

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

June 13, 2022

**PRESENT:** Mayor Joe Keegan, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Jenifer Pratico, Trustee Sharon Martin, Trustee Lissa D'Aquanni (via Zoom), and Trustee Erik Samarija (7:02 pm)

**ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Attorney Benjamin Hill, Foreman Daniel Lebrecht, Foreman Kenneth Meyer, Foreman Joseph Garavelli, Fire Chief Matt Carner, Library Director Melissa Tacke, Building Inspector Gary Ziegler, Code Enforcement Officer James Lance (via Zoom), and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

**PUBLIC:** 0 (in person), 2 (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 June 13, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Keegan with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the May 23, 2022 Regular Meeting, with corrections from the Board.

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

**TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

- **Mayor Keegan:** Mayor Keegan reported that the speed signs have been ordered for Scott Avenue. Mayor Keegan reported that he met with Scenic Hudson and that they took a tour of the proposed park property. Mayor Keegan stated that he had attended the PERMA annual conference. Mayor Keegan reported that he would be meeting with the new vendor for the phone systems tomorrow. Mayor Keegan reported that the Noyes Engine House grant was progress with several communications between the State, the contractor, and himself. Mayor Keegan thanked the parade committee for all of their work for the Memorial Day Parade.
- **Deputy Mayor Pratico:** Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that Anthony Hill, of Firefly Admin, contacted her with the LOSAP point totals for 2021 and that the resolution for the Board to accept them with be on the next meeting's agenda. Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that paperwork from the fire department is being completed to submit to the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York for the fire truck grant. Deputy Mayor Pratico thanked Chief Carner for the use of a golf cart for the Board to ride on in the Memorial Day parade and thanked the parade committee for all of their hard work.
- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin reported that she was presented with quotes for the backhoe from the Village department heads. The decision to do a lump sum payment rather than a lease

agreement was made by the Board. Attorney Hill reviewed the quotes and stated that the Village would be able to accept the quote from John Deere as the was the lowest quote for what the Village requires and is piggybacking of New York State Office of General Service's contract 20220301. Trustee Martin reported that the trees at the Castleton Funeral Home have been removed and that two new trees had been planted at other locations in the Village. Trustee Martin asked if Inspector Ziegler could check into what was being constructed in the parking lot next to the Poke Jar.

- **Trustee D'Aquanni:** Trustee D'Aquanni reported that the Comprehensive Plan committee will be holding a community workshop at Castleton Elementary School on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Trustee D'Aquanni stated that the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan committee is waiting for the Town of Schodack to appoint new members and it was advised that the entire plan be updated since it has not been updated since 1995. Trustee D'Aquanni reported that the Estuary grant extension had been approved. Trustee D'Aquanni stated that the Castleton-on-Hudson Main Street Association asked about the status of the landscaping around the flagpole to which Foreman Lebrecht responded that he had received a \$2,500.00 quote. Mayor Keegan asked about the progress of the welcome packet and the website, to which there are no changes.
- **Trustee Samarija:** Trustee Samarija reported that he had attended the Eastern Rensselaer County Solid Waste Management Authority meeting the previous week. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that the garbage truck had broken down the previous week. Mayor Keegan asked about the progress for adding power to River Rest Park, to which there are no changes.

## REPORTS:

1. **Library Report:** Director Tacke stated that the Summer Reading Program will kick off on June 25<sup>th</sup> and provide the Board with copies of the Summer Reading Packet.
2. **DPW Report:** Foreman Lebrecht was asked by the Board about the temporary drainage pipe that was installed on Green Avenue. The original engineers for the property on Park Way never incorporated the drainage into the Village system. Attorney Hill stated that because the issue is on private property the Village needs to proceed prudently to avoid litigation.
3. **Water Report:** Foreman Garavelli reported that Hudson River Foods has not paid the fees for their backflow inspections which is mandated by New York State.
4. **Wastewater Report:** Foreman Meyer reported that the wastewater treatment plant exceeded its usage during the month of April due to the excessive rain.
5. **Building Inspector:** Inspector Ziegler reported that there was a property line dispute on Ransom Avenue that required the police to be called. Inspector Ziegler reported that he will be on vacation between July 1<sup>st</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup>.
6. **Code Enforcement:** Officer Lance stated that he was unable to contact the owner of the property at 57 Scott Avenue due to him being out of state. Attorney Hill asked Officer Lance to check to see who the local authorized agent is for the property so that proceedings could occur to site the deteriorating appearance.
7. **Fire Department Report:** No report. Chief Carner reported that a chief's vehicle was hit while on route to a fire call on Sunday. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis will proceed to talk to the insurance provider once he receives a police report.

**8. Clerk-Treasurer Report:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that the input of the past two years of National Grid data into the NYSERDA website had been completed and that he will be working with Trustee Martin on closing out the Urban Forestry grant.

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

**BUSINESS:**

**1. Local Law 1 – Parking on Ransom Avenue:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis presented a local law which would limit parking on eastside of Ransom Avenue. Trustee Martin moved, Trustee D’Aquanni seconded, motion carried to amend the law from “Monday through Friday” to “school days.” Mayor Keegan opposed the change. A public hearing on the law will be held at the next meeting.

**2. Town of Schodack Sewer Discussion:** The Town of Schodack sent a letter to the Board asked that the Village petition the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to re-rate the wastewater plant’s capacity after twelve months’ worth of data. Attorney Hill stated that Delaware Engineering is currently review the letter and will advise the Board on how to proceed once the analysis is completed.

**3. Delaware Engineering I&I Discussion:** The Town of Schodack also asked about the Village I&I issues with ground water entering the sewer system. Foreman Meyer stated that he can attempt to sign the Village up for a free I&I evaluation in January through the New York State Rural Water Authority but they only do a select number of communities per year.

**4. Remote Meeting Policy:** Attorney Hill presented to the Board a revised remote meeting policy after clarifying the latest information from New York State. A local law will have to be enacted to accept the new policy and the public hearing will be schedule for the next board meeting. The new policy clarifies that Board members must be physically present to vote except in extreme circumstances such as illness.

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

Abstract # 1 – Vouchers # 1 - # 50 in the amount of \$ 56,998.56

General Fund: \$ 38,071.36

Water Fund: \$ 6,395.25

Sewer Fund: \$ 12,531.95

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 8:51 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Padraic Ellis  
Village Clerk-Treasurer