

**Village of Buchanan  
Mayor & Board of Trustees  
Board Meeting  
October 6, 2015**

**PRESENT:**

Deputy Mayor Richard A. Funchion  
Trustees Nicolas Zachary, Duane M. Jackson and Cesare Pasquale  
Village Board Secretary Susan F. Matthews  
Village Administrator Kevin Hay  
Village Attorney Stephanie V. Porteus

**ABSENT:**

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker

Deputy Mayor Funchion advised that the Mayor could not be with us tonight because her mother underwent surgery.

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**2. APPROVE MINUTES:**

July 7, 2015 Regular Board meeting (deferred from previous meeting): Trustee Zachary commented that at the last meeting he had raised some questions requiring a review of the tape. He wanted to know if anything discernible was found. The Administrator advised that an e-mail had been sent to all the Board members. Trustee Zachary did not recall getting that. *[NOTE: Trustee Zachary responded by e-mail at that time.]* He had nothing further. A MOTION to approve these minutes as presented was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor and Mayor Knickerbocker absent.

August 4, 2015 Regular Board Meeting: Trustee Zachary amended page 9, first line, change \$140,000 to \$40,000. A MOTION to approve these minutes as amended was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor and Mayor Knickerbocker absent.

September 1, 2015 Regular Board Meeting: Trustee Zachary asked if the term “quitclaim deeds” was an accurate legal term. The Village Attorney advised that it is. A MOTION to approve

these minutes as presented was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor and Mayor Knickerbocker absent.

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

None

**4. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a) 15-44 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF PEEKSKILL FOR VARIOUS POLICE SERVICES.**

Deputy Mayor Funchion read the Resolution (*copy attached*).

Trustee Jackson commented that this was straightforward.

Trustee Zachary wanted to understand the money on this as noted in section 3. It says that in consideration of the work the Village shall pay the City of Peekskill an amount not exceeding \$40,064. It continues stating new rates, the next 5 years the fee being \$7,000 eventually going to over \$9,000 in 2020. Trustee Zachary said that he did not understand. He asked if it means that it will go up every year to a maximum of \$40,000. And does that mean that in 2021 they can suddenly raise it to that amount subject to our agreement again. The Administrator advised that it would be subject to our agreement. Trustee Zachary noted that is a maximum. It is not the total we are paying over 5 years. The total over 5 years is fairly close to that. He thinks it is a very high figure and that it is a little odd because we are nowhere near that figure now.

Trustee Jackson asked if the numbers were similar in our last agreement. The Administrator advised that we have never really had a formal agreement before. It was done on a handshake. This is the first time we are formalizing it. The rate has not gone up in 40 years. In a couple of years it went up by a few thousand dollars. Last year it finished at \$3,000. The cost of them providing these services has gone up significantly. The Police Chief looked at the other options. He looked at the State Police and tried the Village of Croton. But they could not provide the same services at a rate similar to this. Peekskill can provide these services for us at this price. Trustee Jackson asked if this is a charge per service; for example, if in some year we get a rash of incidents where we have to draw on them more than the year before. Village Attorney Porteus advised that number stays the same. Trustee Zachary commented that means that no matter how many people, it is a flat fee.

Trustee Pasquale commented that it does not seem like a lot because if you consider that if we had to have this kind of machinery to deal with this here in the Village, you are looking in excess of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Trustee Jackson wanted to know if this is a yearly check that we would make at the beginning of the fiscal year. The Administrator advised that is correct. Trustee Zachary noted that we do not have to revisit it until 2021.

A MOTION to adopt this Resolution was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor and Mayor Knickerbocker absent.

**b) 15-45 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF SEASONAL PERSONNEL.**

Deputy Mayor Funchion read the Resolution (*copy attached*).

