

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

March 13, 2023

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Keegan (via Zoom), Trustee/Deputy Mayor Jenifer Pratico, Trustee Sharon Martin, Trustee Lissa D'Aquanni, and Trustee Erik Samarija (arrived 7:25 pm)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Steven Wilson (via Zoom), Foreman John Paul Mastan, Foreman Kenneth Meyer, Building Inspector Gary Ziegler, Fire Chief Matt Metzger, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

PUBLIC: 3 (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 March 13, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm by Mayor Keegan with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to accept the February 27, 2023 minutes, with edits.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Rebeckah Timerman, of Chestnut Street, introduced herself as a candidate for trustee in the upcoming election. Baileen Bai, of Park Way, introduced herself as a write-in candidate for the upcoming election. Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Mayor Keegan:** Mayor Keegan reported that he issued a snow emergency for the Village from 9:00 pm on Monday, March 13 to 4:00 pm of Wednesday, March 15. Mayor Keegan announced that the Village was awarded a grant from the Capital District Planning Commission. The \$90,000.00 grant will be used in conjunction with the Complete Streets grant to design bike and walking paths to connect the Village with Schodack Island State Park. Mayor Keegan reported that the Board is looking to finish negotiations with the Union soon.
- **Deputy Mayor Pratico:** Deputy Mayor Pratico reported that fire house breakfast was once again packed and successful. Deputy Mayor Pratico stated that she will not be present at the next meeting but wanted to thank Trustees Martin and Samarija for their service to the Board of Trustees and the community.
- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin reported that she is assisting Mayor Keegan with the Union negotiations.
- **Trustee D'Aquanni:** Trustee D'Aquanni reported that the comprehensive plan committee met and the a draft will be present ed to the Board of Trustees at the beginning of April. Trustee D'Aquanni reported that the river access committee met on Saturday and will continue to meet for the next six months. The committee has broken the workload into three separate areas: the status of the crossing,

an educational piece, and a bibliography of documents.

- **Trustee Samarija:** Trustee Samarija reported that the Eastern Rensselaer County Solid Waste Management Authority will be increasing tipping fees by 3.5% in the next budget year.

REPORTS:

1. **Library Report:** Director Tacke highlighted the upcoming events at the library.
2. **DPW Report:** Absent.
3. **Water Report:** Foreman Mastan reported that he has completed half of the current training he is enrolled in.
4. **Wastewater Report:** No further report.
5. **Building Inspector:** Inspector Ziegler reported that the business owner on Main Street that was living on the first floor has moved to the second floor.
6. **Code Enforcement:** Absent.
7. **Fire Department Report:** Chief Metzger reported that the firefighters have received their physicals for the year.
8. **Clerk-Treasurer Report:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that the PERMA training has been further postponed due to the weather and he will notify the Board and department heads as to when its is rescheduled.

Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded motion to approve all departmental reports.

BUSINESS:

1. **Delaware Professional Services Agreement:** The Board will table the agreement until the Village Attorney has more time to review the paperwork.
2. **Safety Coordinator Position:** The Board will table the filling of the position until Clerk-Treasurer Ellis looks into alternatives to PERMA as the Village's Workers' Compensation provider.
3. **New York State Police Training Exercise:** The Board approved the New York State Troopers using the Brickyard to state a training granted that they inform all other property owners adjacent to where they will be holding the training and that they inform the Village of the time and date of the training so that the Village is able to put out a text alert as not to panic Village residents.
4. **Approval of LOSAP Points:** Deputy Mayor Pratico moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to accept the 2022 Length of Service Award Program points for the Castleton Fire Department, with Trustee Martin abstaining.
5. **Welcome Packet and Website:** The welcome packets have been printed and received by the Village. Also, to be included in the welcome packets will be a letter from the Mayor, a list of

current officials, a magnet with relevant phone numbers, a flyer from the library, and a flyer from the fire department. The Board will deliver the welcome packets once they are completed.

6. Clove Run Route – August 19, 2023: The Board is fine with the date of the Clove Run, as long as the Department of Public Works is not in the process of paving and the Clove Run committee does not use permanent paint on the roads.

7. Clean Energy Community Grant: The Board will table the review of what sections of the Clean Energy grant is completed until the paperwork is further reviewed.

8. Budget Overview: Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that he had received all of the budget request forms from the department heads. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis will have budgets for the Board to review at the next meeting and the only changes will be increases in staff salaries and in the tax rate.

3. River Access Update: Trustee D'Aquanni and Trustee Samarija will form a committee to discuss river access.

4. APPROPRIATIONS: Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion to approve payment of the abstracts.

Abstract # 14 – Vouchers # 463 - # 495 in the amount of \$ 99,944.26

General Fund: \$ 56,151.96

Water Fund: \$ 18,091.30

Sewer Fund: \$ 25,701.00

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 D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to open public comment. Rebeckah Timerman, of Chestnut Street, stated that she and Baileen Bai will be holding a meet and greet at Riverside Park from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Sunday to introduce themselves as candidates for the Village election. Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to close public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:27 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion to move into Executive Session. At 8:51 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Deputy Mayor Pratico seconded, motion to exit Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:52 pm, Mayor Keegan moved, Trustee D'Aquanni seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer