

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

March 23, 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, Director Melissa Tacke, Foreman Joseph Garavelli, Building Inspector Gary Ziegler, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis (all via Zoom video conference)

PUBLIC:

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 March 23, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 Pratico moved, Deputy Mayor Carner seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2019 Regular Meeting, with two exceptions- the meeting was called to order by at 7:00 pm by Mayor Schmidt and that the event that was to be held on May 15th was not Spring Fest but a Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association event.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Mayor Schmidt:** Mayor Schmidt reported that sent a Declaration of Emergency for the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson and received approval of the declaration for the New York State Department of Health. This Declaration will close the Village Hall to the public until further notice. Unpaid water/sewer/refuse bills can be paid either by mail or using the Village's online payment method. Mayor Schmidt reported that he is disappointed that the Village election has been postponed until the end of April and he believes that it will be further postponed. Mayor Schmidt reported that, as of this point, the State and Village budget processes will continue as planned. Mayor Schmidt thanked Richard Crist of Rensselaer County for assistant in freeing up emergency funds for villages with the Declaration of Emergency. Mayor Schmidt reported that he spoke to Foreman Garavelli about the use of Village vehicles as emergency vehicles and for approved employees to drive them home, but not to use them for personal use.
- **Deputy Mayor Carner:** Deputy Mayor Carner reported the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association has asked the Village to purchase an American flag for the flagpole as the current one is torn on one end. Foreman Lebrecht will look into this purchase as well as the purchase of a Purple Heart flag for the Village.

- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin reported that she had been out walking and that she wanted to thank Foreman Lebrecht and the Department of Public Works for doing such a great job of cleaning up the municipal parking lot across from the Post Office.
- **Trustee Pratico:** Trustee Pratico reported that she is working with Clerk-Treasurer Ellis to create a list of at risk Village residents that may need additional services during the current quarantine. Trustee Pratico reported that she received complaints from residents regarding an event held at the Castleton Fire House. Trustee Pratico reported that the event consisted of only 10 family members who were meeting a member of the military that was returning home from duty. All events at the Castleton Fire House, including drills, have been cancelled or postponed and the building is being cleaned and disinfected.
- **Trustee Giuliano:** Trustee Giuliano reported that the Village was currently using her Zoom video conferencing account and recommended that the Village purchase a professional account for all of its meetings (Village Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals) for the price of \$14.95 per month. Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion carried for Clerk-Treasurer Ellis to purchase a Zoom professional account for the Village for the cost of \$14.95 per month.

BUSINESS:

1. 2020-2021 Tentative Budget Review: The Village Board reviewed the budget with Clerk-Treasurer Ellis, who had supplied them with a copy noting any changes since last year's budget. \$2,500.00 will be added Water and Sewer budgets for legal fees. Chief Carner requested a \$10,000.00 increase to the Fire Department Budget for new equipment. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that the Fire Department is already receiving a budget increase for the LOSAP program. Chief Carner was asked to find money in this year's budget and any areas in next year's budget to help offset some of the costs of the requested increase. The Village Board suggested that some requests, including air tanks, could be offset with support from grants or from Rensselaer County. The current \$10,000.00 dedicated to Demolition of Unsafe Buildings will be transferred into a reserve account so that funds can be built up over multiple years to cover costs. The Castleton Public Library is not requesting a funding increase from the Village and will remain at \$14,000.00, plus in kind funding, annually. The Celebration budget will be increased to \$1,000.00 and the Community Beautification budget will be increased to \$3,000.00, including money earmarked for new garbage containers on Main Street, as requested by the Main Street Association.

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

Abstract # 17 – Vouchers # 489 in the amount of \$ 3,382.09

General Fund: \$ 1,405.51

Water Fund: \$ 874.68

Sewer Fund: \$ 1,101.90

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:45 pm, Mayor Schmidt moved, Deputy Mayor Carner seconded motion to move into Executive Sessions. At 8:55 pm, Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion to exit Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:03 pm, Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer