

**Village of Buchanan
Mayor & Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
February 3, 2014**

PRESENT:

Mayor Sean Murray

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

Village Administrator Kevin Hay

Village Attorney Stephanie V. Porteus

Village Board Secretary Susan F. Matthews

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:

December 17, 2013 Workshop Meeting: A MOTION to accept these minutes as read was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Knickerbocker with all in favor.

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

Brian Smith, 110 Westchester Avenue, commented on the Resolution authorizing the Mayor to extend the contract with the Police Chief. He remembers that just a few short years ago former Mayor Al Donahue appointed his daughter and that created a big uproar. He remembers that this room was full from one end to the other. People were outside the door. They were so upset about the Mayor appointing his family member. Mr. Smith commented that he vividly remembered that Mayor Murray and Trustee Knickerbocker were especially and equally both very much against it and felt that there was no case and no reason for the Mayor to be doing that; that there were other ways and venues for doing that. Mr. Smith commented that now here we are wanting to extend the Police Chief's contract and the Police Chief is the Mayor's cousin. Mayor Murray advised that the Police Chief is a distant relative through marriage. Mr. Smith commented that he does not know how he can bring this forward now, knowing that he is related to the Mayor. He did not know how Trustee Knickerbocker can vote on it because he knows that she was very much against the previous debacle we had with Mayor Donahue. Mr. Smith commented that he is not sure about Trustee Zachary or Trustee Funchion. He knows that when they ran and when Al Donahue was unseated, he remembers them speaking vividly about how we just cannot have this happening in our Village government and that there has to be another

method for doing this. Mr. Smith said this was nothing against Chief Tubbs. He commented but if the Mayor is going to be out of office in another month or so and Chief Tubb's contract does not expire until the end of May, then what is the rush. He wanted to know if it is that important that the Mayor get this contract signed and taken care of before he leaves office. Mr. Smith said that his comment from the floor is that the Mayor is setting a very bad precedent and it is very unnerving. Mayor Murray thanked him for his comments.

Eileen Absenger, 138 Tate Avenue, said that her comments on the Police Chief's contract have nothing to do with the Chief or his abilities or how he serves us. She commented that with the "PILOT or not PILOT?" coming up, the Algonquin Gas line, the West Point Partners electric line, our illustrious Governor Cuomo who really hates Entergy and all those nuclear plants, and the fact that this is a five-year contract, she would like to know what the hurry is. She wanted to know why we have to do it before the Mayor is out of office. She does not know why we cannot do a one year contract until we know where our ducks are in regards to finances, because we do not know if anything is going to come down in addition to the school for Common Core in the next few years and how that will impact us in addition to the Village taxes. She feels that everybody kind of lumps everything together. The other contracts are coming up. She commented that there is nothing wrong with the contracts but she does not understand a 5 year one versus a 1 year until we know where we stand with anything that is mandated that we are going to have to put onto. She commented that the Mayor had mentioned \$43,000 from someplace, but she does not remember exactly where, which averages out to about 3% over the additional whatever. So she feels that the 5 years is just too much. Mayor Murray thanked her for her comments.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a) 14-06 RESOLUTION APPOINTING INSPECTORS OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTION.

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

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

b) 14-07 RESOLUTION STATING THE DATE, PLACE, HOURS FOR INSPECTORS TO MEET FOR VILLAGE REGISTRATION AND ELECTION OFFICE OF VILLAGE JUSTICE.

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

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

In response to the question from Trustee Zachary, Village Administrator Hay advised that these postings will be posted in front of the Community Room at Village Hall as well as the Village Clerk's Office and that those are the usual spots.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:40 PM, a MOTION to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Police Chief's contract was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Knickerbocker with all in favor.

At 8:03 PM, a MOTION to exit Executive Session was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.

Mayor Murray advised that they entered into Executive Session to discuss the Police Chief's contract.

c) 14-08 RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE CONTRACT WITH POLICE CHIEF AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT WITH THE POLICE CHIEF.

