

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

April 22, 2019

PRESENT: Mayor Robert Schmidt, Trustee/Deputy Mayor Marianne Carner, Trustee Gina Giuliano, Trustee Sharon Martin, Trustee Jenifer Pratico

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Benjamin Hill (via phone), DPW Foreman Richard Saville, Superintendent John Shortsleeve, Castleton Kids Director Scott Mocerine and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

PUBLIC: 6

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 April 22, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 7:59 pm by Mayor Schmidt with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion carried to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2019 Regular Meeting with two corrections: first, when “disillusionment” was stated regarding Castleton Kids, the correct term should be “separation;” second, the time of adjournment should be 8:33 pm instead of being left blank.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Michael Martin, chairman of the Village Tree Board, stated that he has begun the process of public outreach to find membership for the Tree Board and has had several people interested. He has been in contact with New York State regarding the creation of the Tree Board and will begin work in May through the Arbor Day Foundation. Mr. Martin will complete a list of recommended trees to the Village. It was suggested by the Village Board that he attend a Main Street Association Meeting to speak about the Tree Board.

Milan Eckholm, of Chestnut Street, brought several issues in front of the Board. First, Mr. Eckholm stated that Goulet Trucking is planning on building a new headquarters in the Town of Schodack. The trucking company hauls hazardous waste and the proposed site would be on the water aquifer. The site would be an overnight stop for over a hundred trucks and house a wash station. Mr. Eckholm and Adam Figarsky, of Haber Way, attended the Town planning board meeting the previous week and voiced their concerns. They stated that both residents and experts spoke about their concerns regarding the proposed site. The Town of Schodack would have to issue a special use permit for the company to use that site. Mr. Eckholm and Mr. Figarsky are concerned about the contamination of the water supply and would like the Village Board to use its partnership with the Town of Schodack to state concern over the site. Second, Mr. Eckholm is concerned about the traffic in the Village going to Sacred Heart Church. He stated that the drivers do not obey the traffic laws and drive through stop signs without stopping. He is concerned about the number of children in the Village and the significant amount of traffic surrounding the church on weekends. Deputy Mayor Carner proposed moving the child safety sign located near Trinity Lutheran Church closer to the intersection of George Street and Stimpson Avenue, which Mr. Eckholm stated was a problem intersection. The feasibility of Stimpson Avenue becoming a one-way street to help the traffic pattern was discussed but Mr. Figarsky stated that this would simply increase traffic on the side streets located between Stimpson Avenue and Green Avenue. Mr. Eckholm asked if speed bumps

could be installed to slow traffic to which DPW Foreman Saville stated that they could not. The Village Board will speak to Sacred Heart Church as a first step and attempt to have an announcement made about residents' traffic concerns. Mr. Eckholm was invited to write an article for the September edition of the Castleonian.

Third, Mr. Eckholm complained about neighbors storing trash and scrap metal on their property, specifically 31 Green Avenue. He was provided with the phone number for Code Enforcement and told that tickets had previously been issued for his concerns.

Fourth, Mr. Eckholm asked if chickens were allowed in the Village. He was told that chickens, but not roosters, were allowed in the Village but only if they were located 100 feet from any property line and that even with the agreement of his neighbors the Zoning Board would need to approve any usage that did not meet the 100 foot minimum.

Mr. Figarsky asked who had ownership of Haber Way. He was told that it was a private drive and did not belong to the Village. He stated that the condition of the drive was deteriorating and that there were several potholes. Mr. Figarsky was recommended to contact the Rensselaer County Clerk's Office to determine ownership of the drive before attempting to do any improvements himself.

TRUSTEE REPORTS:

- **Mayor Schmidt:** Mayor Schmidt stated that a letter had been drafted and sent by Attorney Hill to the Boy Scout troop that was storing equipment in the Noyes Engine House at 4 Green Avenue to have them remove the equipment in preparation for planned renovations. Mayor Schmidt had attempted to call the troop leader on two occasions but had not heard back. The letter stated that the Boy Scouts had until May 15, 2019 to remove their equipment. Deputy Mayor Carner provided Mayor Schmidt with an alternative contact for the Boy Scout in an attempt to make contact before the deadline.
- **Deputy Mayor Carner:** Deputy Mayor Carner attended the Main Street Association meeting at Cherrybrook Café on April 11. She stated that the owners of Cherrybrook Café were checking with their insurance to see if they are covered to have a dumpster on site. She also stated that the owners also asked about outdoor dining in the parking lot. As the parking lot is Village property, the sidewalk in front of the building was suggested. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that a variance would be needed for any outdoor dining. Deputy Mayor Carner stated that as of the end of April the Main Street Association would be discontinuing their insurance due to lack of funds. They asked if the Main Street Day event could be covered under the Village's insurance to which Mayor Schmidt stated that it was already covered. The MSA complained that the Village Board needed to speak louder at Village Board meetings as they could not hear. All permits have been secured for the flagpole ceremony on June 14, 2019. DPW Foreman Saville stated that he had spoken to both the Department of Transportation and Gettysburg Flags and that both had everything needed to move forward. The MSA will be having a clean-up day on May 11, 2019 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am and requested that a dump truck be parked at the corner of Scott Avenue and Main Street for them to load any debris into. The MSA stated that there is no street sign at the corner of Scott Avenue and Main Street and there is not a Village of Castleton-on-Hudson sign at the Village line on North Main Street.
- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin stated that Supervisor Shortsleeve had attempted to contact C.T. Male regarding the contract that began in 2016 for engineering work on the water main located under the gym of Castleton Elementary School. C.T. Male has not responded to these efforts. Delaware Engineering has agreed to complete the engineering agreement for the Village at no additional cost. Trustee Martin would like to break the contract with C.T. Male and enter into an agreement with Delaware to complete the engineering process and attain a price for construction to Schodack Central School District. Trustee Martin also stated that with Supervisor Shortsleeve's upcoming retirement, Kenneth Meyer would be starting as Supervisor on June 1,

