

**Village of Buchanan
Mayor & Board of Trustees
Annual Organizational Meeting
Monday, April 1, 2013**

PRESENT:

Mayor Sean Murray

Trustees Theresa Knickerbocker, Richard Funchion, and Nicholas Zachary and Duane Jackson

Village Administrator Kevin Hay

Village Attorney Stephanie Porteus

ABSENT:

Village Board Secretary Susan F. Matthews (sick)

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Murray opened the meeting at 7:30 PM, welcomed everyone, informed them of the fire regulations and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. READ RESULTS OF THE MARCH 19, 2013 VILLAGE ELECTION:

Mayor Murray read the results of the March 19, 2013 Village Election (*copy attached*).

3. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Trustee Knickerbocker's mother Mary administered the Oath of Office to Trustee Knickerbocker. Mayor Murray administered the Oath of Office to Trustee Jackson. Mayor Murray congratulated both on their election.

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

None.

5. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR:

Mayor Murray appointed Trustee Theresa Knickerbocker as Deputy Mayor for the "Official Year 2013-2014" (*copy attached*).

6. APPOINTMENTS TO ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD:

Mayor Murray made the appointments to the Assessment Review Board (*copy attached*).

A MOTION to adopt these appointments as presented was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor. Mayor Murray thanked Susan Giuliano who has been a member of the Assessment Review Board for many years and was willing to continue in that capacity.

7. **MAYOR'S ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS** (including Planning and Zoning Boards):

Mayor Murray made the appointments (*copy attached*).

A MOTION to adopt these appointments as presented was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor. Mayor Murray said that the majority of these appointments are to people who have held these positions in the past. There are two new people on the Planning Board: Gary Bell and Michelle O'Neill. Mario Cilento, the part-time caretaker is also new. He was appointed 7 months ago and he has to be appointed on a yearly basis.

All were in favor of these annual appointments.

8. **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES:**

Mayor Murray made the appointments to committees (*copy attached*). These are mayoral appointments which do not require a Motion.

9. **13-09 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MEETING DATES, ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE AND OPEN MEETINGS LAW, SETTING DATES FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TENTATIVE 2013-2014 VILLAGE BUDGET, DESIGNATING VILLAGE DEPOSITORIES, DESIGNATING OFFICAL VILLAGE NEWSPAPER, ESTABLISHING THE MILEAGE ALLOWANCE RATE FOR REIMBURSEMENT, ADOPTING VILLAGE PROCUREMENT POLICY, ADOPTING VILLAGE FEE SCHEDULE, AND AUTHORIZATION TO ATTEND CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS.**

Mayor Murray read the Resolution (*copy attached*).

All were in favor of this Resolution.

10. **COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS:**

Trustee Zachary congratulated Trustees Knickerbocker and Jackson and said he was very pleased to have them on the Board again.

Trustee Zachary reminded everyone that we will have a Park Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 20. Everybody in the Village has gotten a copy of the flyer with their Village Newsletter. Everyone is meeting at 9 AM at the Lent's Cove parking lot. If anyone needs more information, they can access it on the Village web site.

Trustee Zachary reported that he has done some research on a possible prescription drug turn in program, which he has discussed at past meetings. Some neighboring municipalities already do this. It is already being done in Ossining and Croton. There are events that are done in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). They are done twice a year. There will be a Pharmaceutical Turn In Day on April 27. When the DEA does this, they do it on that day. There are other municipalities where they sponsor it. We are not set up for this but Trustee Zachary wanted people to know that if you do want to turn in prescription medications that you do not want around the house any more, the old solution was to flush them down the toilet. But now they are finding this stuff in the environment and they are requesting that as much as possible that people turn them in. They are incinerated but that seems better to Trustee Zachary than throwing it in the ponds and rivers. April 27 is the next one at various locations. Look on the DEA web site or go to the Croton Commons where there will be a pop up tent set up where the DEA and the Croton Police will be accepting prescriptions drugs that you want to turn in. Trustee Zachary commented that some of these are not good to have around the house because in some cases, kids get hold of them – noting that we have heard about that problem - and also for environmental purposes. He believes the hours are from 10 AM to 3 PM but people should check with the Village of Croton for the exact time.

Trustee Funchion congratulated Trustees Jackson and Knickerbocker. He commented that they are a very good addition back to the Board. He really enjoys working with both them. Both of them are very hard working and he welcomed them back. He thanked all the people who took the time to come out to vote. It is very important that they took the time to come out and vote. He thinks people in Buchanan can pat themselves on the back because overall, compared to the rest of the country, more people came out to vote in Buchanan percentage wise than the rest of the country, even in the national elections. He thanked everyone who came out to vote.

Trustee Funchion reported that the Saint Patrick's Day Parade was a great success. He personally wanted to thank the co-chairs, Karen Park and Sherry Jahoda, who do a monumental amount of the work that goes into it. This year they even had the committee put together a different type of a journal and they did a lot of the fund raising on their own. Trustee Funchion thanked the entire committee. All the members do a lot of work. It was a great success. There were some complaints about the garbage that was left after the parade. The committee tries to pick up as much as they can after the parade but they would like to see any of the residents pick up after themselves on that particular day. He also knows that there are a lot of people who come from outside the community.

Trustee Funchion commented that he and Trustee Zachary walked around Lent's Cove in preparation for the Earth Day clean up. He wants people who come out for the Clean Up Day to be careful when they are walking the trail because there is litter in different places. They should be especially careful when they walk around with their children and to take care and hold their hand because the trail does go by the side of the river.

Trustee Jackson thanked all the Village residents, especially those he had the opportunity to meet when he and Trustee Knickerbocker went around the Village and talked to people. As a resident of the Village for the last 19 years, he said it made him proud to come and get an opportunity to meet a lot of his neighbors. He commented that for a lot of people like him who own a business in New York City, you get up and go into the City and you come home and do activities with your children at the schools. You do not really get an opportunity to really have “one on ones” with people. It was so refreshing to him to meet a lot of his neighbors whom he had not had an opportunity to meet with. To have former Trustee Jane Hitney come up for our Saint Patrick’s Day Parade and tell him that he is filling out her shoes quite well was a great feeling to hear from her. We have a great quality of life here in the Village. He commended all those who come out to vote. He commends all the work our Fire Department and Police Department do. He commends all of them and each and every resident. Trustee Jackson commented that we get the democracy that we deserve by participation. He commented that as Trustee Funchion noted, in our Village that participation is very high. We should be very proud of that and strive to do even better. He is putting out to all those people like his soon to be 18 year old and soon to be graduate of Hendrick Hudson High School that they register and get out to vote and to get involved in local affairs in whatever community they are in because that is how democracy works.

Trustee Knickerbocker thanked her mother for administering her Oath of Office. Trustee Knickerbocker commented that during their campaigning, they are out constantly and constantly talking to people going door to door. She thanked her mother for putting up with her during that time. She thanked everyone who has supported her over the years and continues to do so. She feels it is a great honor to serve on this Board. It is an honor to serve this community. She commented that she is probably considered an “old timer”. She has lived here all her life. Her mother’s family lived across the street from the house her parents built in the 1960s. Her mother’s brothers and sisters were born in the house across the street so her family has been here for many generations. Trustee Knickerbocker said that she has lived to see the many changes that have gone on in the Village. It is a great community. There are a lot of good people here. It is what makes her job that much easier being on this Board. She said that we know that a lot of municipalities are facing challenges. We are all a part of this economic down turn that we are in. She wants everyone to know that this Board works very hard for this Village and will continue to do so and continue to do what is right for everyone in the Village. They will do whatever is in the best interests of all the residents. She thanked the Mayor for appointing her as Deputy Mayor. It is a great honor for her to fill in when he has a conflict. The last conflict was when the Mayor had to be at another event involving a Village resident and we had the Saint Patrick Day’s Parade dinner where we had to present some proclamations. It is always an honor for her to represent the Village. Trustee Knickerbocker commented that this is her home and her community.

Trustee Knickerbocker commented that it was said that this is a one party Board. That is not the case. She noted that she is an Independent with the support in the last couple of years of the Democrats. She thanked them for that support. She commented that the Board we have now are independent thinkers. They all come from different backgrounds and they each bring different things to the Board which makes it a very good Board. They work together. They do not always agree on everything but they can respectfully disagree with one another. She looks forward to serving another term on the Board and continuing to work with this team.