Trustee Jackson wanted to know if these seasonal employees will be given personnel or ID badges. The Administrator advised that we never gave them to seasonal help. They do not have much interaction with the public and they will only be here for a month and a half. We can do it if the Board wants. Trustee Zachary does not think that it is necessary. They cannot drive a Village vehicle so they are always out with somebody else. Trustee Jackson commented that his thought is that seasonal or not, they are Village employees. They may be temporary but he would think that we would do that as a matter of protocol. Trustee Zachary wanted to know if the regular employees have photo IDs. The Administrator advised that we are working on that. Trustee Pasquale agrees that everybody should have them. Trustee Zachary wanted to know if we have the availability to print them here in the Village office. There are printers with a laminating capability that do that. The Administrator advised that we have been getting them done somewhere else, similar to the police IDs. We could try something simple. Trustee Jackson commented that if we do the whole work force, to make sure we could do something that is cost effective and equip all the members of the Highway Department.

A MOTION to adopt this Resolution was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor and Mayor Knickerbocker absent.

**c) 15-46 RESOLUTION DECLARING A VILLAGE VEHICLE SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO REQUEST PROPOSALS**

Deputy Mayor Funchion read the Resolution (*copy attached*).

A MOTION to adopt this Resolution as presented was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor and Mayor Knickerbocker absent.

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

a) Justice Court Report – August 2015  
Received and filed

b) Zoning Board Minutes – August 12, 2015  
Received and filed

Trustee Zachary asked if we have gotten any more information or sense of what we need to do with some of these paper streets. Village Attorney Porteus advised that it is still in the works. She has files. There are various different subdivisions; past Board's actions; what the County and Town have on record versus what we have on record; etc. There are various letters from the property owners on each side. She commented that it is a mess but she is working on it. Trustee Zachary commented that he had only been aware of one or two. After the Village Attorney said at the last meeting that there were more, he looked at the GIS mapping and found at least 6 or 7.

c) Planning Board Minutes – August 20, 2015  
Received and filed

Deputy Mayor Funchion commented that it is good that we got minutes that are up to date. We had been getting them when they were 2 or 3 months old.

d) Police Reports – August-September 2015  
Received and filed

Trustee Jackson said that we had a speed monitoring device that came from the Town of Cortlandt out on Tate Avenue at some point. He thought that we had some discussion that we were going to also put it on Westchester Avenue. He wanted to know if that was done. The Administrator will check. Trustee Zachary commented that there was also discussion about buying one. The Administrator advised that he was working on bids. Trustee Jackson said that in the interim he would like it put over on Westchester Avenue to get a count on what the speed flow is over there. Trustee Zachary commented that it is a good reminder. Trustee Pasquale commented that it is unfortunate that those machines are not capable of giving you data on how fast or slow somebody is going. Trustee Jackson thinks that in conjunction with the patrol car sitting on Westchester Avenue that it will give us a paper count of how many people are pulled over and ticketed. Trustee Zachary commented that he is sure that the technology is there because those red light cameras have a speed sensor that automatically takes a picture of your

license plate if you are more than a certain number of miles per hour above the speed limit. Trustee Pasquale noted that it generates a violation right on the spot and it is mailed right to your house. It is expensive. Trustee Jackson commented that we can talk to the Police Chief to see what kind of recommendations he has for one.

Trustee Zachary noted that on the Police Report he sees that there were 14 motor vehicle accidents in September and August. He wanted to know if any of these were concentrated in any particular spot and if there was a pattern or were they all over the place. He wanted to know if there were 3 or 4 at one intersection, somebody just parked a little too roughly? He wants to see if there is a pattern that might be of use to us. Trustee Pasquale commented that 8 seems a lot for September. Trustee Zachary noted plus 6 for August. The Administrator will check with the Police Chief.

e) Fire Inspector's Report – August-September 2015  
Received and filed

f) Wastewater Report – August 2015  
Received and filed

g) Attorney's Report  
Village Attorney Porteus had nothing to report this month.

h) Administrator's Report

Village Administrator Hay reported that the paving project will begin in two weeks. There was a pre-construction meeting with the bidder last Friday. He expects to be in the Village in two weeks. They will start with the concrete work and the curbs and then move on to the paving. He has two separate crews so they might be here at the same time. Trustee Zachary wanted to know if they looked at the curbs that the Highway Foreman spoke about the last time. The Administrator advised that they did and they were added to the list. Trustee Zachary wanted to know what about the strategy for Greentown Road. He wanted to know how they would do that without disturbing the businesses there. The Administrator advised that half will be done at a time. It is very wide. They promised to give him notice a few days before, in time to let the businesses know. Trustee Zachary wanted to know if having it seamed in the middle compromised the surface. The Administrator advised that for the most part they always seam it in the middle. The road has crowns in it and the water drains off to the sides.

