

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

September 14, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Robert Schmidt, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Marianne Carner, Trustee Gina Giuliano, Trustee Sharon Martin, Trustee Jenifer Pratico (all via Zoom video conference)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Benjamin Hill, Foreman Daniel Lebrecht, Foreman Kenneth Meyer, Foreman Joseph Garavelli, Library Director Melissa Tacke, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis. (All via Zoom video conference)

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 September 14, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Mayor Schmidt with the Pledge of Allegiance. . This meeting will be posted to the Village website in accordance with the Village's best efforts to comply with New York State Open Meeting Law and Executive Order 202.1.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the August 10, 2020 Regular Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Suzanne Cecala, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, thanked Mayor Schmidt for his time in office. Lissa D'Aquanni, of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan committee, thanked Mayor Schmidt for his time in office. Chris Carner, of the Castleton Fire Company, asked when crosswalks would be installed on Main Street. He was told by the board that Main Street is a state road and that the New York State Department of Transportation would need to conduct a traffic study before they would be installed.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Mayor Schmidt:** Mayor Schmidt reported that he had donated a poster signed by Governor Cuomo to the Village with an accompanying letter to describe the historical significance of the donation. As it is his last meeting as mayor, he reported that there were some loose ends that he would be taking care of and some that would need to be taken care of by the next mayor. Mayor Schmidt reported that the resolution for the Eastern Rensselaer County Solid Waste Management Association contract renewal and the resolution in support of the Scenic Hudson River Access Plan would be passed at this meeting but that the contract renewal for parking rent for the Castleton Post Office would need to be signed by the next mayor.
- **Deputy Mayor Carner:** Deputy Mayor Carner reported that Main Street Day, as run by the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, would most likely not be happening due to the pandemic. COHMSA asked that the Department of Public Works weed whack the sidewalks on Main Street, which has been completed. Deputy Mayor Carner reported that the Riverkeeper

Sweep would take place on October 17, 2020 and asked that Schodack Police be notified and that the DPW unlock the gate and brush hog the site.

- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin asked Attorney Hill to draw up amendments to the Village Code regarding overflowing garbage cans and garbage cans not being brought in after pick up. Trustee Martin reported that demolition had begun at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and that the diatomaceous earth had been sold. Trustee Martin stated that she received complaints of vehicles speeding on Van Del Wal Lane. Riverside Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing has used the road during the winter when a snow emergency has been declared and the entrance on 9J was unusable. DPW has also had ongoing issues with garbage littering 9J after the dumpsters have been picked up at Riverside. It was decided that the next mayor should reach out to Riverside to address these issues.
- **Trustee Pratico:** Trustee Pratico reported that the Firehouse Breakfasts would be suspended indefinitely due to Coronavirus. Trustee Pratico reported that Chief Carner has applied for a grant for coveralls. Trustee Pratico reported that Code Enforcement has issued a ticket to an unregistered vehicle that has been parked on the edge of Firehouse property. Trustee Pratico reported that the Village Wide Garage Sale was successful and that the majority of those involved wore masks and practiced social distancing. Trustee Pratico reported that a resident that had just moved onto Ransom Avenue contacted her about removing the sidewalk in front of their house because it was the only sidewalk on the street and was in disrepair. Attorney Hill and Clerk-Treasurer Ellis will discuss the issue with Inspector Ziegler and let he know the result. Trustee Pratico reported that she will be available to collect money for Clean-Up Day on September 26, 2020.
- **Trustee Giuliano:** Trustee Giuliano reported that the Castleton-on-Hudson Farmers' and Artisans' Market has been doing well throughout the pandemic and that they are making plans to hold winter markets. Trustee Giuliano reported that she has submitted the Estuary Grant report for this quarter and she thanked that DPW for hanging the Estuary Grant sign at the railroad crossing. Trustee Giuliano reported that members of the Hudson Repair Café had published a book, which she had been interviewed for, and that Repair Café was in the process of creating a national website.

