

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

July 13, 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, Fire Chief Matt Carner, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis. (All via Zoom video conference)

PUBLIC: 4

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 July 13, 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 Giuliano moved, Deputy Mayor Carner seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the June 22, 2020 Regular Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Joseph Garavelli, of the water department, brought up the current outbreak of coronavirus at Riverside Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing and the fact that currently thirty residents and eight workers have test positive. Foreman Garavelli stated that he has concerns over the fact that Riverside is connected to the waste water system and that the Waste Water Treatment Plant does not have adequate ventilation. Brock Juusola, of Delaware Engineering, stated that there have been no cases of anyone catching coronavirus from waste water and that he would send Foreman Garavelli information from the Department of Environmental Conservation on steps to take with the facility to combat coronavirus. Mayor Schmidt stated that he would follow up with Rensselaer County to see what is being done to contain the spread of coronavirus at Riverside.

Matt Carner, of the fire department, stated that one of the fire trucks needed to be towed and that parts for it were hard to find. Chief Carner stated that air bottles were ordered and that he would like year-end totals for the fire department budget. Chief Carner stated that the LOSAP paperwork had been completed and that it would be dropped off at the Village Hall to be signed by the board members. Chief Carner stated that there have been posts on Facebook about teenagers playing hide and go seek at the former Fort Orange Paper Company site.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Mayor Schmidt:** Mayor Schmidt referenced the report by Clerk-Treasurer Ellis regarding the election, specifically the need for another election inspector. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis was asked to try village residents for the position first before reaching out to a wider area. Mayor Schmidt reported that the United Public Service Employees Union would like to begin negotiations on a new union contract and asked Clerk-Treasurer Ellis to gather the materials that they requested.

- **Deputy Mayor Carner:** Deputy Mayor Carner reported that the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association has installed rainbow signs and flower boxes on Main Street. When asked about the status of the new garbage cans, Foreman Lebrecht stated that they had been installed the previous week. Deputy Mayor Carner reported that COHMSA is currently looking for a location to place a mural on Main Street. Deputy Mayor Carner reported that Kiwanis is looking to do a food drive for the Anchor. Deputy Mayor Carner reported that the VFW is working on Purple Heart Day and will be holding a ceremony at the Farmers' and Artisans' Market on August 7, 2020.
- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin reported that the previous week's storm had knocked down trees and branches throughout the area.
- **Trustee Pratico:** Trustee Pratico reported that she made Foreman Lebrecht aware of the cuts being made to the Village's CHIPS funding. Foreman Lebrecht stated that he was planning on using rollover CHIPS funding from the previous year to pave First Street, Hudson Street, and part of Seaman Avenue. The board gave Foreman Lebrecht permission to move forward with the paving.
- **Trustee Giuliano:** Trustee Giuliano thanked Foreman Lebrecht for installing the driver feedback sign on the south end of Main Street. Trustee Giuliano reported that the Village had been awarded the annual seed grant and that the seeds would be distributed to members of the community garden. Trustee Giuliano reported that the Farmers' and Artisans' Market was going well and that new vendors were being added every week. Trustee Giuliano reported that she will be working on the report for the next quarter of the Estuary Grant.

REPORTS:

1. **DPW Report:** No Further Report.
2. **Water Report:** No Further Report.
3. **Wastewater Report:** No Further Report.
4. **Library Report:** Director Tacke reported that the Summer Reading Program was going on and that the library was open to the public by appointment only and still offering curbside service. Director Tacke reported that take-and-make science and craft kits are being offered weekly and that there is also a weekly virtual story time.
5. **Building Inspector Report:** Absent.
6. **Code Enforcement Report:** Absent.
7. **Clerk-Treasurer Report:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that two more out of village residents with delinquent water bills had paid earlier that day bringing the number of those delinquent down to seven.

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

BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution # 8 – Acceptance of NYCLASS Agreement:** Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion carried to add Clerk-Treasurer Ellis as an authorized representative on the NYCLASS accounts.

2. **Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Bids:** Brock Juusola, of Delaware Engineering, recapped the process thus far to upgrade the Waste Water Treatment Plant, from acquiring EFC and grant funding to designing the plans to putting the project out to bid. The Board passed a resolution to increase the bond amount due to the bids being higher than expected and the contractors agreed to hold their prices for an extended period so that the Board could choose bidders. Foreman Meyer stated that the plans for the plant should go forward and that the plant needed the upgrade. Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion carried to award bids to the lowest responsible bidders for each of the four separate contracts as each has provided a reference sheet and have good reputations through Delaware Engineering and the community. Mayor Schmidt recused himself from the vote.

3. **Rensselaer County Shared Services Meeting:** Trustee Pratico attended the Rensselaer County Shared Services Meeting hosted by the Laberge Group. The necessity for counties to meet and plan shared services was set down by a directive from the governor. Previously, it was discussed that the Village could partner with the Town of Schodack to apply for a grant for a new street sweeper. Unfortunately, to be eligible for this grant GIS mapping is required and neither municipality has that completed. Other areas that were discussed included emergency services, animal control, and code enforcement. The County stated that they are willing to store the data for GIS mapping if and when the Village completes it. The next meeting is currently being scheduled.

4. **Castleridge Water Infrastructure:** Trustee Martin stated that the water department has been having difficulties with the new water connections in Castleridge. The water mains remain blocked due to an oversight by the original contractor. The entire infrastructure, including cable and power lines, is buried under the ground with the water mains and they are deep under several feet of clay. Foreman Garavelli has one more idea to try but if that fails he suggests hiring outside help to complete future connections. Attorney Hill will discuss the situation with Foreman Garavelli and see what liability can be placed on the original contractor and what liability would remain with the Village.

5. **Glaz Road Power Lines:** Trustee Martin reported that the previous week's storm had brought down power lines and damaged the roof at the Village's meter house off of Glaz Road. Foreman Garavelli has already gotten three quotes to fix the roof and has contacted Coyne Electrical to bury the power lines to prevent this from happening again. The insurance adjuster will be coming out to take a look at the damage this week.

2. **APPROPRIATIONS:** Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion to approve payment of the abstracts.

Abstract # 3 – Vouchers # 39 - # 102 in the amount of \$ 49,593.72.

General Fund: \$ 34,327.46

Water Fund: \$2,961.75

Sewer Fund: \$ 12,304.51

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Joseph Keegan, of Benedict Street, asked if a code enforcement had done anything regarding the house on Boltwood Avenue that has the multitude of cars parked on the front lawn. He was told that Inspector Ziegler had contacted the resident and the resident stated that if the cars needed to be parked on a driveway then he would pave his entire front yard. No permit is required to do this.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to enter executive session at 8:28 pm to discuss contract issues. Trustee Giuliano moved, Deputy Mayor Carner seconded, motion carried to leave executive session at 9:20 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:21 pm, Mayor Schmidt moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer