

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

October 11, 2022

**PRESENT:** Mayor Joe Keegan, Trustee Sharon Martin, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Jenifer Pratico, Trustee Lissa D'Aquanni (via Zoom), and Trustee Erik Samarija

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Attorney Steven Wilson, Foreman Daniel Lebrecht, Foreman Kenneth Meyer, Foreman John Paul Mastan, Code Enforcement Officer James Lance (via Zoom), and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

**PUBLIC:** 1 (in person), 4 (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 October 11, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Keegan with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Trustee D'Aquanni moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to accept the September 26, 2022 minutes, with edits.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to open public comment. No public comment. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 7:02 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion to move into Executive Session. At 7:13 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion to exit Executive Session.

**BUSINESS:**

1. **Letter of Engagement – Village Attorney:** Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried for Mayor Keegan to sign the Letter of Engagement with Steven Wilson to be the new Attorney for the Village beginning October 11, 2022 and lasting until the April 1, 2024 Village Board Organizational Meeting.

**TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

- **Mayor Keegan:** Mayor Keegan introduced the new Water Foreman, John Paul Mastan, and stated that he had his water license and would be going to classes to obtain his sewer license. Mayor Keegan reported that the Board met in executive session to discuss river access. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried for the Estuary Grant attorneys to challenge the ALJ ruling that closed the crossing at the bottom of Scott Avenue at a cost of no more than \$15,000.00 from the Estuary Grant and using no non-grant funds.
- **Deputy Mayor Pratico:** Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that she met with a graphic designer for the Welcome Packet, along with Clerk-Treasurer Ellis and Deputy Clerk Better. Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that the Village's insurance provider will not insure the new chief's vehicle unless

in has Liability, Collision, and Comprehensive insurance on it. The Board agreed to the extra cost and that it would be charged to the Castleton Fire Department. Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that Holidays on the Hudson will be held on December 4, 2022 from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm and that she will call Santa Claus to attend the event.

- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin reported that she worked the Village Clean-Up Day with Trustee Samarija and that they brought in \$465.00. Trustee Martin stated that she had been conducting interviews for the new Attorney for the Village with Mayor Keegan. Trustee Martin reported that she is working on transferring the Tree Inventory information to the new iPad.
- **Trustee D'Aquanni:** Trustee D'Aquanni reported that there are federal funds available for increased safety for at-grade crossing. Trustee D'Aquanni reported that the Castleton Public Library and the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association would be assisting with Holidays on the Hudson.
- **Trustee Samarija:** Trustee Samarija reported that this Clean-Up Day was the first that he had worked and that the Eastern Rensselaer County Solid Waste Management Authority will be having a meeting on October 26, 2022.

## REPORTS:

1. **Library Report:** Absent.
2. **DPW Report:** Foreman Lebrecht stated that pot holes would be repaired on Second Street, Green Avenue, and Seaman Avenue. Deputy Mayor Pratico stated that the Castleton Cemetery Association would like to have the Department of Public Works pick up leaves from Mountain View Cemetery. The new Attorney for the Village will look into the legality of this request.
3. **Water Report:** Foreman Mastan stated that he is fitting in well and Mayor Keegan stated that three months of consumption data would be helpful for future reports.
4. **Wastewater Report:** Foreman Meyer stated that the last payment application has been submitted to New York State for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
5. **Building Inspector:** Absent.
6. **Code Enforcement:** Officer Lance stated that the last court date he attended was on September 28, 2022 for vacant properties.
7. **Fire Department Report:** No report.
8. **Clerk-Treasurer Report:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that the new computer system would be installed on Thursday, October 13, 2022 and asked that Board members and residents only reach out if it is an emergency on that day.

Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded motion to approve all departmental reports.

## BUSINESS:

2. **Letter of Engagement – Firefly Admin:** Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried for Mayor Keegan to sign the Letter of Engagement with Firefly Admin,

who administer the Village's Length of Service Award Program, subject to Attorney approval.

**3. Letter of Engagement – Welcome Packet:** Sierra Pizzola supplied the board with a Letter of Engagement to design the Welcome Packet for the Village for the cost of \$1,400.00. Trustee D'Aquanni asked that the Board not agree to the cost until she asks for two more quotes, to which the Board agreed.

**4. APPROPRIATIONS:** Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion to approve payment of the abstracts.

Abstract # 7 – Vouchers # 209 - # 262 in the amount of \$ 67,110.48

General Fund: \$ 40,673.53

Water Fund: \$ 14,876.48

Sewer Fund: \$ 11,560.47

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Suzanne Donnelly, of the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association, thanked the Board for reopening the ALJ decision. Eric Stewart, of North Main Street, stated that he would like crosswalks going across Seaman Avenue, Scott Avenue, and Green Avenue as cars are coming to rolling stops. The Board stated that they will contact the Schodack Police to monitor the intersections and revisit the topic of crosswalks in the spring. Mayor Pratico Keegan, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 8:10 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Padraic Ellis  
Village Clerk-Treasurer