

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

March 26, 2018

**PRESENT:** Mayor Robert Schmidt, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Marianne Carner, Trustee Gina Giuliano, Trustee Sharon Martin, Trustee Jenifer Pratico (via phone)

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Fire Chief Matt Carner, Attorney Benjamin Hill, DPW Foreman Richard Saville, Superintendent John Shortsleeve, Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis, and Pamela Smith.

**PUBLIC: 0**

**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 26, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Mayor Schmidt with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the March 20, 2018 Special Meeting, with Trustee Giuliano abstaining. The minutes of the March 12, 2018 Regular Meeting will be put up for approval at the April 2, 2018 Organizational Meeting due to Trustee Pratico not being physically present at this meeting and Mayor Schmidt and Trustee Giuliano not being present at the March 12, 2018 Regular Meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No Comment.

**TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

- **Mayor Schmidt:** Mayor Schmidt reported that the proposed plans for Riverfront Park were posted on both the Village website and the Village Facebook page, and that further information regarding the park would be available from the County in two weeks.
- **Deputy Mayor Carner:** No report.
- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin reported that a Consolidation meeting was held on Thursday, March 22, 2018 and that Paul Bishop from CGR would be collecting data from the Castleton Fire Department on April 12, 2018.
- **Trustee Pratico:** Trustee Pratico reported that she would be drafting an article for the Castletonian about the cemetery and that the cemetery will be raising their rates.

- **Trustee Giuliano:** Trustee Giuliano reported that the deadline for the next Castleonian would be April 13, 2018 and that the next Repair Café would be on April 14, 2018. She also reported that the Farmers' Market will be every Friday this year instead of every other Friday, as it has been in past years. Trustee Giuliano then reported that Rensselaer County was developing a Tourism Guide for the County and that April 1, 2018 was the last day to submit events to be considered for publication.

## **BUSINESS:**

1. **Regional Chamber of Commerce:** Kate Manley and John Bonesteel of the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce presented to the Board a number of opportunities for small businesses and manufacturing businesses. The Village has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce since 2012 and is one of 900 members. It was stated that 85% of the members employ fifty employees or less making it adept at assisting small businesses. It was reported that the Chamber will be holding Economic Development Week during the first week of May. The Mayor thanked Ms. Manley and Mr. Bonesteel for their time and stated that he would establish a connection between them and the Main Street Association.
2. **Dryer Boyajian Retainer:** Attorney for the Village Benjamin Hill drafted a new retainer agreement for law services for the Village stating that it had been several years since one had been signed. The proposed document raised the cost of the retainer from \$10,000 to \$12,000 and raised hourly rates from \$165 an hour to \$200 an hour.

Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion to for Mayor to sign the retainer agreement for the services of Dryer Boyajian.

ADOPTED by the following vote:

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Abstentions: 0

3. **Fire Department Service Awards:** Fire Chief Carner reported that approximately half of the members of the Castleton Fire Department earned enough points from last year to qualify for the Service Awards. After Board review, the Service Awards were signed off on by the Mayor and by the Trustees, except for Trustee Pratico, who was not physically present.
4. **Budget Workshop:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis and Ms. Smith reviewed the 2018 – 2019 Budget with the Board, noting any changes made between this year and last fiscal year. Major items include:
  - a) A 2 % increase in property taxes, which is the limit under the Property Tax Cap
  - b) A decrease in projected franchise fees from Time Warner Cable (currently Spectrum) due to past projections being based on a 5 % rate instead of the current 3 % rate
  - c) An increase to the general law account in accordance with the retainer agreement that was signed by the Board for Dryer Boyajian
  - d) An increase to the shared services operation and maintenance due to higher costs for the new cleaning service
  - e) An increase in capital outlay for the Van Buren Garage to purchase heaters to replace the current outdated ones
  - f) No change to the Village funding of the Castleton Public Library
  - g) An increase based on a projected increase for garbage collection, the exact amount of which will be determined after the bidding process is complete on April 12, 2018

- h) An increase in state retirement spending due to rising rates
- i) Transfer of funds from capital reserve for fire equipment to capital outlay for fire equipment
- j) A proposed increase in Castleton Kids tuition to meet the cost of the minimum wage increase
- k) An increase to the capital reserve for water main repairs
- l) Eliminating the reserve for sewer upgrades

**5. APPROPRIATIONS:** Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion to approve payment of the vouchers below.

- 1) Abstract # 21 - Vouchers # 560 and # 613 in the amount of \$ 6,450.40
  - General Fund: \$ 2,769.01
  - Water Fund: \$ 2119.98
  - Sewer Fund: \$ 1561.41

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 9:18 pm, Trustee Martin moved, Mayor Schmidt seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Padraic Ellis  
Village Clerk-Treasurer