

**Village of Buchanan
Mayor & Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
November 1, 2022**

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

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker
Trustees Anthony Capicotti, Steven Laker, Sean Murray, Daniel Stewart
Village Administrator Marcus Serrano
Village Attorney Stephanie Porteus
Village Clerk, Treasurer Cynthia Kempter
Deputy Village Clerk Sharon Murphy
Building Inspector Brian Cook
Assistant Building Inspector Peter Cook

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:

September 27, 2022 Workshop Meeting: A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Murray with all in favor.

October 4, 2022 Board Meeting: A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Capicotti with all in favor.

3. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR (agenda items only): None

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consider a Motion to Open the Public Hearing Regarding Passenger Vehicles Turning Left Out of Greentown Road.

A motion to open the public hearing was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Stewart with all in favor.

A couple of years ago, the Board had passed legislation not to allow vehicles to turn left out of Greentown Road onto Bleakley Avenue. There were a lot of heavy-duty vehicles coming through so the Board felt it was better to have them

go out through Louisa Street. A business owner asked if passenger vehicles would be allowed to turn left out of Greentown Road. A sign will be installed stating No Left Turn for Commercial Vehicles. There were no comments.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Laker with all in favor.

- b. Consider a Motion to Install a Sign Stating No Left Turn for Commercial Vehicles Out of Greentown.

A motion to approve this as presented was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Capicotti with all in favor.

- c. Consider a Motion to Open the Public Hearing Regarding Removing the No Right Turn on Red Sign from Broadway to Bleakley Avenue.

A motion to open the public hearing was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Capicotti with all in favor.

Mayor Knickerbocker explained that there is a no right on red sign at the intersection of Broadway and Bleakley Avenue. The Board would like to remove the no turn on red sign so if someone is at the red light at the intersection that can turn right. There were no comments

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Stewart with all in favor.

- d. Consider a Motion to Remove the No Right Turn on Red Sign from Broadway to Bleakley Avenue.

A motion to approve this as presented was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Laker with all in favor.

- e. Consider a Motion to Approve the Filming Permit for American Pickers.

Village Administrator Serrano explained that this is a one day shoot on private property. They have paid the \$2,500 fee.

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

- f. Consider a Motion to Approve the Peddler's Permit for Sunrun.

The Village Board agreed to the hours of 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M., Monday –

Saturday with no holidays.

A motion to approve this as presented was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Capicotti with all in favor.

- g. Consider a Motion to Appoint Roger D. Miller as Part-Time Assessor at a Rate of \$175.00 per hour starting November 2, 2022.

Village Administrator Serrano explained that the assessor reviews all the improvements to properties throughout the Village and calculates a new assessment. Notifications are sent to the residents that are affected by an increase of assessment. Those people can grieve and meet with the assessor on Grievance Night. These new assessments are used for the next tax roll. Mr. Miller is the assessor for the Town/Village of Mt. Kisco and the Village of Croton. We expect to only use him for a few hours a year. Trustee Laker asked when we learned that this was a need and who else did we interview. Village Administrator Serrano replied that the Village of Croton took the lead role because we are trying to work together. They interviewed a couple of assessors and kept us updated. We wanted to piggy back on what they did.

A motion to approve this as presented was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Capicotti with all in favor.

5. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS:

- a. Justice Reports – September 2022

Received and filed.

- b. Police Report – September 2022

Received and filed.

- c. Highway Report – September 2022

Received and filed.

- d. Wastewater Treatment Plant – September 2022

Received and filed.

- e. Building Department – September 2022

Received and filed.

f. Buchanan Engine Company – September 2022

Received and filed.

g. Prosecutor's Report – October 2022

Received and filed.

h. Attorney's Report

Village Attorney Porteus has items for executive session.

i. Administrator's Report

Village Administrator Serrano stated that in reference to the new boiler at Village Hall we hired an engineer who filed the application with Con Edison to change over to gas. Con Ed requires a certified installer to run the pipe from the tap on Tate Avenue to the building. That price will be \$3,755. We need another contractor to dig the trench and do the backfill. We have a proposal of \$1,000 to do the asbestos testing. There will be a bid to go out for the boiler installation. The underground tank will be filled and left in place because it goes under the side of the building, the generator and the sidewalk.

