

Village of Buchanan
Mayor & Board of Trustees Meeting
August 6, 2019

PRESENT:

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker
Trustees Duane Jackson, Cesare Pasquale and Nicolas Zachary
Village Attorney Stephanie V. Porteus
Village Board Secretary Susan F. Matthews
Police Chief Eric Johansen

ABSENT:

Trustee Richard A. Funchion

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and informed every one of the fire regulations.

2. APPROVE MINUTES:

June 25, 2019 Workshop: A MOTION to adopt these minutes as presented was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor and Trustee Funchion absent.

July 2, 2019 Regular Board Meeting: A MOTION to adopt these minutes as presented was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor and Trustee Funchion absent.

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

None.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. 19-29 RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE VILLAGE CLERK

Mayor Knickerbocker read the Resolution (*copy attached*). Village Attorney Porteus wanted to confirm that everyone had the job description and they did.

Mayor Knickerbocker noted that Cindy Kempter has been with us for 23 years and has been doing a great job in the Village office. She has been the Deputy Clerk for 7 or 8 years. The Mayor commented that we appreciate all that she does for us. She works very hard, makes the Village a priority and will do a great job as Village Clerk. Everyone present gave Cindy Kempter a standing round of applause.

Mayor Knickerbocker said that both Cindy and Sharon keep the office going and are appreciated for all they do. Trustee Jackson commented that, to use a complimentary term that Trustee Funchion always says, Cindy does a yeoman's job of work and we are so happy to have her.

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

b. 19-30 RESOLUTION HIRING A PART-TIME CARETAKER

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

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that due to the resignation of our part-time caretaker who was with us for some time, we advertised for this position, went through the applications in our files and decided on Mike Ruggiero. He has some experience in caretaking. She is sure that he will do a good job for the Village.

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

c. 19-31 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A SANITATION TRUCK

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

Mayor Knickerbocker commented that as can be seen by the price, garbage trucks are not cheap. It was time to replace ours. We have a 2005 International and a 1988 Mack Truck. We are replacing the Mack Truck. It takes 6 months to build. We will eventually put the old truck out to surplus. The Mayor commented that a lot of the garbage collection companies look for the older trucks.

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

d. 19-32 RESOLUTION AMENDING FEE SCHEDULE

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

Mayor Knickerbocker believes that we have 60 residents who still have not put in the new water meters. She asked them to please contact the Village Hall to set up an appointment and avoid the \$200 fee for manually reading the water meters. Trustee Zachary commented that the overwhelming majority of residents have cooperated and have the new meters. The [installation] people were there for about 15 minutes and were done. It does not take long. We need to just get the meters in and switching over. He advised that if you have not enabled the Village to do that it is going to cost you \$400 per year. Trustee Jackson commented that this process was done by a private company and ended 3 months ago. There will be a grace period for those who have been lingering to not be subject to this fee before the next meter reading. Trustee Zachary advised that there will be a letter sent to the 60 people explaining that they have 60 days from the time the letter goes out to facilitate this. The Village is making every effort on our part, so we are not hitting these people blindly.

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

e. 19-33 RESOLUTION ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO PERSONNEL POLICIES AND EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

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

Mayor Knickerbocker commented that we worked on this for many months and have come to a resolution. The whole Board is interested in this updated handbook.

Village Attorney Porteus advised that there is one correction, a small typo, on page 20. She will have that made for the final copy.

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

f. 19-34 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HIRING OF A SENIOR CONSULTANT

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

Mayor Knickerbocker congratulated Mike Lepore. She thanked him for stepping up and wanting to help and work with the Seniors.

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

5. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS:

a. Justice Court Report – June 2019

Mayor Knickerbocker reported that the amounts received were \$918 and \$2,960.90.

b. Police Reports – June 2019

Received and filed.

Mayor Knickerbocker noted that there were 46 calls for service, 10 animal complaints (coyote sightings), 9 total arrests, 77 summonses and 77 parking summons. Trustee Zachary asked what the calls for service generally were for. Chief Johansen advised that it is broken down by category on the report.

c. Attorney's Report

Village Attorney Porteus reported the following:

A proposed contract with the Buchanan Engine Company was received.

The final trial date on WIC is September 12. There is a Zoning Board application for the first time in 6 months. It is for the Velardo property at the intersection of Lindsey Avenue and the Albany Post Road. It has been going on for a decade or more. She reported that what had happened is that they came in a few times over the past 5 or 6 years. They received variances but it went into foreclosure. We did Public Hearings for the variances. It went to Planning

and then bankruptcy was filed. On June 3 of this year, United Real Estate became the owner and is now the applicant. Village Attorney Porteus has spoken to him and their architect. He does not think that the 3 variances will be denied. The proposed variances are commercial on the bottom and residential on top. It will then go to Planning. She commented that based on where they are she is hopeful that we will see that development happen.

Village Attorney Porteus reported that our Court Clerk is leaving at the end of October. Per Village law that position is a mayoral appointment with the advice and consent of the Village Justices. Trustee Zachary will discuss with the Justices the expectations on both sides and come to an agreement on who and when somebody might be hired. Trustee Zachary advised that there has been conversation.

Village Attorney Porteus reported that Marilyn of F. P. Clark who has been with us for 10 years as our Planner has retired. The Village Attorney will reach out to find out who they are going to send in her place.

Village Attorney Porteus advised that there are contract and personnel issues that will be discussed in Executive Session. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that they have other personnel issues to discuss in Executive Session.

d. Trustees' Reports

Trustee Jackson wanted to call attention to the 9/11 Remembrance at Croton Point Park on Wednesday, September 11. He commented if you have not been there, it is a very stunning project and the setting is great. He and his wife walk there and it is a very nice area. He commented that although it is now a few years since September 2001, to remember those who perished that day. He is glad that the Federal government has now made the settlement fund forever. He had 3 friends there on 9/11 who have all since gotten cancer. Trustee Jackson commented that it takes him back to the Agent Orange issue with the Vietnam War veterans. Years after the settlement people are still being affected. Trustee Pasquale thanked Trustee Jackson for bringing that up. It is very important. He is on that list and thankfully he is strong and healthy.

Trustee Zachary commented that it was a life altering event. He noted that as it turns out today, August 6, is the anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. He commented that fortunately these weapons have not been used since then. He commented that history does periodically get thrown for a loop and those are 2 events that did that. Peace is better than war but it is hard to achieve sometimes.

Trustee Zachary reported that at the next Workshop on August 27 we will be continuing the discussion with the Building Inspector for the Zoning Board review. It will be a lengthy Workshop. Anyone who wants to listen or contribute should come.

Trustee Zachary wished everyone a safe and enjoyable rest of the summer. Get outdoors and have some fun.

Trustee Pasquale thanked Cindy Kempter for all that she does. He commented that we are very lucky to have her. He welcomed Mike Lepore and said that it is good that he is here to fill Gabe DiRubbo's shoes.

Trustee Pasquale reported selected items from the monthly police report. He thanked Sergeant Farrell for them. On June 1 at 10 PM Detective Loertscher responded to several complaints about a large party. She spoke to the residents and they turned down the music and no further complaints were made. On June 11 at 4:30 PM Officer Budde executed a bench warrant out of the Village of Buchanan on an individual in Peekskill who was brought before the Village Judge, sentenced and released to Westchester County Corrections. On June 18 at 9 AM Sergeant Farrell and Officer Tiernan responded to a call about criminal mischief being done to a vehicle. After investigation, a suspect was identified who subsequently turned himself in. He was charged with felony criminal mischief and arraigned in Village Court. On June 22 at 12:45 PM Officer Budde did a vehicle and traffic stop for a vehicle with a broken windshield. The driver had a suspended license, was arrested and charged with aggravated and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and issued summonses. On June 27 at 11:19 PM Officer Tiernan responded to a call about an erratic driver in the Village. The officer determined that the driver was driving while intoxicated and he was arrested and charged with a felony aggravated DWI. Trustee Pasquale noted that this was not the one that hit the pole. Mayor Knickerbocker explained that we had an incident on Tate Avenue where a car hit a pole. Trustee Pasquale advised that if you ever get into a car accident and you take out a pole, your insurance is responsible for that.

e. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Knickerbocker reported that she has been in contact with Town Supervisor Puglisi. Everyone has noticed that Lake Meahagh is not healthy. There is an invasive species that is growing at a rapid rate. They are working with the DEC to resolve this so that by next year there will be a healthy turnaround. There have been a lot of problems with that and they will be addressed.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

None.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:05 PM a MOTION to enter into Executive Session to discuss contractual and personnel issues was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor and Trustee Funchion absent.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:10 PM a MOTION to exit the Executive Session and adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor and Trustee Funchion absent.