Village Administrator Hay reported that the company doing our LED lights is doing the field verification and energy audit. They expect to be wrapped up in about a month or so. At that time we will have an installation meeting and they will let us know how quickly. They thought

that they would have most all of the lights installed in a few weeks. They come in with quite a few crews. He noted that this company did Yonkers and New Rochelle so the Village being so much smaller, they should get it done on time.

Village Administrator Hay reported that we received a rate of 3.9% for the serial bond for the roadway. We had estimated 4.0%, so we are a little lower than that. It is for 10 years. We are going to wrap up the bans into a serial bond for 10 years.

Village Administrator Hay reported that we finished our Village audit two weeks ago and our court audit about one week ago. We should have the final reports in a month or so. The Administrator will report back when they have been received.

Village Administrator Hay reported that this week we received our new leaf vac and box. It is in this year's budget. We are waiting for a bid for a bucket truck from the State low bidder. The bid is expected by the end of the week. Deputy Mayor Funchion asked if when he bids these vehicles out is consideration of the warranty on it taken into account. He commented that for example, maybe a high bidder would be giving us a longer warranty. Leaf blowers especially could have problems. The Administrator will look into it and report back.

Trustee Jackson asked if we heard anything back from the consultant for the review of the lake. The Administrator advised that he is in the final stages; that he wants to put together a map with the conservation easements. We currently have only a draft of the text. We are reviewing it and will decide how to move forward. He is working on putting together a map of all the conservation easements. It is hard to find a GIS map with all the information. The text of the work that has to be done on the property that the Village has is being looked over. We will move forward shortly.

i) Mayor's Report  
None

j) Trustee's Reports

Trustee Jackson thanked Buchanan Engine Company for the fine work that they did with the parade which was a great success. We had a perfect day. A lot of people came out. There were a lot of apparatuses from around the county. He appreciates the work and the service of the volunteers who do that on their own time. We appreciate our community residents who do that for our Village. He commented that even though he is a part of it and swayed by the good work that they do, he wants to acknowledge that.

Trustee Jackson reminded that school is back in session and to be extra careful of the children in the roadways and byways of the Village. He gave a real shout out to the Buchanan-Verplanck School Fourth and Fifth Graders who were at Village Hall yesterday for the Open House for the the Historical Society. He thanked Historical Society members Don Zern, Cheryl (?), Diane Tangen and Lillian Stein. They did a great job. The kids got an idea of the rich history that we have here in the Hudson Valley. They did some things on the Rhode Island First Regiment from 1781. It was a regiment of 139 free black men who came down and fought in the battle of Pine Bridge. Trustee Jackson said that they reenacted that to a certain degree in full military garb. He appreciates the Yorktown Heights, Van Cortlandt and Putnam Historical Societies for supporting our efforts. Trustee Jackson encouraged anyone who has not seen it to come and check out the Historical Room on the second floor at Village Hall. You will find it very interesting. He did a special shout out to Larry Brown who did the video. Over the last year, they had interviewed local residents to get an idea of what Buchanan was like when they were growing up. We played that video for the children and later that night for the older people. He thanked Joe Ryan who gave us a video of a reenactment that was done. The kids got a kick out of that. It was a very successful endeavor.

Trustee Zachary guesses that a lot of the people were at Buchanan Day a week ago Saturday. It went very well. We had good weather. We had more people than we had the last couple of years. He wanted to thank a few people who did a lot of work on the planning and phone calls and paperwork reaching out to volunteers: Colleen Lonergan, Norma Macaluso. He thanked Trustee Funchion and Mayor Knickerbocker for their efforts on behalf of Buchanan Day. Not the least of which being driving upstate to get all the pumpkins. As always, anybody who would like to reach out to the committee with ideas or suggestions for future Buchanan Days can always leave Trustee Zachary a note at the Village Hall or e-mail him. They are always looking for new ideas trying to add a little spice to the event. He congratulated the Fire Department. The parade was a lot of fun. He heard residents comment that this parade was much nicer than the other parades we have every year. A lot of people enjoyed it. It went very well.

