline approaches, some since early 2018. Attorney Hill asked that if the agreement was held up by the State that the Village receives the 5% rate between the signing of the agreement and State approval. Mr. Egan stated that he would look into this. If another company comes in to take over Charter's network, any agreements made with Charter will stand.
2. **Resolution # 23 – The Demolition of 21 Green Avenue:** Notice has been sent by Attorney Hill to the property owner stated that he has a chance to appear before the Board concerning the

demolition. Paperwork was submitted to the court two weeks prior and the demolition will be subject to public hearing.

Trustee Martin moved, Deputy Mayor Carner seconded, motion carried to proceed with the process to demolish 21 Green Avenue.

3. **Library Lease Approval:** Attorney Hill asked that the lease agreement be tabled until the January 14, 2019 Board Meeting.
4. **National Grid LED Lighting:** National Grid sent a letter to the Village explaining how switching the current street lighting to LED light would have significant savings for the Village. The Board resolved to pursue further information in their interest in the National Grid program.

Mayor Schmidt moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to obtain further information regarding the National Grid LED lighting program.

4. **APPROPRIATIONS:** Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion to approve payment of the abstracts.
  - Abstract # 10 – Vouchers # 316 - # 385 in the amount of \$ 171,841.49
  - General Fund: \$ 52,977.41
  - Castleton Kids: \$ 11,627.63
  - Water Fund: \$ 24,747.54
  - Sewer Fund: \$ 82,488.91

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 8:15 pm, Trustee Pratico moved, Trustee Martin seconded motion to move into Executive Sessions. At 9:45 pm, Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion to exit Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 9:50 pm, Mayor Schmidt moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Padraic Ellis  
Village Clerk-Treasurer