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

Mayor Murray commented that he knows that sometimes the words in the Resolutions are a little difficult to understand. He advised that what the Board is doing is that they are going to extend the Police Chief's contract but the terms and conditions as to salary increase, personal days, holidays and contingencies are going to be based upon the negotiations between the union and the Village. The Police Chief will not receive any pay increase other than what the union employees will receive, as well as the personal days and holidays. That is all going to be part of the negotiations. Although his contract is being extended, a lot of the terms and conditions in that contract are going to be based on what the union receives through the contract negotiation.

Trustee Knickerbocker commented that she is going to be voting against it. She said that definitely has nothing against the Police Chief. She has known him many years. He has done a good job here in the Village. She noted that she was not swayed this evening by any comments that were made in this room. She commented that she has to vote in the way that she thinks is in the best interest of the Village. She noted that the PILOT Program expires next year, as Ms. Absenger had said. Trustee Knickerbocker commented that of course we are going to aggressively pursue the best settlement we can get for the Village, whether it is a new PILOT

Program or whether that is putting Entergy back on the tax rolls. That remains to be seen. There are a lot of things going on. She prefers not to get into a 5 year contract. She thinks we need flexibility because of the unknown. She commented again that it was nothing against the Police Chief. He has done a great job for the Village.

Trustee Funchion commented that having worked all his life in law enforcement, he thinks it is very important that the Police Chief or the individual in charge of law enforcement officers is a good solid person. Trustee Funchion feels that Chief Tubbs is that. Trustee Funchion commented that he has witnessed him and is very happy with his service. He thinks it is very important being that Chief Brian Tubbs is a member of management, that management and bargaining units in this contract are usually kept separate. Trustee Funchion was surprised that here they are both on the same cycle. Therefore, he thinks it is important that that cyclical continuity be broken and that the management person be given contracts at a different time. He wanted to emphasize that it is very important that the top person in law enforcement has to be good and solid and for that reason he thinks it is very important to have this stability there and to know it is going to be there for 5 years. He commented that whether or not the PILOT Program is changed, whether we are getting more money in tax revenue, whether all these other things can happen, we are going and acting on this contract based upon that this Village will be here for many, many years to come and be very viable. Therefore based upon that, he fully supports giving Chief Brian Tubbs his 5 year contract.

Trustee Funchion commented that as far as the relativity of the individual, to him third and fourth cousins are far different than appointing a daughter to the job. He feels that goes without saying. He did not know in any shape, way or form, anything about that particular thing. He is voting to extend this contract based upon Chief Tubbs' merit and based upon it being for the good of the people of Buchanan because he is a very good leader in law enforcement.

Trustee Zachary commented that Trustee Funchion expressed what he wanted to say better than he would have said it. Trustee Zachary supports the new contract. Concerning the collective bargaining agreement, the process has begun on that. Both the Police Chief's contract and the other police officers' contract will hopefully be addressed in the first half of this year. Trustee Zachary feels that it is good to resolve this separately from the other contract. He feels that the Police Chief has done a great job. He commented that we are not giving away the store here. We are just stabilizing his position for the next 5 years. Most of the aspects of the contracts will still be keyed to whatever is negotiated through the collective bargaining process.

Trustee Jackson supports the rehiring of the Police Chief and the contract. He did have a few thoughts in terms of the length of the contract. Unlike Trustee Funchion, he thinks we should have those two contracts tied together. He commented that from a layman's point of view, once we have negotiated with the other police members, we will be able to kind of look at that at that

particular time and then decide going forward how the Police Chief's contract is going to weigh into that. Trustee Jackson gave his whole hearted support for his continued service to the Village and will vote for the contract in its present form.

Mayor Murray noted that the Police Chief does not receive any overtime. The Mayor commented that he always felt that management should be compensated for their work. A lot of their subordinates receive their monetary compensation at a higher rate than him because that is part of their contract. The Mayor commented that he was glad to say that the Police Chief was willing to allow the negotiations with the union to determine the majority of the terms and conditions of this contract. The Mayor commented that when you have a higher level of accountability, when you are the head of a department, even though we have a small one, there are a lot of ancillary duties that he has to maintain. He has to coordinate with many outside agencies. He is a lead person for the law enforcement within the Village. It is important that we have that stability and that security. The Mayor said that he has always supported the Police Department and will continue to support them no matter how much we have to pay in taxes to keep that basic need here. We always want to have a Police Department and we are always going to need a Police Chief. The Mayor thinks that it is important that the Police Chief has that stability in his employment for anything that might happen in the future.