Trustee Zachary reported that there was a cancellation of the September concert on the lawn at Village Hall due to an illness. It is something that we will look to maybe rework next summer. He would be glad to hear any suggestions on the type of music. Some people asked that we do a country music concert. He would like to hear from people whatever their fancy may be.

Trustee Pasquale gave a shout out to the Buchanan Engine Company. They did a wonderful job. It was a pleasure to be involved and invited to attend the parade, the dinner dance and the family fun night.

He wished good luck to the Mets and the Yankees tonight.

Deputy Mayor Funchion reported that he was sorry he missed the parade by 15 minutes. He did get to watch it from his lawn. It was very nice and a beautiful day for a parade. Everybody had a great time. A lot of organization went into it. The Deputy Mayor thanked those who worked on Buchanan Day. Trustee Zachary does an awful lot of work in it along with Colleen Lonergan and Norma Macaluso. It was quite a lot of work to get the whole thing together. He and Mayor Knickerbocker went upstate to get the pumpkins. They literally had them picked while they were there, then loaded them up to come back. The Deputy Mayor commented that this is his fifth year of pumpkins.

Deputy Mayor Funchion wished everyone, especially his friends of Italian heritage, a Happy Columbus Day.

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

Bob Outhouse, President of Buchanan Engine Company, thanked the Village Board for allowing them to celebrate their anniversary. There were no complaints. It went very well. It was a great celebration for them. They received comments about how nice our pavilion is. He noted that people have not been up here for a firematic parade for 15 years. It takes a lot of hard work to do that. He does not encompass [*sic*] them doing another parade like that soon. He thanked the entire Board and the Mayor for all their support for allowing Buchanan Engine Company to do this. He apologized that the Board's ad did not show in the journal. He did not catch it. He advised that they made good on it. On the night of the dinner, he presented the Mayor with a small plaque thanking the Board for all their assistance and support, as well as the Police Department's. Mr. Outhouse commented that as Columbus Day approaches, they will have what is now a 50 year tradition. There will be a clambake this Sunday at the fire house between 11 AM and 6 PM.

Angela Outhouse, 200 Park Street and 236 Church Street, commented that she was here to enlighten the Board and the community on what is transpiring with the emergency medical services that cover the Village and elsewhere. She said that at the July Village Board meeting the Mayor had said in regard to the proposed Senior housing project that she was concerned about our services being watered down and not wanting anyone to have to wait for an ambulance. She commented that Trustee Zachary had said that he had spoken with Kathy Stewart and that her issue was with manpower; and that he wanted to approach the County for some impact money so that she could attract people to do the work, volunteers, money for recruitment, training and retention. Ms. Outhouse commented that as may or may not be remembered she spoke at that meeting. She came that night because she had heard a lot of negative things and rumors regarding the Senior housing project and wanted to hear for herself. After listening to various people speak, she made a brief statement. In regard to EMS, she thought it could be overcome by having defibrillators in the buildings and as EMTs they could



respond to the scene and have the ambulance roll with the driver. She commented that perhaps she was not clear. She was not being presumptuous. But she was speaking as if they were EMTs that not only belonged to the Fire Department but also to CCVAC. Both she and her husband said that separately they were recertifying because they saw the need. They listen to scanner calls where they are “re-toning” out for manpower because they do not have people responding. Her husband Bob is a founding member of CCVAC and she was a previous EMT and CCVAC member. It was always her intention to become active again once they decided to recertify.

