

Mayor & Board of Trustees

Village Board Meeting

June 14, 2018

PRESENT:

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker
Trustees Richard A. Funchion, Duane M. Jackson, Cesare Pasquale and Nicolas Zachary,
Village Administrator Kevin Hay
Village Attorney Stephanie V. Porteus
Village Board Secretary Susan F. Matthews

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Mayor Knickerbocker led the Pledge of Allegiance and informed every one of the fire regulations.

Mayor Knickerbocker announced that on June 16 the Village will be having its 90th Birthday Party. The parade will start at 11:30 AM at the Village Hall. It will go up Ketchum Avenue, make a left onto Tate Avenue, pass in front of the Village Hall to the Circle and onto Westchester Avenue ending at the Village pavilion. The best viewing place is the Village Hall or at the Circle. It is going to be a fun day. At the picnic there will be hot dogs, hamburgers, sausages and peppers, and baked beans. You will not go home hungry. The Mayor noted that as of now there are over 600 people coming. She hopes to see everyone there. Tuesday, June 19 is the official birthday of the Village. There will be an Open House at the Historical Room at Village Hall from Noon to 8 PM. There will be cake and coffee. She invited everyone to stop by, especially if you have not seen our Historical Room.

2. APPROVE MINUTES:

March 27, 2018 Workshop: A MOTION to approve these minutes as presented was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.

April 10, 2018 Budget Hearing: A MOTION to approve these minutes as presented was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

3. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR: (agenda items only)

None

4. OLD BUSINESS:

a. PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 181 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN ESTABLISHING A TAX ON UTILITY SERVICES.

At 7:35 PM a MOTION to open the Public Hearing was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

Mayor Knickerbocker noted that the Board has discussed this several times. There were no other comments from the Board. There were no comments from the floor.

At 7:36 PM a MOTION to close the Public Hearing was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.

b. 18-26 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 181 ESTABLISHING A TAX ON UTILITY SERVICES BY THE VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN.

Trustee Funchion read the Resolution (*copy attached*).

A MOTION to adopt this Resolution as presented was made by Trustee Zachary seconded by Trustee Jackson, with Mayor Knickerbocker and Trustees Jackson, Pasquale and Zachary in favor and Trustee Funchion opposed. The MOTION was approved by a vote of 4-1.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a. PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 211 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN

At 7:38 PM a MOTION to open this Public Hearing was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.

Mayor Knickerbocker noted that the Board has gone back and forth with this a number of times but wanted to make sure that they got it right.

Trustee Zachary commented that he cannot even think about how far back they started to discuss this. It is a difficult issue. It was put aside with the budget and the plant closing having come up. They have now come back to this. Trustee Zachary thinks it was necessary for the Board to do something. They sent out a survey to the residents. There were mixed opinions. The number of people who wanted control far outweighed those who did not want to be told what to do with their property. There were a fair number of people who wanted restrictions on trailers and commercial vehicles and not having these vehicles visible in the front of the property. Trustee Zachary commented that that they cannot step on everybody's toes but need to improve the appearance of the Village. It is a quality of life issue. He feels that it is good that the Board gets this approved.

Mayor Knickerbocker noted that a lot of things were already in the Code. The basics were there.

Trustee Jackson commented that the Board wrestled with this for some time. He feels that the compromises they came up with are ones that not everyone is going to be happy with. He thinks that the character of the Village and the idea that as a homeowner you have the opportunity to purchase and have different vehicles in your garage and driveway is a good compromise. He hopes that as we move forward, people will be mindful of this and their neighbors with the types

of vehicles that they bring in. He thinks that it will be a case by case based on what they find parked in driveways.

Trustee Pasquale advised that everyone should be aware of Part “C” which requires that all parked and stored recreational vehicles and trailers must have a permit and sticker issued by the Village indicating that the vehicle or trailer is owned by an owner or renter of the property. Trustee Zachary commented that that one of the new aspects will be that people cannot rent out or allow a friend or people who do not live here to have vehicles parked on a resident’s property. If they ask if they can park in your driveway, they cannot. Trustee Zachary advised that we will be sending out a letter explaining the terms and procedures. People will have to get a sticker to put on their vehicles stating that the vehicle is registered to a person who is an owner or renter who resides in that property.

There were no comments from the floor.

At 7:39 PM a MOTION to close the Public Hearing was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.

b. 18-27 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 211 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN.

Trustee Funchion read the Resolution (*copy attached*).

A MOTION to adopt this Resolution as presented was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.

c. 18-28 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF RECREATION PERSONNEL (POOL)

Trustee Jackson the Resolution (*copy attached*).

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that this is something we do every year in June for our summer help for the pool.

A MOTION to adopt this Resolution as presented was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor

d. 18-29 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OR RECREATION PERSONNEL (CAMP)

Trustee Jackson read the Resolution (*copy attached*).

Mayor Knickerbocker commented that it is her understanding that the camp is full for 2018.

A MOTION to adopt this Resolution as presented was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor

e. 18-30 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

Trustee Pasquale read the Resolution (*copy attached*).

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that this Memorandum of Understanding is a situation where some property owners made improvements to their outdoor area and we have come to a resolution with this.

A MOTION to adopt this Resolution as presented was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor

f. 18-31 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL FOR A LICENSED OPERATOR AT THE VILLAGE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY.

Trustee Pasquale the Resolution (*copy attached*).

A MOTION to adopt this Resolution as presented was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor

g. 18-32 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH WESTCHESTER COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNDERTAKING A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

Trustee Zachary read the Resolution (*copy attached*).

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that these are Community Development Block Grants [CDBG] that we have applied for in the past. The last was for a sidewalk that was installed on Westchester Avenue. By passing this Resolution, it allows us to be in the program. She commented that there are pros and cons but if something comes along that is in the best interests of the Village the Board will look at it.

A MOTION to adopt this Resolution as presented was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.

h. 18-33 RESOLUTION TERMINATING A VILLAGE EMPLOYEE

Trustee Zachary read the Resolution (*copy attached*).

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that the Board will not be commenting on this because it is a personnel issue.

A MOTION to adopt this Resolution as presented was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor

6. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS:

a) Justice Court Report – April 2018

Received and filed. Mayor Knickerbocker noted that the amounts come to over \$3,200.00

b) Planning Board Minutes – March 2018

Received and filed.

c) Fire Inspector's Report – April 2018

Received and filed.

d) Attorney's Report:

Village Attorney Porteus reported that she had a couple of things for the Executive Session.

e) Administrator's Report:

Village Administrator Hay reported that he would give updates on the on-going projects.

The Bannon Avenue Water Pit: All the outside pit work is done. One issue is a requirement of the Board of Health. A manhole has to be filled with gravel. It would be overflowing. In that area of the Village there is a high water table and a lot of ground water. If gravel is put into a manhole it would be coming back in. We are currently negotiating a resolution with the Board of Health. Once we get their approval, it will be another 2 or 3 weeks to finish the project.

Water Meters: We have the contracts coming back for signature. The water meters can then be ordered. The Administrator advised that the project has to be done within 100 days of signing the contract. Mayor Knickerbocker wanted to know what happens in order to get them installed. The Administrator advised that the contractor will send out a notice for residents to sign up for appointments. They will probably have to go out a couple of times because some people are harder to track down. People sign up for a time they are going to be installed and they will move right through. Trustee Funchion asked how long it takes to do one water meter installation. The Administrator advised that they shut the water off. If the inside shut off is not working, they will shut it off at the street. He guesses that it will take about 20 minutes.

f) Mayor's Reports

Mayor Knickerbocker reported that the pool will open on Saturday, June 16, the day of our 90th Birthday picnic. It will be open to everyone that day. It will be open until 7 PM.

Mayor Knickerbocker reported that every year she does a Public Service Announcement that she wishes she did not have to do. She has been getting a lot of complaints about people walking their dogs. If you are walking your dog, please curb the dog. If the dog has to do its "business", do not let it go on people's lawns. She commented that it was noteworthy that after hearing these complaints, she was in her front yard and this dog was right in front of her doing its "business". She commented that people here in our Village try to keep their lawns nice. They work very hard to keep their lawns nice. In the future, do not have your dog go on a person's lawn. Let us be considerate of our neighbors so that we can all get along and have a good summer.

Mayor Knickerbocker wished all the fathers a Happy Fathers' Day.

g) Trustees' Reports

Trustee Zachary reported that in the past he reached out to Down To Earth Markets, a group that runs farmers' markets in the area about having one in our Village pavilion. At that time they thought that they had too many farmers' markets around the area. Currently they are only running one in our area. Trustee Zachary will be meeting with them next week to show them the pavilion. He will report at the next Workshop. He commented that there are other aspects to consider. They have the contacts with all the farm people. There are some expenses like garbage bags. But they also talked about getting support and sponsorship and having a band play there. There might be ways to get sponsorship to alleviate some of these expenses. He will bring back the information to the Workshop.

Trustee Zachary is hoping to discuss a couple of things at the next Workshop including a complete survey of multiple family homes and having somebody in the Village office develop that list.

Trustee Zachary reported that a resident asked him about the recent survey which he noted was not worded very well. People asked about the results. He said that the Board can discuss how we might want to tabulate it or put it on the Village web site so that people can have access. He noted that the Board never distributed that information to the public. The Mayor noted that he had reported the results at the Workshops and previous Board meetings. Trustee Zachary commented that unless people watched the Board meetings where it was discussed, they would not know. He thinks that there are not that many people watching the meetings.

Trustee Pasquale wished all the fathers a Happy Father's Day. He sent congratulations to our students at B/V Elementary and Blue Mountain Middle Schools for their Moving Up Ceremonies and to the Hendrick Hudson High School graduating class. These are all the eager young minds of the future.

Trustee Pasquale reported on the police calls since our last Board Meeting: On Thursday, May 3, Officer Farrell arrested a Verplanck man wanted on 2 Village of Buchanan warrants. On Tuesday, May 8, Officer Loertscher was called to Albany Post Road for an emergency where she assisted until the ambulance came. On May 9, Officer Budde stopped a car for multiple driving infractions. It was determined that the driver had multiple suspensions of his driver's license and was arrested by Officer Budde. On May 14, Officer Palmietto responded to a 911 call for a fire in a residence on Westchester Avenue. He assisted residents in getting out. A faulty space heater was the cause of the problem. On May 11, Officer Palmietto responded to a call from a man having trouble breathing. He put the man on oxygen until the ambulance arrived and transported the man to the hospital. The next day the person came to the Village Hall. He believes Officer Palmietto's quick response saved his life. On May 17, Westchester County Probation officers attempted to serve a warrant on a man staying in a house on Henry Street. The man jumped out a window and ran away. Officer Palmietto and Chief Tubbs assisted in the search. The subject later turned himself in. On May 20 a call came from a person on Donahue Court. There was a coyote in his front yard. Officer Farrell frightened the coyote away. New York State law prohibits killing them in these situations. On June 1, Officer Farrell responded to a call from a woman on Henry Street having difficulty breathing. He administered oxygen until the ambulance arrived and transported her to the hospital. On June 3, Officer Budde stopped a

car for speeding. The driver was arrested for transporting a large amount of crack cocaine. Trustee Pasquale, who is a retired police officer, commented that a car stop with felony possession of heroin is one of the scariest things to deal with all by yourself.

Trustee Pasquale reported that on Tuesday, after 27 years with the Buchanan Police Department, Sergeant Michael Guida completed his final shift. Trustee Pasquale noted that he originally started with the NYPD and had gone through the Police Academy just 6 month prior to Trustee Pasquale. He wished Sgt. Guida all the best of luck and said that he really will be missed.

Mayor Knickerbocker commented on the coyote. Coyotes are active right now. The Village had something from the DEC on Facebook.

Trustee Funchion wished all the fathers a Happy Father's Day.

Trustee Funchion reported that he attended the Town of Cortlandt's Memorial Day Ceremony. The tribute was very good. He commented that unfortunately this time the speakers got a little political. He does not think it was the place for it. However, it was a nice ceremony. He commented that people are always confused about Memorial Day. It is not for veterans. It is for those who died in the service of our country. It seems that people forget that it is also for the family for those who died. He thinks that there are too many families that are having Memorial Day barbecues and there is a missing seat. We have a separate day for the veterans in November, Veteran's Day. We need to emphasize that more. He spoke about that at the ceremony. He cited the Vietnam War and commented that the statistics really grab you. The thought that over 1900 people were killed on their last day in Vietnam and over 900 killed on their first day there. Trustee Funchion commented that "There for the grace of God go I." He commented that it was great to represent Buchanan.

Trustee Funchion wished Michael Guida a lot of luck. He is a great police officer. He really was a great addition to Buchanan and always had a sense of humor which Trustee Funchion laugh believes helps a lot with an officer of the law. It helps out a lot in sensitive situations when an officer can use humor to do his job.

Trustee Funchion wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July. He reminded that the next Village Board meeting will be on July 3.

Trustee Jackson wanted to echo what Trustee Funchion said about Memorial Day. Trustee Jackson commented that freedom is not free. It never has been and never will be. There are many who gave the ultimate for the freedom that we enjoy today. He said to always keep in mind that our freedom is precious.

Trustee Jackson gave his best regards to Michael Guida. He is gone but not forgotten. We wish him well and thank him for his service to the Village and all that he brought to the job; his personality, his humor and his jolliness. Trustee Jackson commented that our Police Department does a great job. He commented that he was coming home at 2:00 in the morning and one of our police was patrolling the Village. We cannot put a price on their service and their dedication to the Village. It is so important to our quality of life. We thank them all for their service and dedication to the Village.

Trustee Jackson announced that we are going to do a time capsule project in October. They are getting things from the Police and Fire Departments, the students at the B/V School, veterans groups and the Senior Citizens, and put these items in the time capsule. The time capsule will be put somewhere on the Village grounds to be opened in 25-30 years.

Trustee Jackson wished all the fathers a “Happy Father’s Day”.

Mayor Knickerbocker asked what the dimensions of the time capsule would be. Trustee Jackson advised that it will depend on how much we want to spend from the Historical budget. They come in all sizes and are between \$1800 and \$2200. They will help with the marketing and to make it a community event. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that there are things from our upcoming 90th Anniversary that we will put in there. Trustee Jackson added and also from our 75th Anniversary. He would like to see everyone on Saturday at the Village’s 90th Birthday Party.

Mayor Knickerbocker said to Mike Guida, “Wherever you are, we hope you are enjoying your retirement!”

7. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:15 PM a MOTION to close the meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and contract issues was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.

Mayor Knickerbocker wished everyone a great Buchanan Day.

At 9:20 PM a MOTION to exit Executive Session was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:21 PM a MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.