

Village of Buchanan  
Mayor & Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
November 4, 2013

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Sean Murray

Trustees Trustee Knickerbocker, Richard A. Funchion, Nicholas Zachary and Duane M. Jackson

Village Administrator Kevin Hay

Village Board Secretary Susan F. Matthews

**ABSENT:**

Village Attorney Stephanie V. Porteus

**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. APPROVE MINUTES:**

September 17, 2013 Workshop: Trustee Zachary made a correction on page 10, 6th line down, change expenses to \$29,000. A MOTION to adopt these minutes as amended was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Knickerbocker with all in favor and Trustee Funchion abstaining as he was not present at that meeting.

October 7, 2013 Regular Board Meeting: A MOTION to adopt these minutes as read was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.

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

None.

**4. NEW BUSINESS:**

None. Mayor Murray advised that there were no resolutions to be passed this month.

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

a) Justice Court Report – September 2013

Received

b) Wastewater Reports – October 2013

Received

c) Planning Board Minutes – September 17, 2013

Received.

Mayor Murray noted that they were missing page 2. Village Administrator Hay will provide a set of amended minutes to the Board.

d) Fire Inspector's Report – October 2013

Received

e) Police Reports – September 2013

Received.

Mayor Murray noted that our Police Department has been very active. There were 15 arrests. One was drug related. This is the second month in a row that more people were arrested than the police officers being needed for medical aid. They have been very active. They responded to over 115 complaints this past month. They are doing a great job. He appreciates everything they are doing. The Mayor commented that he can only imagine how much worse this village would be if we did not have our police. He said that these reports are very important to have so we know the activity that is going on and the activity the department is taking care of. Trustee Zachary thanked the Village Administrator and the Police Chief for adding the drug arrests category.

f) Attorney's Report

Mayor Murray advised that Village Attorney Porteus was not present due to a family matter.

g) Trustee's Reports

Trustee Zachary encouraged everybody to get out and vote for whomever you support. He commented that the system works best when everybody participates.

Trustee Jackson encouraged everyone to exercise democracy. Our system is very important. He hopes all our Village residents come out and vote.

Trustee Jackson announced that the Village Historical Society meeting will be held on November 7 at 6:00 PM. Any Village resident is invited to join. They can contact him at (914) 548-9339.

Trustee Jackson thanked all the residents of the Village, Town of Cortlandt and Peekskill who came to the veterans' rally at the Montrose VA Hospital. There was a great attendance. Many local officials were there. We have to continue to be vigilant with what is going on at the hospital. He commented that it is not only veterans like himself who go there for out-patient services, it is a great employment engine for our area and the lower Hudson Valley. Trustee Jackson will keep everyone posted going forward as to other actions that are taken. They have contacted General Shinseki, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. We need to monitor what is going on and stay on top of it. He salutes the other Village Trustees who were there for their diligence in working toward making sure that we keep this VA facility open and vital, and there for new veterans who may need these services in the future.

Trustee Funchion reported that he attended the protest at the VA Hospital. He wanted to remind everybody that they should write or contact their Senators and Congress people because for the whole area, in contrast to the amount of money being spent in states like California and Texas, we are getting the short end of the stick with the Department of Defense monies and Veterans Affairs monies that come out of Washington D.C.. He commented that the amount of defense money being spent in Texas is unbelievable compared to New York and New Jersey where very little is being spent. We have a lot of veterans who need this help, especially in today's world with people coming back with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. It is the least that can be given to the veterans who live here in the Northeast. He feels that an overwhelming amount of money is being given to other places like Texas. Trustee Funchion said to contact the Senators and ask why we are not getting our fair share of the defense spending money.

Trustee Funchion reminded that this Monday is Veteran's Day. The Town of Cortlandt will have a ceremony at 12:30 PM at the Morabito Center. It is always a nice affair. It gives a well earned round of applause to the people who serve our country. He encourages everyone to come out.

Trustee Funchion wished everybody all the caring love of their family at Thanksgiving and hopes everyone is lucky enough to spend and celebrate the day with the family. He commented that it is truly the one American holiday that all Americans can celebrate. It is a day when families come together. He wished a great Thanksgiving to everybody.

Trustee Knickerbocker noted that Trustee Jackson had gotten some signatures to make the Montrose VA a historical status. She was approached by somebody who advised that they are still collecting signatures. She would like to put the petition in the Village Hall for anyone who would like to put their name on it. It would be greatly appreciated.