She said that on May 7, two months before that Board meeting, she had messaged the captain of the ambulance corps that they were recertifying and asked if he could get their EMT numbers for the form. At their June meeting, their daughter asked for an application for Ms. Outhouse and her husband. When asked who the applications were for, she advised it was for her parents who were recertifying. Ms. Outhouse said so it was known that they had intended to apply and become active again. She commented that apparently her statement at the Village Board meeting caused a huge uproar. She said that two days later at the next CCVAC meeting her statements were being ridiculed. She commented that it was said, how stupid that a nurse would say to put a defibrillator in buildings, how EMTs from the Buchanan Fire Department were not going to be allowed to ride their rigs, as well as other negativity about things that Ms Outhouse spoke of, without naming her. Ms. Outhouse commented that two days later, this e-mail was sent to every CCVAC member twisting what she said. She noted that at the time, she and her husband were not yet EMTs because they had missed their EMT class to come to the Village Board meeting. Ms. Outhouse read the e-mail to the Board. It stated who may and may not ride in their ambulances and defined who is included under their mutual aid plan. Ms. Outhouse noted that the Buchanan and Montrose Fire Departments are not members of that mutual aid plan. It stated that this is all about insurance liability, which Ms. Outhouse does not agree with. Ms. Outhouse said that she texted Eric Singer stating that it was always her intention to rejoin them. She asked for an application and applied to CCVAC. She did not hear from them. She messaged the captain again. She was brought in for a membership meeting in September. She said that she was questioned about why CCVAC and why now. She said that she reminded the captain that she had spoken with him several times over the past few year about whether they would be holding classes at CCVAC as they had done in the past. She was advised that they were working on it.

Ms. Outhouse commented that when her daughter obtained her EMT and joined CCVAC, she encouraged Ms. Outhouse to recertify so that they could go on calls together. She commented that they hear the tones that they are unable to have manpower and that sometimes the calls are delayed or go to mutual aid. That was why she and her husband decided to rejoin. She commented that she mentioned that her husband was looking to rejoin and was attacked by the captain about her husband who had previously asked about coming back to drive, noting that this

was before they had recertified, and then did not hear anything. Ms. Outhouse commented so we were not really interested. She commented that she was attacked about what she had said at the Village Board meeting. She explained to them that it was always her intention to rejoin and that she was speaking as if she and her husband were members of the Fire Department and CCVAC. She said that past practice was that if an EMT from CCVAC or mutual aid is at the scene of emergency they can roll the ambulance with a driver because an EMT is on the scene. She was told that they had changed their ways and want everyone to respond to the fire house. She asked if that means if she responds to the scene as an EMT and is doing CPR, they want the ambulance to sit on the apron and wait for another EMT to come before they respond to come give that person help. She finds that unacceptable. She commented that was said among other things. She commented that to her the goal of this is to help people and have manpower and retain people which since this incident might be rejected.

Trustee Funchion asked that Ms. Outhouse clarify what CCVAC stands for. Ms. Outhouse advised it is the Cortlandt Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Ms. Outhouse commented that she copied the Board on the letter she wrote asking CCVAC why they are denying her application. She presented a copy of her denial letter to the Board (*copy attached*). She read that letter, dated October 1, 2015. She noted that it is signed only as by the membership committee. She commented that no one took authority to write the letter. Ms. Outhouse gave the Board a copy of her resume' (*copy attached*). She noted her credentials and professional qualifications. She quoted from a newspaper interview given by Kathy Stewart of CCVAC concerning their difficulties and efforts to recruit and retain volunteers.

Ms. Outhouse commented that she would be concerned as a Board member if this was the kind of medical service protection being purported to cover her village when they are turning down taxpayer volunteers so that they can pay EMTs a medic's salary when they cannot get an EMT to sit in their building because they cannot retain manpower. She commented that they have asked the Town of Cortlandt to put up a billboard up saying that lifesavers are wanted, to come join them; yet are denying an EMT, a previous member, a Trustee of Buchanan Engine Company, a director of the Southern NY Fireman's Association and the Westchester County Fireman's Association. She commented that volunteer should be her middle name. She wants to make the Board all aware of what is going on.

Trustee Zachary asked if she thinks that this is a widespread problem with a lot of people or largely a personal thing. Ms. Outhouse thinks it is the fact that she spoke at the Village Board meeting about being able to respond; that maybe because they hear that on the scanner, that they do not have the manpower to make the calls, and that they wanted to rejoin. She thinks that there is an issue that is political. She commented that no one ever said anything to her previous to her speaking at the Board meeting. She commented that whenever she had contacted them about

their EMT numbers or classes, she was never dissuaded from joining. Once she spoke at the Board meeting, there was backlash. She commented that it was twisted in the e-mail because at that point they were not EMTs. They did not think that they could respond without joining CCVAC. That was not what was said. She feels that it is a total political blackballing of herself. Trustee Zachary commented that he is sure there are many who are members of both Buchanan Engine Company and CCVAC. Ms. Outhouse agreed. She commented that her understanding is that they are an organization that has difficulty retaining members. They push people away from the Fire Department. Trustee Zachary commented that there may be differences within CCVAC as well. It was expressed to him by one person that the idea of trying to find resources for training and development was a good idea but he thinks that other people might be working against that. Ms. Outhouse commented that there is some thought out there that they may be looking to go to being an all paid organization and push away volunteers. Trustee Zachary asked Ms. Outhouse what she would suggest and what she thinks has to happen. Ms. Outhouse commented that she does not know. All she knows is that this is unacceptable. She does not see how they can say that they cannot retain people yet they push people away. She does not know what the remedy is. She commented that maybe you look at who covers your EMS calls because if they are not going to roll because of semantics, who suffers? It is the person on the phone who called 911. Trustee Zachary commented that the service has to be a priority.

Trustee Jackson commented that as he looks at the monthly report from our Police Department, under medical aid we had 13 in August and 12 in September. It seems that the majority of the calls were medical related. Referring to Trustee Zachary's comments about other people having been involved or turned away or having gone through this type of scrutiny, Trustee Jackson would like to find out what type of past patterns may or may not have been employed. He is not quite sure how we can do that. He thinks that we should do a review of our own medical calls to see how many may have gone unanswered or were delayed because of lack of manpower. He commented that we cannot operate in a vacuum where the Village concerns are somehow circumvented by things that are happening in other jurisdictions. He commented that he is not knowledgeable enough at this point but that we should be putting up a couple of red flags to investigate this so that we understand what the dynamics of it are and what the root cause is. More important, it is to protect the Village residents who may need assistance. He commented that those are the things that come to his mind. Notwithstanding his personal involvement with Buchanan Engine Company, we would want to get to the facts of the matter pertaining to what the ambulance corps is or is not doing. He commented that one of the things that came to light with the proposed Senior housing project was that if it went forward, there would be like a superintendent on site at the facility who would be trained on how to operate a defibrillator and other emergency things. He commented that this is distressing because we are talking about the possibility of people's lives being at stake. He is not sure how we want to investigate this in light of what we have been given here this evening. He would want to sit with the Mayor and the Board to investigate where this started and what the ramifications could be. He does not

want to get into hearsay or what may or may not be posted on a web site. He would like to see some hard core facts concerning the responses; where they are and how many are in the Village; and is this a problem that we need to be addressing now. He told Ms. Outhouse that he appreciated her coming to bring this to light. He commented that we as a Board have to find out some answers to make sure that the public is protected and safe and has confidence in not only our fire but our ambulance services.

Ms. Outhouse commented that since she put this on Facebook, she got messages from Mohegan Volunteer Ambulance Corps., Peekskill VAC and Croton VAC asking her to please come; all our surrounding agencies who know her and know her track record. She feels that she is more than qualified to run on ambulances. She responds with the Fire Department. She does her best to render medical aid when necessary. She commented that as EMTs they have an agreement to respond to medical calls. It is very distressing. She commented that is almost self-serving for them and that on their part they are denying the community competent help. Trustee Funchion thanked Ms. Outhouse for her service.

Village Attorney Porteus asked if the taxpayers in the Village of Buchanan and the Town of Cortlandt pay taxes for CCVAC's services. Ms. Outhouse advised that they do. She said that she pays in Buchanan and at her residence at 7 Watch Hill Road in the Town of Cortlandt. It is a special line for the volunteer ambulance corps and at her Watch Hill Road residence, the Montrose Fire Department. She commented that as she said, she is a taxpayer being turned away to help. Trustee Pasquale wanted to know if that letter is the only thing they sent her. Ms. Outhouse confirmed that was correct. She advised that she sent a certified letter and copied the Village Board, the Mayor and the Westchester Regional EMS Council. She thanked the Board for their time.