Mayor Murray thanked everyone for coming out to vote. He concurred with the comments of the other Board members that we want to get as much participation as we can. The Mayor commented that we have a small community. We operate differently than other municipalities around us. It is great when we can get people to come out. This year we saw a little below what our average has been. The Mayor encouraged everyone to come back out. He thanked Trustees Knickerbocker and Jackson for running again. He looks forward to working with them. He commented that as Trustee Knickerbocker said, the Workshop meetings can sometimes be entertaining. They are a little less formal and sometimes things can get a little heated. The Mayor commented that everybody has different ideas but we try to come together for the common good of the public. It has worked out so far over these past couple of years. He encouraged everyone to come out to the meeting next week when we will discuss the budget. We have a lot of budgetary challenges this year. More so than last year because New York State has imposed what the Mayor thinks are somewhat reckless requirements on us when it comes to the retirement and medical contributions. The rates have gone up astronomically. We were not able to budget for them last year because they were so far above the estimate of what we had last year. The Mayor believes that because we have Board members who, as Trustee Knickerbocker said, have different backgrounds and have the best interests of the residents in mind, we can come up with some creative ideas.

Mayor Murray thanked Sherry Jahoda and Karen Park for the Saint Patrick Day's parade. It was well attended. We did not have any complaints about the people who were in the parade. Last year, we had some issues with some things. Everything worked out well. The pavilion was in good shape. We had everybody come back to the pavilion. The Mayor feels that everything worked out well. It took a lot of effort on their part. He is glad that the residents were able to enjoy it.

Mayor Murray reported that he spoke with the Cortlandt Little League this weekend. Last month, we had authorized the use of the pavilion for a tag sale to help them raise funds. They also operate on a tight budget. All their funds are through donations. They were very appreciative that we were able to give them the use of the pavilion. They were successful. They raised a good amount of money. They asked that the Mayor relay their thanks to our residents for allowing them to do that. The Mayor noted that we always try to help and support all of our non-profits, especially for the youth of the community.

Mayor Murray welcomed Gary Bell back onto the Zoning Board. He noted that Mr. Bell had started on the Zoning Board many years ago before being elected as a Trustee where he served for a long time. The Mayor is glad that he is able to come back and serve the residents. He has a lot of knowledge. He has been here for many years and is very familiar with the zoning codes. The Mayor is sure that he is going to be a great addition to the Zoning Board. Mayor Murray also welcomed Michelle O'Neil to the Planning Board. She has some planning background and is very enthusiastic. It is a new position for her. She has never been an appointed official before. The Mayor commented that it may be a steep learning curve but he is sure that with her Planning background she will be able to contribute a lot. He thanked her for contributing her time to the residents of the Village.

Mayor Murray announced that following the meeting, there will be refreshments downstairs.

Mayor Murray was happy to see such a good attendance tonight. He commented that a lot of times over the past year or two, we have not anyone in the audience. He noted that Eileen Absenger attends every meeting. He encouraged everyone to come out to the Board meetings and the Workshops. You will get the true feeling for how hard the people on the Board work to try to do what is right for the residents. Everybody has their own different lives and comes from different aspects of society and really wants to do what is best for the residents.

11. **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Eileen Absenger, Tate Avenue, congratulated Trustees Knickerbocker and Jackson on their election. She commented that she and Don Zern, who is currently in rehab following surgery, attend every Workshop meeting. She encouraged other residents to come out and enjoy the conversation, the bantering and the ideas that are brought up. She commented that she had commended this Board at the last Workshop. She feels that even though it is primarily Democratic with one Independent, they have been diligent in keeping down costs where they could. She commented that they are up against a big, big, turn around in regards to what is happening from the State. So residents should come out to hear what they have to say, to watch them go through this budget and try to keep the costs down. She commented that last year they kept cutting and cutting and cutting, and she does not know where they are going to cut from now. It is going to be an interesting process. She congratulated the entire Board and wished them good luck.

Eileen Absenger wanted to know what had happened to the clock in the Circle. It was not working; then it was working again; then it was not working. Village Administrator Hay advised that we were having some issues. It is setting off a circuit breaker. Mayor Murray advised that we are having some electrical issues that cause it to trip the circuit breaker and shut off. We had some troubleshooting done but it did not come up with the exact cause. It is still being worked on.

Trustee Zachary announced a correction to the time for the Pharmaceutical Turn In Day on April 27. He checked the DEA web site. The time will be from 10 AM to 2 PM.

12. **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:03 PM a MOTION to adjourn this meeting was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.