REPORTS:

1. **DPW Report:** Foreman Lebrecht reported that, despite the rain delays, paving had been completed on Seaman Avenue, First Street, and Hudson Street.
2. **Water Report:** No further report.
3. **Wastewater Report:** No further report.
4. **Library Report:** Director Tacke reported that the Library would be hosting the third annual Drug Take Back Day in cooperation with the Rensselaer County Sheriffs on Saturday, September 19, 2020. Director Tacke reported that the Summer Reading Program had ended but that the library would still be offering science and craft take-and-make kits throughout the Fall. Director Tacke reported that she is reluctant to conduct the annual Halloween Parade during the pandemic due to previous years' high turnout.
5. **Building Inspector:** Absent.
6. **Clerk-Treasurer Report:** No further report.

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

BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution # 12 – Eastern Rensselaer County Solid Waste Management Authority Contract:** Mayor Schmidt reported that he had attended the latest ERCSWMA meeting and that the Village has seen an increase in the amount of solid waste that is hauled away due to the increased amount of people that are home all day during the pandemic. Trustee Pratico moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion passed to renew the annual contract with the Eastern Rensselaer County Solid Waste Management Association.
2. **Resolution # 13 – Scenic Hudson River Access Plan:** Mayor Schmidt reported that the plan by Amtrak to restrict river access has been put on hold for one year due to decreased revenue during the pandemic. Mayor Schmidt reported that residents were given a chance to gather information and to show their support during the informational meeting that was held in January by Scenic Hudson. Mayor Schmidt reported that this resolution was to call on congressional representatives to support access to the river and the Village's Riverfront Park. The resolution represents a coalition of villages, towns, and counties and has already been passed by Columbia County, Tivoli, Rhinebeck, and Hyde Park. Attorney Hill has reviewed the latest version of the resolution with the contributions from the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan committee and the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association. Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried pass the resolution in support of Scenic Hudson and their river access plan.
3. **Resolution # 14 – Adoption of 2019 LOSAP Points:** Trustee Pratico moved, Mayor Schmidt seconded, motion carried to award the points provided by Firefly Admin to the volunteer firefights eligible for the LOSAP program. Deputy Mayor Carner and Trustee Martin abstained, as both have family members to whom points were rewarded.
4. **Special Inspections Contract for WWTP Upgrade:** Tad Johnston, of Delaware Engineering, reported to the village board that special inspections by a third party vendor would need to be conducted during the Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade. The cost of these inspections has been factored into the cost of the project and Delaware Engineering has prepared a contract for QCQA Labs to conduct the special inspections. Trustee Pratico moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried for Deputy Mayor Carner to sign the special inspections contract with QCQA Labs for the Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade. Mayor Schmidt abstained from the vote.
5. **Village Hall Boiler Replacement:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis asked that the subject of replacing the boiler at the Village Hall be tabled until the next board meeting as there was still one quote outstanding. The board agreed to table the matter until the next meeting.
6. **Insurance for Fire Chief's Personal Vehicle:** Trustee Pratico stated that at the last Firehouse meeting the issue of the Village insuring the personal vehicles of fire chiefs that respond to fire calls was brought up. The insurer for the Village, NYMIR, does not cover personal vehicles that are used to respond to fire calls. Deputy Mayor Carner suggested that the chiefs research riders to their own personal policies, which the village could reimburse them for. Chris Carner, of the Castleton Fire Company, stated that he would look into this.

6. APPROPRIATIONS: Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion to approve payment of the abstracts.

Abstract # 5 – Vouchers # 157 - # 212 in the amount of \$ 58,933.73.

General Fund: \$ 32,846.71

Water Fund: \$ 11,010.68

Sewer Fund: \$ 15,076.34

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 8:18 pm, Trustee Pratico moved, Deputy Mayor Carner seconded motion to move into Executive Sessions. At 8:31pm, Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion to exit Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:33 pm, Mayor Schmidt moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer