

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

February 11, 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, DPW Foreman Richard Saville, Superintendent John Shortsleeve, Library Director Melissa Tacke, Fire Department Matt Metzger, Fire Department Chris Carner, and Clerk-Treasurer Padraic Ellis.

**PUBLIC: 2**

**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 February 11, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 7:11 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 January 28, 2019 Regular Meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Suzanne Cecala of the Main Street Association reported that COHMSA had decided that on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the flagpole will be dedicated to honor the 192th anniversary of the Village incorporating. COHMSA has confirmed that Gettysburg Flag will install the flagpole and Foreman Saville will obtain the necessary permit from the Department of Transportation. COHMSA would like to have a member of the Village Board serve as liaison and has nominated Deputy Mayor Carner. COHMSA will be meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm at Cherrybrook Café. Mayor Schmidt reported that the survey that COHMSA had sent to the Board regarding the role of the Main Street Association was helpful.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

- **Mayor Schmidt:** Mayor Schmidt reported that he attended an event at 52 Hilton on Main the previous Friday and had won the naming contest for the event. The event will be called “2<sup>nd</sup> Friday on Main” and was voted on by 52 Hilton’s Facebook followers. Mayor Schmidt also reported that he attended the NYCOM Winter Legislative Conference. Sunday night, Mayor Schmidt and Trustee Pratico attended the opening dinner. Mayor Schmidt also attended the State Comptroller’s speech that morning where the following were issues of concern: 1. The restoration of AIM funding for villages; 2. The lack of increase in CHIPS funding; 3. Universal enforcement of ADA compliance; 4. \$2.5 billion in funds for water system upgrades; 5. The possibility of a permanent tax cap; 6. The possibility of the collection of internet sales tax; and 7. \$9 million in available funds for zombie properties. Mayor Schmidt also thanked Michael Martin for his work on the Tree Ordinance for the Village.

- **Deputy Mayor Carner:** Deputy Mayor Carner spoke with Library Director Tacke regarding compiling a history of the Village's street names. Deputy Mayor Carner questioned why the public officials insurance was so high. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis will compare the figure to previous years and let her know.
- **Trustee Martin:** Trustee Martin reported that two Saturdays prior there was a fire on Seaman Avenue and a water main break at the elementary school. Trustee Martin thanked everyone for their work at both events. Trustee Martin reported that Rensselaer County will no longer be selling foreclosed properties to anyone that owes taxes or is in bankruptcy.
- **Trustee Pratico:** Trustee Pratico reported that she attended the opening dinner of the NYCOM Winter Legislative Conference with Mayor Schmidt.
- **Trustee Giuliano:** Trustee Giuliano reported that Saturday's Repair Café was successful and that the next one will be held on March 9, 2019. Trustee Giuliano also reported that the DEC Estuary Grant has been signed by the State.

#### **REPORTS:**

1. **DPW Report:** Mayor Schmidt requested that a water station be installed in the Village Hall. Clerk-Treasurer Ellis will check into grants and speak with Library Director Tacke about the possibility of collaborating. Foreman Saville asked the Board to declare a snow emergency for February 12, 1029 and the Board agreed.
2. **Water & Wastewater Report:** Superintendent Shortsleeve reported that he was working with Castleton Elementary School regarding better communication concerning boil water advisories. Superintendent Shortsleeve reported that there are two potential water leaks in the Village and he believes one is located on North Main Street.
3. **Library Report:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that the Library was holding a Blood Drive through the Red Cross on February 16, 2019.
4. **Building Inspector:** Absent.
5. **Clerk-Treasurer Report:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis reported that budget requests have been distributed and are due back March 1, 2019.

Mayor Schmidt moved, Deputy Mayor Carner seconded, motion to approve all departmental reports.

#### **BUSINESS:**

1. **Resolution # 5 – Rensselaer County Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Clerk-Treasurer Ellis and Mayor Schmidt will be working on completing worksheets 1 through 5 for submission to Rensselaer County. Trustee Pratico was named as HMP representative and Mayor Schmidt was named as alternate.

Trustee Pratico moved, Mayor Schmidt seconded, motion carried to adopt the resolution to participate in the Rensselaer County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

- 2. Resolution # 5 – Tree City USA – Village Ordinance:** Michael Martin, chair of the Tree Board, will submit a list of trees acceptable for planting on streets and in parks.

Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion carried pass the resolution for the intent to change local law to accept the Tree Ordinance.

- 3. EEO Policy Adoption:** The adoption of an Equal Employment Opportunity policy is a requirement for the submission of the Estuary Grant.

Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Pratico seconded, motion carried to adopt the EEO policy as drafted by Attorney Hill.

- 4. Commercial Water Billing:** Discussion on commercial water billing was tabled until the next meeting. The Board was provided with an initial report regarding rate increases by Clerk-Treasurer Ellis and a list of properties that needed to be billed as commercial by Superintendent Shortsleeve. Finalized reports will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

- 5. 21 Green Avenue Demolition:** Attorney Hill has been in contact with the attorney for Rensselaer County as the county is set to take possession of the property at 21 Green Avenue on February 12, 2019. Attorney Hill stated that the County has no objection to the building being demolished. A bid packet will be prepared to accept bids for the demolition.

- 6. APPROPRIATIONS:** Trustee Carner moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion to approve payment of the abstracts.

Abstract # 13 – Vouchers # 457 - # 524 in the amount of \$ 114,659.81.

General Fund: \$71,336.48

Castleton Kids: \$1562.05

Water Fund: \$17,102.44

Sewer Fund: \$24,658.84

**ONLINE BANKING TRANSFERS:** Trustee Martin moved, Trustee Giuliano seconded, motion to approve the online banking transfers according to the schedule presented to the Board.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 8:20 pm, Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Martin seconded motion to move into Executive Sessions. At 8:54 pm, Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion to exit Executive Session.

- 7. PERMA Safety Instructor Training:** Trustee Pratico moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to allow Joseph Garavelli to attend the PERMA Safety Inspector Training.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 9:05 pm, Deputy Mayor Carner moved, Trustee Martin seconded, motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Padraic Ellis  
Village Clerk-Treasurer