Bob Outhouse commented that he will still stay as President of Buchanan Engine Company. He commented that he has been here a long time and was part of the founding members of the CCVAC. He commented that since CCVAC's inception, the Buchanan Engine Company has helped CCVAC respond to the Village. With their contract with the Village, Buchanan Engine Company goes to medical calls with the rescue truck through certain times of the day and on all medical emergencies that appear to be serious. There are times when CCVAC calls them for help because they need lifting power. They do not have the manpower. Mr. Outhouse commented that Buchanan Engine Company is always there. He commented that it is very cyclic. In the past they have had 7 EMTs in the Buchanan Engine Company. Currently they only have 4. They are looking to get more so that when the rescue truck does come out you are getting a NYS EMT along with the medic, the EMTs from CCVAC. He noted that sometimes we do have police officers here who are trained as EMTs. He commented that Buchanan Engine Company has been covering the field for a long time. He wanted the Board to know that Buchanan Engine Company does have an agreement with CCVAC to cover these calls, basically

from the Village Board through CCVAC to the Fire Department. He advised that the Fire Department will continue to do so.

Kieran Outhouse, 241 Westchester Avenue, commented that there is a law. A lot of fire departments have an ambulance corps with the fire department. The nearest to us is Verplanck. You pay a fire tax and if you call an ambulance, it is covered by your taxes. Because the Town of Cortlandt is not a part of a fire department, they are separate. Not only will your taxes pay for it, they will also soft bill you. He commented that you do not have to pay it but a lot of people, especially elderly people, just pay it. He commented that his grandfather had a very serious ailment and an ambulance was called. He got a bill for over \$1,000. He did not know that he did not have to pay it. Mr. Outhouse commented that is not right. Not only are you dealing with your recovery but also with that bill. You might not know that you do not have to pay. He thinks that should also be looked into. He commented that the ambulance corps has more than enough money. Trustee Jackson commented that he did not know that law but as we investigate this we want to take a close look at the laws pertaining to our agreements with the Town of Cortlandt and mutual aid.

Don Zern, Westchester Avenue, wanted to talk about Lake Meahagh and about our Police Department. He commented that before he begins he wanted to compliment both Mr. and Mrs. Outhouse for coming forward and serving the community. He commented that he is not a volunteer so he has no way or sway until hearing what was said tonight. He feels that it is an absolute disgrace. He commented that if something happened to him or his family members, he wants them at their house. His children and grandchildren live in Buchanan on Catherine Street. He lives down the road. He wants somebody there. He does not care who. He wants somebody trained and he appreciates the service they give to the community. He thanks them.

Concerning Lake Meahagh, Mr. Zern commented that he does not know what we are going to do with the growth that is taking over our lake but it is creeping out. A month ago the vegetation was out approximately 25-30 feet. Now it is out between 125-130 feet from his waterfront. It is overtaking the Buchanan end. We do not have any aerators here to oxygenate the water and help this situation out. He has been with the Town of Cortlandt and people on the Board and explained what can be done. He believes that the only thing we can do right now is to lower the lake. Take it down 40%. He would really like this Board to look into an aeration system; the exact same one that the Town of Cortlandt has now. He said that they are not overly expensive. He would like to preserve that lake. Trustee Zachary wanted to know if Mr. Zern knew if draining the lake to that point will kill that weed for sure. Mr. Zern advised that the particular weed that is out there now is an aquatic weed. He does not know and he said that cannot get the answer. He spoke to several different people. Trustee Zachary commented that around the time that Mr. Zern spoke the last month and gave the Board a sample, there was an article in the Journal News. It is also a problem in the Croton River spreading into Haverstraw Bay. The

article pointed out that this it is a weed sold for aquariums and fish tanks and it has taken hold from people dumping that weed. That area, either Croton or a consortium, hired an environmental service for a \$40,000 contract to study it and how to deal with it. He wanted to know if Mr. Zern has come across that. He commented that if they have done a study possibly we can get some advice. If it requires taking the lake down to a certain level, Trustee Zachary does not see why that could not be done. Mr. Zern said to remember 4 or 5 years ago when all the grass was growing in the lake itself and they had to get the harvester in down at Verplanck. That was between \$1100 and \$1200 per day. They would take it out and put it in a dumpster. By the time the harvester got half way up the lake, it was already re-growing again. The solution was to partly lower the lake. First they lowered it to 25%, then to 35%. That cured that problem. He commented to let us hope that this time it can be lowered, with the Town. He said to remember that the taxpayers own the property around the lake but the water itself is owned and maintained by the Town of Cortlandt. Mr. Zern would like the Village Board to approach the Town to see what we can do together as a joint effort to put some type of aeration system in there. He does not want to lose the lake.

Trustee Zachary commented that an aeration system is a possibility. Draining it to a lower level is possible. He thinks that we should find out or maybe sign on to this environmental group. He does not know if the Town was part of that consortium but he remembers that there was more than one municipality. We should see what they have found out and maybe get some specific recommendations. We should get some advice from professionals. Mr. Zern agreed. Deputy Mayor Funchion wanted to know if Mr. Zern knew if the Town ever had any discussions with the NYS Department of Agriculture or Cornell University. Mr. Zern commented that he did not want to state that. He does not want to be misquoted. He would ask that the Administrator look into that. He commented that he is not at liberty to say anything about what they have going on and what they are doing. The Administrator advised that he spoke to Jeff Coleman about this issue at the Entergy stakeholders meeting and he did say the same thing. He felt that lowering the lake down would help out with the problem. He seemed pretty assured that would work. At the same time, the Administrator did say that we could work with them on something because we did have power over at the sewage treatment plant and the pumping station there. The Administrator said that we could reach out to him again to see what other actions we could take. Mr. Zern appreciated the Administrator sharing that.

Mr. Zern commented that the Board did a wonderful job getting that new police vehicle. It is well marked and a beautiful machine. He does not know if we have any complaints with it. He has one thing he wants the Board to look into. He commented that for the last few years, he has asked the Police Chief and this Board to look into getting a new computerized system in at least one of the police cars. He commented that 2 years ago, what they used with the New York State Police is that it comes out and the ticket is cut out, pumped right out and handed right over. It is very expedient and very efficient. He commented that it is not a Mickey Mouse one like we

have now. He remarked that his grandkids have one better than what they have, which he thinks is ridiculous. He commented that at this point we bought the new cars. We got an unmarked car. He hopes it is going to be used for surveillance and to calm down the speeders throughout the entire Village. Trustee Pasquale commented that he has seen it out making some stops. Mr. Zern asked if it was the Police Chief driving it. Trustee Pasquale advised that it was one of the officers. The Administrator advised that a couple of the officers have taken it out 3 or 4 times. We have only had the Police Chief's car for about 2 or 3 weeks. Concerning the computer, he advised that he had a meeting with the Police Chief and their IT professional. They are trying to get a grant. Mr. Zern commented that we have been trying to get the grant for 3 years. He commented that it is a hefty budget. If the Police Chief spends it down then we should go to the Highway Department, and if that goes down we should take it from the Sewer Treatment department. He remarked we take money from Adam to pay Eve. He commented that it is \$5,000, not multi-million dollars. He understands about a grant and hopefully we will get it. He feels that we can get a grant and then put it in a second car, but let us get one going now. Make it easier for the man who works in the car 8 hours a day. He commented that the Police Chief does not work in the car 8 hours a day. The rest of these fellows go around the clock, so make it more comfortable and easier for them.

Trustee Jackson commented on the police car and the grant. He asked if we have reached out to Congresswoman Lowey's office to see if there are some Federal monies available. He commented that we may be at too low a threshold because of the size of our community but we should look at it through Congresswoman Lowey's office and through our State Senator. Trustee Jackson said that yesterday he was with Assemblywoman Sandy Galef. We should approach her to see if there is some law enforcement aid to rectify that situation. The Administrator advised that he could ask the Police Chief about that.

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

None.

#### **8. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 8:40 PM a MOTION for the Board to enter into Executive Session to discuss employee issues was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor and Mayor Knickerbocker absent.

Deputy Mayor Funchion noted that no monies will be expended or decisions made at that meeting.

At 9:15 PM a MOTION to return from Executive Session and adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Duane Jackson, seconded by Trustee Nicolas Zachary.

with all in favor and Mayor Knickerbocker absent.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:18 PM a MOTION to adjourn this meeting made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Jackson, with all in favor and Mayor Knickerbocker absent.