Trustee Knickerbocker reported that on Saturday, December 7 at 10 AM at the Cortlandt Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps in Montrose, they will have Heart Saver Training. It will include CPR, first aid and the AED (defibrillator). It is a 2-3 hour program. You will get a Heart Saver certificate that is good for two years. It is open to any resident who wants to receive this training. Teenagers are welcome. There is no cost for this training. Trustee Knickerbocker commented that we have a great Police Department and a great Fire Department. If there is ever a problem or somebody gets ill, someone will be there within minutes. When someone has a heart attack or there is an emergency, every minute counts. It is important that everybody knows and understands how to do CPR and first aid. There will be a sign up sheet in the Village Hall. It will be on the Buchanan Channel and in the next Newsletter. There is room for 45 people. It is at 10 AM for 2-3 hours at the CCVAC building in Montrose. Trustee Zachary commented that AED defibrillator is also a good thing to know how to use. They save lives. They are kept in more and more places. We have one here at the Village Hall. He thanked the Cortlandt Ambulance Corp.

#### h) Mayor's Report

Mayor Murray thanked Nancy Bayer, Sharon Murphy and Trustee Knickerbocker for helping with the Halloween Parade. It was well attended and full of kids. Everybody had a great time. The Mayor noted that a few years ago the turnout had dwindled. Nancy Bayer worked hard to put together different kinds of programs and it is showing results. It is bringing a benefit to the Village. The Mayor thanked the Police and Fire Departments for patrolling during Halloween. We had no incidents. He is sure that when everyone saw the police and firemen out there and that they were able to communicate with each other if they saw any problems, people knew they could not get away with any problems.

Mayor Murray said that as residents have seen, our paving for this year is wrapping up. Most of our curb repairs are complete. We are currently doing repairs on Broadway on the swales that were washed out in one of the hurricanes. All of the repairs being done on Broadway are from FEMA money. It did not come from any of our budget. It was due to the Village Administrator filling out all the necessary paperwork. It was a very arduous task but we were able to get the money from the Federal government which some places seem to have difficulty getting. The Mayor said that Village Administrator Hay did a great job. By repairing these swales and the drainage on Broadway, it stops the road from being damaged. Some of the road was starting to erode because it did not have proper drainage.

Mayor Murray reported that the pavilion was sealed. It had some issues with a lot of cracks. There was not a lot of maintenance being done. We have now sealed the pavilion at a cost savings of about \$900 because our Highway Department people did it. We did not contract it

out. The Mayor said that we will have our people do a lot more of this work. It saves us money and it is the best way to do it.

Mayor Murray encouraged everyone to vote. It is important that everyone voice their opinion. He commented that he knows that we do not have any Village elections but we do have a lot of local elections.

Mayor Murray said that last month the Board discussed a proposed zoning amendment for the Griffin Landscaping property on Broadway. The Mayor asked the Board members if they want Mr. Griffin to return to a Workshop to discuss what the Board had discussed, or to have him fill out an application for the zoning and planning process. Trustee Zachary felt that it would be a good idea to have him come back to a Workshop because any change to the zoning has to be specific. Trustee Zachary thinks it is best that the Board is on the same page as Mr. Griffin. We do not want to approve a change to zoning that does not serve their purpose and that they are not looking for something that we do not want to give. Trustee Jackson agreed. The Mayor advised that we will have Mr. Griffin come back to the November Workshop. We will go over his proposed text amendment as well as what we had discussed at the last Workshop. The Mayor advised the Village Administrator that if he wanted to, he could forward the notes he had taken to Mr. Griffin. Trustee Knickerbocker noted that the Workshop will be on November 19 and anyone who wished to attend was welcome. The Mayor explained that this was not a formal application as yet. What the Board has done with a lot of property owners who want to do certain types of business or zoning changes before they go through the entire zoning process and expend a lot of funds, if they like they can come and talk to the Board at a Workshop meeting. It is not on a formal basis. It does not cost them a lot of money. The applicant gets a feel for how the elected officials would feel about their proposed zoning amendment. Zoning amendments have to be passed by the Village Board. We do not feel that it is right to put somebody through a large expense when the project would not be feasible in the beginning. We like people to come and talk with us, to help them out and save them as much money as possible.

Trustee Knickerbocker commented that she has had a lot of people approach her about this. She is sure that the applicant will do a presentation. She noted that they were supposed to come back to the Board with some other information.

Mayor Murray wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

The Mayor commented that this was a short Board meeting because we did not have any resolutions to be passed. Next month, we should have some resolutions and Public Hearings.