A MOTION to adopt this Resolution as presented was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary and adopted by a vote of 4-1 with Mayor Murray, Trustees Funchion, Jackson and Zachary in favor and Trustee Knickerbocker opposed.

5. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS:

- a) Justice Court Report – December 2013
Received.

Mayor Murray noted that this month we only received what the fines were. Generally, we receive the Court Activity Report. For some reason we did not receive it. Village Administrator Hay advised that it did not come down. He advised that he put a note in the Court's box to get that next month because we usually receive it. He put a note in the box to reach out to the Court Clerk to make sure that we get these from now on. The Mayor wanted to know when the reports were submitted. He noted that these logs were dated January 7. Village Administrator Hay advised that it was probably the second week in January. He put a note in their box a week ago. He knows that they have not had court because of the snow. He will follow up with them and make sure that we get them next month. Mayor Murray said that he should inquire that if for some reason they do not wish to supply these reports, if he could get something in writing as to why the reporting to the Village Board has been changed. He noted that it has been customary that we have been able to see the activity of the court and the number of people seen. We are

supposed to be able to cross-reference these numbers. It is the Village Board's responsibility to audit the court. He does not feel that to just see the amount collected really is an audit. The Mayor directed the Village Administrator that if there is an issue with that to get them to send a letter and notify the Village Board.

b) Wastewater Reports – January 2014
Received.

c) Police Reports – December 2013
Received.

Mayor Murray commented that one of our residents who wanted to discuss what our Village Police Department's monthly activity was had suggested that this report be read. He would therefore read it at this time. (The Mayor read the report.)

Trustee Zachary noted that on the Police Reports, we are now listing that two of the arrests were drug related. He commented that the tangent is the unfortunate news that over the last week or so, there have been a few young people in the area who died from heroin overdoses. He commented that these are young kids. His son who is in college knows a couple of them. They are from neighborhood families. He remarked that it is a fine line sometimes. It does not take much for a kid to go to the wrong path. People are being exposed to this. Trustee Zachary wants to push something that he brought up over the last year. It is if we can get our Village Hall set up for a drop off for prescription drugs. He has seen news reports on t.v. and in articles he read in the newspaper all referencing that almost in every case, these kids are starting with prescription drugs. They can open the medicine cabinet and get that leftover half of a prescription from when somebody had a tooth pulled for example, or an appendix removed and the stuff is still sitting there. Quite often when they go to get that stuff on the black market, the illegal market, it is very expensive and quite often that is why people go to heroin because it is very cheap. It is very dangerous and it is killing people. Trustee Zachary commented that we do not have that much power over this but if there is one little thing we can do, he would like to push and urge again that we talk to the proper people and find out. He knows that there are special regulations but feels that it is very "do-able". There are sources in the County that will help you set it up. He noted that Eileen Absenger had the name of the officer in Croton. He had spoken to him and has it written down at home. Trustee Zachary noted that the police here know who operates and is in charge of that in Croton and they can get advice from him. Village Administrator Hay advised that he can talk to the Croton Village Manager and he can work with Police Chief Tubbs. Trustee Zachary feels it is very "do-able". It is a little step but anything we can do is important.

d) Fire Inspector Report – December 2013 & January 2014

Received.

e) Attorney's Report:

Village Attorney Porteus commented that Somers has a prescription drug drop off. She commented that you would not believe the amount of prescription drugs. There are narcotics that are getting dropped off. It is the hope there as well, so maybe it can be stopped.