2019. Trustee Martin also stated that she had received an email for Viktor Moknahtyuk, of Second Street, regarding the placement of the water main that connects to his house. The line runs under a property on Stimpson Avenue that was recently purchased by Frank Palladino. Mr. Palladino would like to put an addition on the house over where the water main is located. The water main was installed in 1964 and no easement could be found on the property that Mr. Palladino purchased. Both Mr. Palladino and Mr. Moknahtyuk are concerned about where the responsibility for moving the main and reconnecting the Second Street property lies, and if it is with the Village. Attorney Hill's initial thoughts are that the Village would not be involved in rectifying this situation but asked that the email that was sent to Trustee Martin by Mr. Moknahtyuk and the letter that was sent to the Village by Mr. Palladino be sent to him for further review of the situation.

- **Trustee Pratico:** Trustee Pratico stating that she is in the process of searching for the member item for funding for Riverfront Park. She also reported that she had been in contact with the Department of Transportation, via Representative Ashby, on the issue of crosswalks across Main Street. Trustee Pratico stated that she was optimistic about the separation of Castleton Kids from the Village after the meeting she had with Director Mocerine and Clerk-Treasurer Ellis. Trustee Pratico reported that the Cemetery Association held their spring clean-up on the previous Saturday.
- **Trustee Giuliano:** Trustee Giuliano reported that she attended the webinar for the Northern Border Regional Commission. She stated that this was the first year that Rensselaer County municipalities were eligible and that up to \$250,000 was available with matching funds. Although she has decided not to apply for the grant this year, Trustee Giuliano will apply next year in hopes of securing funds for magnetic gates at the crossing to Riverfront Park. Trustee Giuliano reported that Preserve New York toured the Noyes Engine House earlier that day and was impressed with the building. She should be hearing early in July if funding will be made available. Trustee Giuliano stated that the next Repair Café on May 11, 2019 would be the last of the season at the Village Hall and that the June 7, 2019 Repair Café would be held at the Farmers' Market.

BUSINESS:

1. **Out of Village Water Bills:** Trustee Pratico moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried to open public hearing on delinquent out of village water bills. Of the sixteen initial property owners that were mailed notices, seven had paid as of the meeting. No one was present to discuss their water bill. Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to close the public hearing.
2. **Castleton Kids Presentation:** With less than a month and a half remaining before the separation of Castleton Kids the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson after almost forty years, Director Mocerine addressed the Board and reported on how the process was going. He stated that he was currently in the process of setting up all of the support that he will need with the separation. He will continue to use Kinderhook Bank and Paychex, for banking and payroll respectively, but under his own accounts rather than that of the Village. He is currently in the process of bidding out insurance and will hire an attorney as needed. Director Mocerine is meeting with Schodack Central Schools in order to finalize a rental agreement. As he reapplies with the New York State licensing agency, he hopes to have everything prepared by mid-May to complete the separation by the May 31, 2019 deadline. Mayor Schmidt asked if Castleton Kids would be creating a new 510c3 or repurposing the Friends of Castleton Kids 501c3 to cover operations. Scott stated that the Friends of Castleton Kids 501c3 would be changed to accommodate the program. Attorney Hill suggested hiring an attorney at the beginning to make sure that all necessary documentation was completed to avoid any future incidents with the State of New York. Attorney Hill stated that

he would not be able to provide this but he had recommendations that he could provide. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis stated that he had discussed all upcoming bills with Director Mocerine and that it was decided that the Village would hold money in escrow to pay any Castleton Kids bills that occurred after the separation. Mayor Schmidt and Director Mocerine thanked Clerk-Treasurer Ellis for his work in providing Director Mocerine assistance as the deadline approached. Director Mocerine thanked the Board and the Village as a whole for its decades of support of the program and invited the Board to attend the grand opening in September.

3. APPROPRIATIONS: Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion to approve payment of the abstracts.

Abstract # 18 - Vouchers- # 643 - # 645 in the amount of \$ 3,634.88.

General Fund: \$ 1,296.97

Water Fund: \$1,045.02

Sewer Fund: \$ 1,292.89

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:44 pm, Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded motion to move into Executive Sessions. At 9:35 pm, Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion to exit Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:40 pm, Mayor Schmidt moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Padraic Ellis
Village Clerk-Treasurer