## **6. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Don Zern, Westchester Avenue, thanked Karen Park and the members of the Trinity-Boscobel Methodist Church for donating all the pumpkins that are out in the Village Circle. Mr. Zern said that we are very fortunate that during Halloween none of them were destroyed. A few were missing but have been replaced.

Mr. Zern wished good luck to our candidates who are running for election. He encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

Eileen Absenger, Tate Avenue, wanted to know where the Historical Society meeting would be held. Trustee Jackson advised that it will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at Village Hall.

Ms. Absenger wanted to know if the 15 arrests on the Police Report were drug arrests. Mayor Murray advised that it was 15 total arrests with 1 drug arrest. Ms. Absenger wanted to know if that gets passed to the high school for their awareness. She commented that we have a new School Superintendent who is very interested in knowing what is going on in the tri-Village area of our district. She feels this is something he would like to know and that it would be nice if our Police Department advised him of this. She commented that the school brought the police dogs in once to check out the high school. We are part of the Hendrick Hudson School District and Ms. Absenger feels it important that our Police Department stays in contact whether through a Board meeting, through the Board of Education members or directly to the Superintendent. Mayor Murray will ask the Police Chief to set up a meeting with the School Superintendent. The Mayor advised that just because a person is arrested, they are not convicted so there are certain things that cannot be divulged. Ms. Absenger commented that she just wants them to be made aware because the School Board and Superintendent want to make sure that our District cleans its act up because unfortunately it has a terrible reputation.

Ms. Absenger wanted to know if when Griffin Landscaping is invited back to the Workshop, is everyone encouraged to attend. The Mayor said that everyone is encouraged to attend every public meeting we have whether it is a Workshop or a Board meeting. He noted that some have been poorly attended. There have been Workshop meetings where no members of the public attended. He encourages residents to come to every Workshop. It is an informal setting. They are not televised. We do keep minutes. We just want to give the applicant a fair share for the least amount of expenditure. Ms. Absenger commented especially because it is such a large project that he is proposing. There are pros and cons to it. She commented that everybody on the Board is aware of that but there may be members of the community who have concerns as they hear about this project. The Mayor said that the formal process would be for Mr. Griffin to put in an application and then you would have the Public Hearing where people would come and voice all their concerns. The Mayor advised that right now, this is just to see if he should expend all those funds to get to that stage where the public would be notified, registered mail would be sent out and it would be posted all over. Then we would have to set another public meeting for

the zoning phase where you would have another Public Hearing and more resolutions. The Mayor commented that the Board's availing itself to an applicant is in no way, shape or form to circumvent any of our formal processes. We have plenty of formal processes where the applicant has to notify the public and the public has their chance to speak. This is basically to give him a feel of what we feel are the concerns that the public and the Board would have and to save him some money. Ms. Absenger commented that she attends all the meetings. She would like to see more residents come out because she feels it is important. She believes you would get a different flavor than from the formal Board meetings. At the Workshop there is more discussion and you get more of the comments of the Board members. The Workshops are more relaxed than the regular Board meetings.

Ms. Absenger wished the candidates good luck and encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

Trustee Zachary commented that at the last Workshop when the Board heard from the Recreation Supervisor, a question came up concerning a propane tank at the pool and the condition of the hot water tank. He wanted to know what was determined. Mayor Murray advised that the hot water heater is not working and will be replaced with an electric hot water heater. We are going to do a lot of plumbing there. We have a repair plan together. The Village Administrator is coordinating with the Highway Foreman to facilitate those types of repairs. The Mayor noted that one of the reasons the pavilion was worked on was because of the Recreation Supervisor's recommendations.

Trustee Zachary wanted to know if any other lingering matters would be discussed at the next Workshop, like the contract negotiations that are coming up and a discussion of the PILOT agreement. Mayor Murray said that he did not want to discuss the PILOT agreement as of yet because we have to coordinate with other municipalities. He did not recall if he had talked about this at a public meeting but he and the Village Administrator were on a conference call with all the other taxing districts in New York that have nuclear plants. He advised that we are coming together with a strategy to negotiate PILOT programs. We have not received any feedback from the different counties as of yet. We are formulating a plan together. The Mayor does not think those types of negotiations are for public discussion. He advised that according to how time permits following the Griffin project discussion, they could finish up the contract inputs. He requested the Board members to be prepared to finish up inputs on the contract.

Trustee Knickerbocker wanted to know if the pavilion was now sealed up well enough that if it got cold enough and we wanted to, we could flood it. Mayor Murray advised that we will talk with our insurance carrier and then we can give it a try.

## **7. BOARD MEMBER REBUTTALS:**

None.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:57 PM a MOTION to adjourn this meeting was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.