Village Attorney Porteus reported that the Board is going to get a petition to amend the zoning. She noted that they knew about it. It is for the Senior's home. They have now submitted a petition. She asked the Mayor whether or not we can put it on the agenda for the Workshop. Mayor Murray indicated that she could. She advised it is because the applicant's planner has put together a sample of a local law that they would like to see. She advised that she has been tweaking and rewriting it and putting in things. The Board should have more of a say than she does of what is important. She was thinking that they could keep in mind that just because there is an application in front of the Board to change zoning does not mean that the Planning Board is going to get a site plan from this individual. They need to know that if they change the zoning to allow this type of thing, this person could sell and get a new developer in. There is no plan in place right now. She wanted the Board to keep it in mind and maybe go over this at the Workshop. She advised that since they submitted it, we really have to get them on the next agenda for getting this moving because there are laws, you have to declare a lead agent and you have to bring your planner in. Mayor Murray wanted to confirm that they have not yet filed a formal application in front of the Planning Board. Village Attorney Porteus advised that they do not have to because they want the Village Board to first change the zoning. It is a little different than the last one that came in that they did, which she thinks is a more normal because they asked the Board to change the zoning and they had a real plan because that person was going to take advantage of the new zoning if the Board had done that.

Mayor Murray commented that a few years back with the de-watering facility, the zoning was not changed until it went through the whole planning process where all the terms and conditions were set in place, and some of that zoning law was changed at the recommendation of the Planning Board, the Village Engineer and the planner. The Mayor advised that they will talk about it at the next Workshop. He commented that he was a little leery of changing the law without having any of the process going through. He commented that he should not say it makes him nervous but it puts a question in his mind about what is the main objective of the project. Village Attorney Porteus said they can discuss this more.

Village Attorney Porteus advised that it definitely gets referred from the Village Board to the Planning Board. She believes our Code says that they have 60 days to come back. There is a

SEQR review for changing the zoning. There was some talk about floating. That would have been more difficult, but this is now a very specific parcel. She commented but it is a stranger animal because the Village Board would be changing the zoning. If we did that, then they could come into the Planning Board with a site plan. It goes through the SEQR review for that site plan as well but that is in Planning. She advised that the last one the Village Board saw, they did it simultaneously. This is a little different. She commented that they can read what the Village Administrator gives them, think about it and talk about it at the next Workshop. Village Attorney Porteus advised that she has tweaked it in a lot of ways and wanted to get it to the Board in the next week or so. They can then see some of the changes that she thinks might be helpful.

f) Trustees' Reports:

Trustee Zachary advised that he wants to bring up and discuss at the next Workshop or over the next couple of Workshops what we can do with our voucher system; how we can go about it. He does not know where the Code is that establishes the voucher system. He could not find it in our Village Code. Village Administrator Hay advised that it was more of a policy that we have always had in place. It is different in each municipality. Trustee Zachary commented that if it is not something that is in the Code or in a law and is just a practice that we are following, we can just talk about it at a Workshop. Mayor Murray wanted to know what it is he is questioning. Trustee Zachary thinks there are some things we hopefully can and should do to streamline this voucher process because currently three Trustees have to sign every expense that goes out. He thinks we should find some way to authorize the Village Administrator to authorize payments that are not in any way subject to review. For example, every month there are about 20 vouchers for the Medicare Part B which is mandated by New York State law that we pay. He thinks we can skip the three Trustees approving this process. We know that the Village is required to make these payments. It is like paying an electric bill. He thinks that anything to do with hiring contractors, most vouchers, day-to-day expenses, should still be reviewed by the Trustees. He feels that there are a number of things, like the utility bills and Medicare Part B payments for example, that we could streamline and allow the Village Administrator to pay without going through the Trustees. He would like to take a look at it and discuss ways to streamline the voucher process.

Mayor Murray advised that one of the reasons why that system is in place is because, if they remember from the Organizational Meeting, the entire Board is appointed as the auditors. You need a system set up where you can audit where the expenditures are going. Some communities just have an auditor or financial manager. We do not have that. We depend on the Trustees to verify the payments. The Mayor commented that several times he has caught double billings, especially for street light replacements. He has caught billing errors with the Journal News; double or triple billings and things like that.

Trustee Zachary commented that he agrees that those are things he thinks we should still be reviewing. He explained that he is talking about things like, a Con Ed bill is a Con Ed bill. With the Medicare Part B payments, every month there are 21 or 22 of them that are mandated to the same people for the same amount every month. To him, it is a matter of streamlining it, not taking away the Board's oversight of day-to-day purchases, contractor payments, payments to the Village Engineer, for example. He still thinks that the Board should be on top of those and be looking at those every month. But he thinks there are other things that if we can delineate them and spell out what they are - if there is a way for us to separate them from the process and let them go directly to payment - it would be more efficient.