Village Administrator Serrano said that in reference to the poles on Lindsey Avenue, Con Edison has finished their work and has notified Verizon and Altice to move their lines over, which will take a month or two, and then the double poles will come out.

j. Trustee's Report

Trustee Murray stated that at the last workshop they spoke about the Village Administrator pay scale on the website. Trustee Murray suggests the pay scale should be \$120,000 - \$150,000. Mayor Knickerbocker stated that since the Village Administrator's current pay is \$106,000 that the scale should start there. Trustee Murray suggested \$106,000 to \$130,000. Trustee Murray read a letter from the Westchester/Putnam Building Trades Council President William Doyle. This letter was in reference to the solar battery storage facility proposal from Jupiter Power. Trustee Murray wanted to let all the union members know that their people are reaching out and trying to get you jobs to keep you employed. Trustee Murray asked Mayor Knickerbocker to go over the issue that arose at Holtec. Mayor Knickerbocker responded that Holtec has been using a local concrete company. There was an issue with the concrete and Holtec went to a concrete company in Brewster. That company did not want to deliver the

cement for the casks, so Holtec went to a non-union organization. The union came out to show their displeasure that Holtec was not using a union shop.

Trustee Laker thanked the Police and Fire Department for the great job they did on Halloween night.

Trustee Stewart asked if we could revisit the issue with the vacant house on Bannon Avenue since it is an eye sore. Trustee Stewart reminded us that Election Day is on Tuesday and that Veterans Day is coming up. He thanked Trustee Murray for his service.

Trustee Capicotti stated that he had a great night trick or treating with his kids and it was very safe. He thanked the police and fire department. Trustee Capicotti said that he has been a union man for 30 years, but he has an obligation to the Village of Buchanan. It will take one year to put up the butler building for the battery storage. After that, the building will only be manned by a few workers. For a one-year union job, the Village will be stuck with it for 60 years. That property is a valuable piece of property. For \$80,000, he can't see that happening. As a union man, he is obligated to the Village to make the right decision for this community.

k. Mayor's Report

Mayor Knickerbocker stated that no one on the Board is anti-union. We understand that jobs are important for the union people. Mayor Knickerbocker said that Mr. Doyle's letter was not exactly factual. For someone who does not live in this community or pay taxes, for him to basically poo-poo our Village is where she got upset. The Board has discussed the battery storage and they felt that it wasn't in the best interest of the Village. In regards to Buchanan Day, Mayor Knickerbocker thanked the Fire Department for cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs, the Police Department for handing out ice cream, the Beautification Committee, the St. Patricks' Day parade committee, and all the residents who attended. She thanked Holtec for sponsoring Buchanan Day. Mayor Knickerbocker thanked Recreation Supervisor Nancy Bayer for the great job on the Halloween party. She also thanked the Police and Fire Department for patrolling on Halloween. We have a very special community.

6. **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Eileen Absenger thanked Trustee Capicotti for his statement regarding the union. She asked who cleaned up the new sidewalk on Rt. 9A since there is litter all over. Village Administrator Serrano will contract Con Edison since the sidewalk is in front of their property. She asked Trustee Stewart if he had any more information regarding the incident at the school. Trustee Stewart responded that the school board met and put

some things into play so that wouldn't happen again. They put restrictions on the playground and on children not being supervised. Eileen suggested everyone sign up for the emails from the High School.

Mayor Knickerbocker stated that Town is having a ceremony at the Muriel Morabito Center on Veterans Day at 1:00 P.M.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 7:47P.M. a Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss contractual and legal issues was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Stewart with all in favor.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:47 P.M. a Motion to exit executive session was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Capicotti with all in favor.

At 8:47 P.M. a Motion to adjourn this meeting was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Stewart with all in favor. No monies were expended.