

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

November 22, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Keegan, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Jenifer Pratico, Trustee Sharon Martin, Trustee Lissa D'Aquanni, Trustee Erik Samarija

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Benjamin Hill (via Zoom), Foreman Kenneth Meyer, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis

PUBLIC: 3 (in person), 8 (via Zoom)

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 November 22, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Keegan with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Mayor Keegan asked that the acceptance of the minutes of the November 8, 2021 Regular Meeting be tabled to the December 13, 2021 Regular Meeting to accommodate for revisions, to which the board agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Norm Wiley, of the Castleton Cemetery Association, stated that costs are rising to maintain the Cemetery and are over \$30,000.00 this year. Mr. Wiley is asking that, next starting year, the Department of Public Works removes leaves from the cemetery with their truck. Mr. Wiley stated that the leaves would be gathered and left on the side of one of the interior streets to the cemetery. The Board will discuss this with Foreman Lebrecht before the 2022 leaf pick-up season. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

BUSINESS:

1. Firefly Admin LOSAP Presentation: Anthony Hill, of Firefly Admin, came in to discuss the increase to the annual LOSAP payments that were proposed by the Castleton Fire Department. During this presentation, the Mayor dispatched anyone who was participating through Zoom due to unknown participants interfering with the meeting through their video profiles. The Mayor was then able to allow participants to log back into the Zoom meeting, without those who caused the interference, and continue the meeting as usually. Mr. Hill stated that the Fire Department has requested a raise to the annual LOSAP payments, which is similar to a 401k for vested volunteer firefighters, from the current \$700.00 to the new state cap of \$1,200.00. If the Board is interested in increasing the payment amount, the Village may increase it by any amount up to \$1,200.00. If the Board is interested in increasing the amount, it will need to be on the ballot for the March election and the increase will need to be figured in to the Fire

Department Budget. The Board will discuss the matter further and Firefly Admin will draft the referendum for no charge if the Board decides on the increase.

2. Quick Budget Update: Clerk-Treasurer Ellis provided the Board with an update on spending in the various Village funds: General - 42.0% excludes Fire Department; Water - 18.9% excludes Upcoming Water Site Improvements from ARPA Funding; Sewer - 44.6% includes Upcoming Long Term Closing Payment; and Fire - 66.7% includes Fire Truck Loan Payment. The target at this point in the year should be 42% so that funds are available for the next seven months of this budget year.

3. Castleton Public Library Archive Project: Trustee D'Aquanni reported that the Castleton Public Library is working with New York Heritage to digitalize records and that she would like to have certain areas of the Village files archived. The Village would still maintain ownership of the physical records but New York Heritage would have digital ownership. A library assistant will be hired in January to help digitize the records and the Village will have an agreement to sign at the next meeting if they wish to participate.

4. Sewer Rate Workshop: Sewer rates were discussed based upon to initial data that Delaware Engineering had reported in 2016 prior to the start of the Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that there are numerous possibilities when discussing a new rate schedule including a rate change, the addition of a capital water charge, or a combination of the two. Although a rate schedule change could be passed by the Board, the addition of a capital charge would need to be addressed as a ballot item in March. The first payment on long-term financing will be due from the Village in December 2022 and the closing for long-term financing will be on December 9, 2021. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis hopes that operation and maintenance costs in the initial years of the bond will decrease due to new equipment and keep the overall sewer budget lower than expected in the 2016 findings. Also, the interest rates at the time of long-term financing closing should be much lower than the 2016 projections. The Board has decided not to pursue a contract with Delaware Engineering to assist in the calculation of sewer rates. The Board will further discuss the matter at the December meeting after more information is available from the closing.

5. River Access Update: Trustee Samarija moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried for the Mayor to sign an agreement with VHB Consulting to determine if there are any other bridge designs that the Village can present to the New York State Department of Transportation for Riverfront Park that do not include elevators. The Village will look into the possibility of using money from the design portion of the Estuary grant for the VHB Consulting report.

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

Abstract # 9 – Vouchers # 290 - # 291 in the amount of \$ 2,972.87.

General Fund: \$ 112.85

Water Fund: \$ 19.13

Sewer Fund: \$ 2840.89

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public present for comment.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:45 pm Trustee D'Aquanni moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

BUSINESS:

1. Grace Davis 100th Birthday Resolution: At 8:46 pm Trustee Samarija moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to return to session. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to make Sunday, December 5th, 2021 Grace Davis Day in the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:51 pm Trustee Samarija moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer