

**Village of Buchanan  
Mayor & Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
July 5, 2022**

**PRESENT: (This meeting was held live and via Zoom)**

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker  
Trustees Anthony Capicotti (arrived 7:05 P.M.), Steven Laker, Sean Murray,  
Daniel Stewart  
Village Administrator Marcus Serrano  
Village Attorney Stephanie Porteus (via zoom)  
Police Chief Shane Farrell  
Village Clerk, Treasurer Cynthia Kempter  
Deputy Village Clerk Sharon Murphy

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. She led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. APPROVE MINUTES:**

May 24, 2022 Workshop Meeting: A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Stewart with all in favor and Trustee Capicotti absent.

June 7, Board Meeting: A motion to approve these minutes as presented was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Stewart with all in favor and Trustee Capicotti absent.

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

Cesare Pasquale of 97 Tate Avenue welcomed the new police officer.

**4. PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Knickerbocker removed from the agenda the Certificates of Appreciation to the Logo Redesign Contest Winners.

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

a. 2022-16 Resolution and Swearing in of Police Officer Eric Romeo

A motion to approve this as presented was made by Trustee Murray, seconded by Trustee Stewart, with all in favor.

**WHEREAS**, there is a vacancy in the Village Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief of Police Shane Farrell has previously interviewed several candidates for the position; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board has met with his recommended candidate; and

**WHEREAS**, the current candidate is already appointed permanently as a police officer in the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department and is willing to transfer to the Village of Buchanan; and

**WHEREAS**, Eric Romeo has successfully completed a background investigation and medical evaluation and has been approved by Westchester County Civil Service;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Eric Romeo of Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 be and is hereby appointed as Police Officer in the Village of Buchanan Police Department starting July 6, 2022 at a salary of \$96,894.00.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that said Eric Romeo shall arrange for the resignation and reinstatement of his Civil Service status to the Village of Buchanan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the hiring of said officer is subject to the terms and conditions of the Village's Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Federation of Police and any memorandums of understanding thereunder.

b. Motion to Authorize Kino Saito Art Center to Hang a Mural on Village Property at 218 Westchester Avenue

A motion to approve this as presented was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Stewart, with all in favor. Trustee Murray asked if we knew what the art would look like. Village Administrator Serrano explained that they have applied for a grant and then they will create the mural. Trustee Laker said they are working in conjunction with the Buchanan-Verplanck students.

**6. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS:**

a. Justice Reports – May 2022

Received and filed.

- b. Police Report – May 2022

Received and filed.

- c. Highway Report – May 2022

Received and filed.

- d. Wastewater Treatment Plant – May 2022

Wastewater Treatment Plant DEC Inspection Report – June 15, 2022

Received and filed.

- e. Building Department – May 2022

Received and filed.

- f. Buchanan Engine Company – May 2022

Received and filed.

- g. Zoning Board – May 11, 2022

Received and filed.

- h. Prosecutors Report – May 2022

Received and filed.

- i. Attorney's Report

Village Attorney Porteus has nothing to report.

- j. Administrator's Report

Village Administrator Serrano updated the Board on Rt. 9A. There was a delay in materials and they should start on Thursday.

- k. Trustee's Report

Trustee Murray questioned the status of the real estate hiring for the property on Bannon Avenue and Albany Post Road. Village Administrator Serrano has two proposals which he will email to the Board. He also received an inquiry from an

individual who is interested in opening a business. Trustee Murray asked about the broadcast problems and Village Administrator Serrano said the issues have been corrected. Trustee Murray asked if there has been any more contact with the person who wanted the limo company. Village Administrator Serrano replied that the property in question is no longer on the market.

Trustee Laker hoped that everyone had a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Trustee Capicotti put on a great firework show at the Peekskill water front. Trustee Laker mentioned that the Mt. Carmel Society feast starts this Sunday. Trustee Capicotti has put in a lot of time and effort into the event and he hopes everyone will come out and enjoy themselves.

Trustee Stewart said our thoughts and prayers go out to the people in Highland Park with regards to the shooting that took place yesterday.

Trustee Capicotti congratulated Officer Romeo. Trustee Capicotti stated that it is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Lady of Mt. Carmel feast and hopes everyone can attend.

1. Mayor's Report

Mayor Knickerbocker congratulated Trustee Capicotti for being president of the feast on their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mayor Knickerbocker thanked the City of Peekskill for the fireworks display and thanked Police Chief Farrell for coming in on his own time to direct traffic out of Lents Cove. Mayor Knickerbocker congratulated Dwayne Jackson for being inducted into the 2022 NYS Veterans Hall of Fame. Mayor Knickerbocker asked for a moment of silence for Richard Knizeski who is retired from the Highway Department. Mayor Knickerbocker mentioned that people in the circle area are complaining that there is no cell service. Mayor Knickerbocker asked if Village Administrator Serrano could look into this.

7. **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR: None**

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: None**

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:22 P.M. a Motion to adjourn this meeting was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Murray with all in favor.