Mayor Murray advised that we can set up something like that. We just have to set the correct parameters. The Mayor asked the Village Administrator to see what the actual inception was, whether it was a resolution, which would have been many years ago as this has been going on for as long as he can remember. The Mayor commented that he would feel uncomfortable not having other people look at any expenditure that is not such as a Medicare one. When you read the bills, certain things pop out at you. Especially if you see "light on Broadway", "light on Broadway" in two different months, you want to know what it is talking about. It is because there are a lot of overlaps. He commented that as the Board will recall, last year, or two years ago, one of the reasons why he really wanted all the vouchers signed here at the meeting was because when we do not pay the bills on time, the people send the bills back and they will send another monthly voucher. If we sign that voucher two weeks late and we pay that, they are already out of their billing cycle so they are hitting us up with another one the next month. It is hard to catch those things. The Mayor commented that he had no problem with this. They can streamline this somehow and will discuss it at the next Workshop meeting. The Mayor asked the Village Administrator to do some research and see what the inception was. He was sure that Cindy Kempter would have some information about it and if she is around to maybe reach out to Betty Travis.

Trustee Jackson thanked our Highway Department for the fantastic job that they have been doing in all the different snow storms that we have had here in the Village. They work tirelessly to keep the streets up and ready and salted. They are doing a terrific job. He commented that we are not out of the woods yet, but hopefully we will be soon.

Trustee Jackson reported that the Historical Society has nine members. He advised that as soon as we shake the snow out of our system, they are going to be moving forward with an Open House at our Historical Room. The public will be invited to come down. They will be doing some events and he commented to stay tuned for that.

Trustee Funchion reported on the Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Saturday, March 1 is the Saint Patrick's Day Parade party at the Buchanan Fire House. It is a good time and he hopes everyone can come out and join in the fun. The Saint Patrick's Day Parade will be on Sunday, March 16 at 2 PM. He invited everybody to come out.

Trustee Knickerbocker reported that she attended the task force meeting in the Town of Cortlandt for the proposed Spectra line and also West Point Partners with the electric line. The only thing she had right now is that they are moving forward with the opposition to that. There will be rallies and different things that will be announced. She asked the Village Administrator if we have rescheduled Spectra's appearance before the Board. They were supposed to come to the last Workshop meeting. Village Administrator Hay advised that when that meeting was canceled, he rescheduled them for February's Workshop but it appears that it is going to be a busy meeting. Mayor Murray directed that it was okay to bring Spectra in. It is not going to be that busy. We will have Spectra and discuss the zoning. Trustee Zachary commented that we can discuss the vouchers or defer that to the next meeting. The Mayor advised that they would see how it goes. Village Administrator Hay advised that he has them tentatively on the agenda for the February 18 Workshop. The Mayor directed to keep them on for that date.

Mayor Murray announced for everyone to know, Spectra Energy will be here on February 18 which is a Workshop meeting. It will not be televised. Anybody can come here and learn about the Spectra Energy project. Spectra Energy is the gas line project which is slated to come across the Hudson at 11th Street in Verplanck and Broadway and go out to the East coast to the New England area. If you want to learn about it, come out to the Workshop on February 18 at 7:30 PM. They will be the first people to speak.

Trustee Zachary wanted to know if there is some way we can televise that meeting so that the public has access to what they say. Mayor Murray commented that he has always wanted to keep the Workshop meetings somewhat informal so if we get 15 or 20 people here, they can feel free to voice their concerns to us and the Spectra Energy people. Trustee Zachary wanted to know if we can have it put on the Buchanan Channel screen so people will know that they will be here. The Mayor said if the rest of the Board thinks it will be beneficial to the public to have it televised, we will contact the people that do it. Trustee Funchion agreed with the Mayor. He commented that although he sees where Trustee Zachary is coming from, he thinks it is more important that there is more of a free give and take so that when these people come, members of the audience, residents, will feel free to ask things. A lot of people are shy about getting up in front of camera. He commented that this is an important issue. This is just a ground breaking thing. He commented that maybe down the road, something like that will be more important to have. The initial impact here, he would rather see more of a give and take.

