

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

March 28, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Keegan, Trustee Sharon Martin, Trustee Lissa D'Aquanni (via Zoom), Trustee Erik Samarija

ABSENT: Trustee/Deputy Mayor Jenifer Pratico

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Benjamin Hill, Foreman Daniel Lebrecht, Foreman Kenneth Meyer, Foreman Joseph Garavelli, Chief Chris Carner, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis

PUBLIC: 7 (in person), 4 (via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Village of Castleton-on-Hudson was held at Village Hall, 85 South Main Street on March 28, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Mayor Keegan with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to table the acceptance of the minutes of the February 28, 2022 Regular Meeting, in order for the Board to review the revisions made by Trustee D'Aquanni.
- Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the March 14, 2022 Regular Meeting, with revisions from Mayor Keegan.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Ellen Scheiding, of the Friends of the Castleton Public Library, asked the Board for permission to use Village space for several upcoming events. The Friends of the Library would like to use Riverrest on May 14th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for their annual plant sale. They would like to use the front lawn of Village hall on the evenings of July 20th and August 24th for their music nights. Finally, they would like to have a movable sign outside of the library from April to November which lists their monthly events, such as their pancake breakfast and bottle drive. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to allow the Friends of the Castleton Public Library to use the Village property on the requested dates and to post a movable sign, contingent on it not interfering with any Village business. Josh Siddon, of South Main Street, asked if the Village would be issuing permit parking to residents on Main Street now that the 2 hour parking signs have been put up. Mr. Siddon stated that he spoke to the New York State Department of Transportation and that they stated that the signs did not clarify that the 2 hour limit was not enforced on Sundays and holidays. The Board stated that they would check with the Village attorney to clarify what needed to be posted on the sign and discuss if they wanted to pursue the topic of permit parking. Jeffery Hines, of Stimpson Avenue, asked if the Village signed the easement to run a water line down Scott Avenue. The Board clarified that the easement was not for Scott Avenue, nor was it a water line. It was in fact a sewer line easement down Maple Hill Road and the Mayor had not submitted it as it was being reviewed by the attorney for the Village and an engineering

firm. Mr. Hines stated that he believed that a permanent vehicle crossing should be added to the list of possible ways for the Village to access the land at Riverfront Park. Steve Rivers, of the Castleton Boat Club, stated that he believed that the 2 hour parking signs for Main Street did not include Saturdays and that he was concerned as the major events at the Boat Club all take place on Saturdays and require as much parking as possible. Mr. Rivers asked who would be enforcing the parking restrictions and the Board stated that it would be both the Village code enforcement officer and the Schodack police. Mr. Rivers asked for a moratorium on the enforcement of the 2 hour parking on Saturday and he was told by the Board that if he submitted a written request that the Board would consider suspended the enforcement of the 2 hour parking on the Saturdays on which the Boat Club held events. Mr. Rivers invited those present to the lecture series that is being held on Friday nights at the Boat Club which discuss the history of Castleton. Chris Caner, of the Castleton Fire Company, stated that although the Castleton Post Office rents 4 spaces from the Village in the lot across from the post office the employees take up the rest of the spaces in the lot. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

BUSINESS:

1. Village Budget Workshop 2022-2023: Clerk-Treasurer Ellis gave a brief overview of the budget process and stated that all of the budget request forms had been submitted to him by the department heads. **Water:** Foreman Garavelli gave an overview of the areas of the current year's budget that saw higher than expected spending, which including overtime for issues at the water sites and new security and broadband service to alleviate said issues. Foreman Garavelli stated what projects he is looking to accomplish during the 2022-2023 budget year including valve work, hydrant replacement, and landscaping at the Village's more publicly viewed water sites. The water department, in conjunction with the public works department, is looking into the purchase or lease of a backhoe. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis recommended that more funds be placed in the reserve accounts for line repairs, water main replacements, and a new truck. **Sewer:** Foreman Meyer and Clerk-Treasurer Ellis drastically cut the budget to prepare for the upcoming debt payment schedule. The sewer income will increase by \$180,000.00 from the sewer rate increase and the budget cuts constitute an additional \$84,000.00. Foreman Meyer would like to revisit the sewer budget in six months to determine what, if any savings, the Village would have from the plant upgrade. Foreman Meyer is looking into a new forklift and Clerk-Treasurer Ellis encouraged him to purchase it from this year's budget. **Fire:** Chief Carner stated that the prices for the annual testing that the Fire Department does on hoses and ladders are increasing. Chief Carner stated that one of the engines is in need of \$2,000.00 worth of tires and that the LOSAP funding increase will be an extra \$1,600.00. He asked the unused balance from the fire department budget be placed into the reserve fund for future trucks to which Clerk-Treasurer Ellis instructed him on the best way to increase reserve funds. **DPW:** Foreman Lebrecht stated that equipment is currently the biggest budgetary concern as he is in need of both a new truck and a backhoe. The Town of Schodack has repaired the street sweeper which has extended its life for a few more years. Foreman Lebrecht stated that he is requesting to pave in front of the Village's slat shed and that those funds cannot come from the annual CHIPs funds due to the location not being a Village street. The Board asked if the salt shed could be moved to the Brickyard but it was stated that it could not due to it being designated park land. The Board stated that the tree budget would need to increase due to tree management plan. It was suggested that the Village promote discounts from tree services to residents in the Castletonian as a possible way of keeping tree costs down for the Village. **Etc.:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that a line item should be created for communications with residents, such as robo-calls and text alerts. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that Village hall was in need of new software, as the computers are running outdated versions of Windows and Quickbooks.

2. APPROPRIATIONS: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion to approve payment of the abstracts.

Abstract # 16 – Vouchers # 511 in the amount of \$ 9,588.15.

General Fund: \$ 2,771.45

Water Fund: \$ 2,504.28

Sewer Fund: \$ 4,312.42

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:34 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded motion to move into Executive Sessions. At 9:10 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion to exit Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:11 pm Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Samarija seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer