

**Village of Buchanan
Mayor & Board of Trustees Meeting
May 5, 2020**

PRESENT: (This meeting was done via zoom and zoom audio)

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker

Trustees Richard A. Funchion, Duane Jackson, Cesare Pasquale and Nicolas Zachary

Village Administrator Marcus Serrano

Village Attorney Stephanie Porteus

Village Clerk Cynthia Kempter

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. She led the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was held for Bill and Hilda Durr.

2. UPDATE FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE GEORGE LATIMER:

CE Latimer provided an update on how the County is dealing with the COVID outbreak. CE Latimer mentioned that he has known Village Administrator Serrano a long time and was glad to hear he was back in business and healthy. CE Latimer stated that it seems that we have passed the peak, at least in this wave. CE Latimer stated that as of tonight it seems that we have flattened out and are on the downslope. CE Latimer stated that most of the authority in dealing with COVID is at the state level. CE Latimer stated that the Emergency Operations Center has obtained personal protective equipment and has been distributing this throughout the county. CE Latimer understands how badly the Village has been hurt by the loss of Entergy. CE Latimer stated that the County does not have the money to provide local Municipalities, but the County is on the Village's side and will help as they can.

3. APPROVE MINUTES:

December 17, 2019 special meeting, January 28, 2020 Workshop Meeting, February 4, 2020 Board Meeting, March 3, 2020 Board Meeting, March 10, 2020 Special Meeting, March 24, 2020 Special Meeting, April 9, 2020 Budget Public Hearing, April 20, 2020 Continuation of Budget Public Hearing and Adoption of Budget, April 28, 2020 Workshop Meeting

A MOTION to adopt these minutes as presented was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

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

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2020-13 Resolution Supporting Various New York State Senate and Assembly Bills.

Village Attorney Porteus explained each bill and how critical these three bills are for our community. Senator Harckham and Assemblywoman Galef will be in Albany to push these bills through.

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

b. 2020-14 Resolution Appointing Village Administrator and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Employment Agreement.

Mayor Knickerbocker welcomed Marcus aboard and stated what a long process this has been going through the 211 waiver with the state and the county. Mayor Knickerbocker appreciates Marcus coming here with his strong financial background and many years of municipal government experience. We are very fortunate to be able to bring Marcus here and are very happy he is here. All the Trustees and Attorney Porteus echoed these sentiments.

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

c. 2020-15 Resolution Delaying the Imposition of Penalties on Water Fees until May 29, 2020.

Mayor Knickerbocker stated that this would be a way that we could help some of the residents that may have been financially impacted by the coronavirus.

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

d. 2020-16 Resolution Amending the Master Fee Schedule for the Village of Buchanan

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

e. 2020-17 Resolution Awarding Sludge Removal Contract

Mayor Knickerbocker stated that only one bid was received which was Fred Cook.

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

f. Consider a Motion to appoint Christine Torres as Court Clerk retroactive to January 14, 2020. As of April 1, 2020 the annual salary is \$11,200.

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

g. Consider a Motion for unpaid water charges to be added to the tax bill.

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

h. Consider a Motion to relevel the cost of removal of a dangerous tree to 257 Gallagher Street.

Village Administrator Serrano stated that this was a court order that was not complied with, so the Village took the tree down.

A MOTION to approve this as presented was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

i. Consider a Motion to Schedule a Public Hearing in June to Amend the Village Code to include dumpster fees.

A MOTION to approve this presented was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

j. Consider a Motion for the Treasurer to make all required budget transfers, adjustment and amendments to close out the 2019-2020 fiscal year as required for the annual audit.

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

6. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS:

a. Justice Court Reports – February 2020

Received and Filed.

b. Police Report – February 2020

Received and Filed.

c. Highway Department – February 2020, March 2020

Received and Filed.

d. Attorney’s Report

The new PILOT agreement is being drafted by Entergy and/or Holtec and it should be available to talk about in executive session at the next workshop meeting.

e. Administrator’s Report

Village Administrator Serrano gave an update on the Rt. 9A repaving project. The Village planner looked at the overlay district and should have a draft report and recommendation to the board before the workshop. The grant for the pavilion roof has been approved, paperwork needs to be done, and the contractor is holding his price since worked has stopped due to the coronavirus.

f. Mayor’s Report

Mayor Knickerbocker mentioned that last Thursday, April 30, 2020 was a sad day for the Village of Buchanan, a big part of our history is disappearing. Unit Two was closed down after many, many years of operation. Unit three will close down by the end of April of next year. There is a \$15 million settlement fund from Entergy and Riverkeeper is asking for half. The Village of Buchanan, the Town of Cortlandt, and the Hendrick Hudson School District feel that since we are the most severely impacted the money should come to the community. This is a decision that will be made by the governor and Entergy. We will be doing an online petition in support of the 3 bills that are in line in the Senate and the Assembly.

g. Trustee’s Report

Trustee Funchion has been talking to many people and feels that the community is coming more closely together during this virus.

Trustee Jackson thanked Mayor Knickerbocker for her leadership.

Trustee Pasquale is hoping everyone is well and healthy and would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all people who provide essential services to our community.

Trustee Zachary agrees with the sentiment of thanking all the essential people. He met with Bob Wheeler, highway foreman, to follow up on the conditions at Lents Cove. Trustee Zachary apologized for the statements he made at the last workshop about things not getting done. He did not mean that as an attack on the highway department. Trustee Zachary thinks they are doing a fabulous job considering they had big manpower restraints. There needs to be a schedule of regular maintenance for Lents Cove. There are wooden steps that are dangerous and need to be replaced. Trustee Zachary is looking into the cost and type of dock for paddle sports. Trustee Zachary spoke about the LWRP, Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan. This give a scope of what the town and village would like to see done to improve the waterfront access. It is also beneficial for getting grant money. Trustee Zachary would like to pitch the plan again to ban parking on one side of Tate Avenue since so many people are out walking and bike riding.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Joe Chindano from 203 Seward Street spoke against the Village instituting a leaf blower law.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:25 PM a MOTION to adjourn this meeting was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.