Trustee Jackson asked if we could have them at our regular Board meeting as opposed to a Workshop meeting, since that is already televised.

Village Administrator Hay advised that they are going to give a Power Point presentation and that he can ask if it can be put onto the Village web site.

Trustee Jackson agreed with Trustee Zachary. He commented that with something as important as this issue is at this time, the transparency needs to be up front and out there. He does not see why we would not make sure that they are here at a regular Board meeting.

Trustee Knickerbocker thinks it should be televised. She feels that this is something that is very important to the Village. She noted that the weather has been horrible and people are not going out because of that.

Village Attorney Porteus wanted to know if we would just be televising that presentation. Mayor Murray advised that if we televise it, we will televise the whole meeting. He commented that we are not going to censor. We cannot just broadcast some of it. It is either all or nothing.

Eileen Absenger, Tate Avenue, commented that she did not agree. They are going to be out in the public setting up different venues. The Town of Cortlandt is going to have it. Their Town Hall is a much bigger venue to have them make a presentation. She agrees with Trustee Funchion that the Workshop should not be televised.

Mayor Murray advised that the Board would discuss it and see what our availability is. We may not be able to get someone to video it for us. The Mayor commented that he thinks there is a clear understanding as to what the Board members think.

Trustee Knickerbocker announced that on Saturday, February 15 at 10:30 AM, The Lincoln Society in Peekskill will have a 100th Anniversary celebration. This past summer, they had an event at the train station which a lot of Village residents attended. They asked to be kept abreast of what is going on with these events. Trustee Knickerbocker commented that the history is unbelievable and The Lincoln Society does a great program. On Saturday, February 15 a wreath will be placed at the Lincoln memorial plaque on South Street in Peekskill to mark the 152nd anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's visit to Peekskill. At 11 AM, there will be a Civil War reenactor at the Metro North station to greet the "arriving President-elect" (portrayed by a Lincoln reenactor). At 11:15 AM everyone will parade along Water Street to the Lincoln Depot Museum for a wreath laying at the Lincoln In Peekskill statue. A reenactment of Lincoln's remarks delivered on February 19, 1861 at that site will be followed by a rifle salute by the West Point Honor Guard and the playing of "Taps". At 6 PM, there is a banquet. Trustee

Knickerbocker will leave the information in the Village office for anyone who may be interested. She commented that they put on a good event and have an excellent Lincoln reenactor.

g) Mayor's Report:

Mayor Murray reported that he is sure many of our Seniors noted that the new handrails have been installed in the stairwell at Village Hall. He noted that several years back, some people had voiced concerns that it was difficult for them to go up and down the stairs. They still want to remain active and use the stairs but they could not grab onto the pieces of wood being used as the handrails. The Mayor commented that he took a while to do it. But it has now been taken care of and he wanted people to know that now they do not have to use the elevators should they choose.

Mayor Murray reported that he received a request from people in New York State about a salary survey. He wanted to know if the Village Administrator had filled out the NYCOM survey. Village Administrator Hay advised that he sent it to them. The Mayor advised that he got another e-mail today asking to have it completed. Village Administrator Hay asked that it be forwarded to him. The Mayor explained that NYCOM puts together a list of the salaries for uniformed and non-uniformed employees, meaning management and non-management, to help municipalities understand what other municipalities' compensations are. They sent him a list but he could not open it and one of the attachments was a blank form. Village Administrator Hay will look at it. He advised that he recently answered their survey on shared services. The Mayor explained that many residents may have noticed in the news in the last couple of months that the Governor has been putting together a plan for tax rebates or refunds or monetary compensation to members of a community if they live in a community in which they have a certain percentage of shared resources. The Mayor noted that is not old shared resources; the same things we have entered into with the Town of Cortlandt, whether it has been roads or office supplies for example. It is new shared services. The Mayor commented that along those lines, it is contingent upon communities not even passing a resolution to override the 2% tax cap. The Mayor finds the Governor's timing a little curious at this time because, as the Mayor noted he spoke about recently, the New York Power Authority rates only went up 12.6%. But that was for the majority of the state. In our area, it was 16.8%. The Mayor noted that he received an e-mail about that last week.

Mayor Murray commented that at the same time the Governor was talking about this big incentive program last week, he also reduced the special franchise agreement that Con Edison paid to us by 23%. The Mayor noted that is what Ms. Absenger alluded to in her comments. It equates to \$43,000 in lost revenue that the Village is going to lose next year. Added to that, we do not know what the final calculations are going to be for next year's pensions. They come out around December. The Mayor commented that the Governor can come up with all these great

ideas but he has to be able to pay for them. The Mayor commented that when we talk about unfunded mandates, these are unfunded mandates. These are the things that directly impact the Village of Buchanan and us as residents; whether it is increased electric rates because Con Edison has to pay \$433 million to put a DC line in the Hudson River; whether it is a reduction in the franchise agreement; whether it is the increase in the NYPA rates. The Mayor commented that those are just the tip of the iceberg. He commented that he likes to try to put a face on the sayings and put a number on what the Governor is trying to do to us. It is great to say you do not have to pay property taxes if you are a business coming into an area. But somebody is going to pay for it. The Mayor commented if you cannot raise taxes, who is going to pay for it?

6. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Eileen Absenger, Tate Avenue, advised Trustee Zachary that Claire Kerry at the high school is putting together some kind of program since we had these two people who died from heroin usage. She commented that there was something in the newspaper that for Mahopac, Carmel and Yorktown one of the drug rehab places puts together something. She commented that there are a lot of things going around and from what she has been reading and hearing it is not so much prescription drugs. It is just that marijuana is higher in price now and not as good a bang for the buck. The heroin is cheaper and has other drugs in it. It is very cheap. She suggested that Trustee Zachary might want to stay in touch with the school system. Maybe it could be scrolled on the Village web site. Trustee Jackson advised that the person is the lunch coordinator. Ms. Absenger commented that she is well liked and well respected and if anybody can get anything done, she can. She is someone that she would like to stay in touch with and have it on the Village web site.

Ms. Absenger said that she was asked if the video of the Board meetings could be streamed on the computer. She does not know if it is an added expense. Mayor Murray advised that the Village Administrator will have to talk to the web site person. Trustee Zachary commented that he has seen that on other web sites. You could have a reference to a whole year's worth of meetings. You could watch what you want. You can fast forward it. It is basically like on demand, as opposed to on t.v. where you have to watch the whole thing. The Mayor commented, or people can just come out to the meetings once a month. Ms. Absenger agreed that would be the most ideal situation. The Mayor commented that there are all kinds of options.

Ms. Absenger commented that the Highway Department has done a bang up job. Unfortunately, we have had a really tough winter so far. Trustee Zachary remarked that it will be tougher before the week is through.

Trustee Zachary commented that he thinks we sometimes forget what an incredible area we live in as far as natural resources. This past weekend, he went with his wife to two or three viewing

points along the Hudson. There is now a very large eagle population all over the Hudson. It is all right here, pretty much in our back yard. You can go to Georges Island, Croton Point, and Verplanck. Bring a pair of binoculars. Look up and down the river and there are eagles all over the place. It is an incredible thing that we are fortunate to have in this area. It is worth taking a look if you can get out there. Eileen Absenger advised that the Eagle Fest is next Saturday, February 8. They will have big telescopes. You can view this. They will have hot chocolate down at George's Island, Steamboat Dock and Croton Point Park. Trustee Zachary noted that it is organized by Teatown Reservation. Their main location is going to be at Croton Point Park. There will also be a viewing at George's Island. You can just go there without binoculars. A lot of people that do this have telescopes that they set up and are eager to let other people look. It is easy to get a good look.

Trustee Jackson reminded everyone not to forget Valentine's Day. He said to make sure you squeeze your honey.

Eileen Absenger wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. She advised that the Seniors are now participating in a grant. This is being run with Peggy Zern for Feldenkrais with two other doctors. It is a six week program to fund this study and to see if the Seniors feel better. They did measurements and assessments this week. Feldenkrais is a movement but it is also to help you move better, to lessen the aches and pains or to reposition the spine. She commented that it is a helpful thing for Seniors and anyone who has issues with the skeletal system and the muscles. They got a grant and got 12 people to sign up.

7. BOARD MEMBER REBUTTALS:

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:50 PM, a MOTION to adjourn this meeting was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.