

**Village of Buchanan  
Mayor & Board of Trustees  
Village Board Meeting  
March 7, 2017**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker

Trustees Richard A. Funchion, Duane M. Jackson, Cesare Pasquale, and Nicolas Zachary

Village Attorney Stephanie V. Porteus

Village Board Secretary Susan F. Matthews

Village Administrator Kevin Hay

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**2. APPROVE MINUTES:**

November 22, 2016 Workshop: A MOTION to accept these minutes as read was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.

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

None

**4. OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. PUBLIC HEARING – CHAPTER 211 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN – TRAILERS**

At 7:30 PM a MOTION to open the Public Hearing was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that she would like to adjourn this. First, she was not able to be at last Tuesday's meeting because she was returning from the Public Hearing in Albany. Second, she has not had a chance to review the final draft with the Building Inspector. She noted that a lot of this is left to his discretion so she wants to make sure that we have a conversation with him.

At 7:31 PM a MOTION to adjourn the Public Hearing was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.

**b. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW 1 OF 2017 AMENDING CHAPTER 211-19 ENTITLED “ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND USES” OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN.**

This was adjourned until the next meeting.

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. PUBLIC HEARING – OVERRIDING THE NYS PROPERTY TAX CAP**

At 7:02 PM a MOTION to open the Public Hearing was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

The Mayor asked the Village Administrator to review this for everyone.

Village Administrator Hay advised that we are going to have a Public Hearing to override the Property Tax Levy Cap enacted by the NYS Legislature. We have done this for the past few years. It was a recommendation of NYCOM so that as we work through the budget if we are unable to come under the property tax cap levy we already have the local law in place. In the last year they added that in order for people to get their tax freeze money, you could not have this local law on the books. So if we get to the point where we are adopting the budget and it is under the property tax cap we would have to repeal this local law. So at the meeting where we adopt the budget, if we were under the property tax cap we would have to have a resolution before that to repeal this. We will have a better idea after we move through the process at the next Workshop and the Budget Workshop in April. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that it is something NYCOM recommended so we will put it in place.

Trustee Zachary agreed that it is something we have to do whether we use it or not. He wanted to confirm that we will discuss the budget at the next Workshop. The Mayor advised that we will start to discuss it then.

The Mayor asked for any comments from the floor. There were none.

At 7:05 PM a MOTION to close the Public Hearing was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

**b. 17-10 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LOCAL LAW OVERRIDE PROPERTY TAX LEVY CAP ENACTED BY NYS LEGISLATURE.**

Trustee Zachary read the Resolution (*copy attached*)

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

**c. 17-11 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF A SEASONAL EMPLOYEE**

Trustee Pasquale read the Resolution (*copy attached*).

Mayor Knickerbocker explained that we are doing this because one of our employees had surgery and this is a busy time of the year for the Village because as the Highway Foreman can tell you, there are a lot of projects in the Spring to set up for the summer. So we are hiring someone part-time. The Mayor advised that we have the money in the budget for this. We are putting somebody on to replace while the other person is recovering.

Trustee Funchion wanted to know how this person was selected. Village Administrator Hay advised that this is somebody who worked with us last year and had a good recommendation. He advised that we take and review all applications. We usually take back people from the previous year if they worked out well for us. The Mayor wanted to know if this person has worked for us for the past few years. The Administrator advised that this person was one of our new people last year.

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

**d. 17-12 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF A VILLAGE FACILITY**

Trustee Jackson read the Resolution (*copy attached*).

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that this is something new that the Beautification Committee is doing. They are having a craft vendor fair. This event will be on May 6 from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM. This committee does a wonderful job. They put flowers at entrances to the Village. They do the barrels. They are looking to raise money for the new season. They have been talking about buying new barrels. The Mayor asks the community to support this. They are looking for more vendors. If anyone is interested they should call Karen Park.

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

**e. 17-13 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WESTCHESTER AVENUE BALL FIELD FENCING PROJECT.**

Trustee Funchion read the Resolution (*copy attached*).

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that this is the final phase to the renovation of the Westchester Avenue ball field. It was in really bad shape. She commented that it is important to understand that this did not come out of our budget. There is a special fund for recreation. The field will be ready to be used by next month.

Trustee Zachary wanted to confirm that this \$17,325 included the fence work only. The Administrator advised that was correct. Trustee Zachary did not think that it should say total bid because the total bid was actually \$20,000. The Administrator advised that was the total bid for the fencing. Trustee Zachary wanted to confirm that there are two separate prices, one for the fencing and one for the 2 benches and a bleacher. The Administrator advised that is correct because we are going to do that ourselves with the Village Highway Department. Trustee Zachary wanted to know what kind of bleacher and if it is moveable. The Administrator advised that the bleacher is 15 feet. It is anchored to the ground. It will seat 42 people. He believes it has 3 rows. The bleacher is \$1800 and the benches are a little more than \$600. Trustee Zachary wanted to know if it is like an Erector set where you bolt it together. The Administrator assumes that it is bolted together. It is aluminum. Trustee Pasquale wanted to know if it is only on one side of the field. The Administrator advised that there are 2 benches, one for each side, and one bleacher. We will find the best spot for it. Trustee Zachary wanted to know how far out the fencing will run. The Administrator advised 90 feet on each side. There is a 3 section back stop, 20 feet high. Part of the bid was also moving out the right field fence to get a little more distance on the field. Trustee Pasquale wanted to know if there would be an overhang over home plate. The Administrator advised that it will be straight up. It was recommended that it be 20 feet. Trustee Zachary commented that you are going to lose a lot of balls. Mayor Knickerbocker commented that she can see why they do that. Years ago it was covered. If somebody was up at bat, the ball could be popped up and come right down on them. Trustee Zachary commented that there are higher back stops.

Mayor Knickerbocker would like to price a few picnic tables. She noted that as you are coming into that field, there is an area on the right side that overlooks the field. She does not know if it would be do-able to put a few picnic tables up there. We will look at that.

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

**f. 17-14 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS**

Trustee Funchion read the Resolution (*copy attached*).

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that we do these budget transfers a couple of times each year. This is a standard procedure, nothing new.

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

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

- a) Justice Court Report – February 2017  
Received and filed.  
Mayor Knickerbocker noted that the amount reported was \$2,742.00.
- b) Zoning Board Minutes – October 2016  
Received and filed.
- c) Planning Board Minutes – December 2016 & January 2017  
Received and filed.
- d) Fire Inspector’s Report – February 2017  
Received and filed.
- e) Attorney’s Report.  
Village Attorney Porteus had nothing to report this evening.
- f) Administrator’s Report.

Village Administrator Hay reported that the roof at the Sewage Treatment Plant that was damaged in a storm is being erected. The pieces are coming together and it is close to being finished. He will send pictures to the Board.

The Village Elections are on March 21. The Administrator reported that Grievance Day was on the third Tuesday in February. There were 12 tax grievances. The number keeps decreasing for us.

g) Mayor's Report

Mayor Knickerbocker reported on the Public Hearing in Albany with State Senator Murphy. The Mayor said that she would read excerpts of what she read at that hearing. She commented that it was a long day. It began at 10:00 in the morning. The local municipalities did not get to testify until 5:30 that evening. The meeting continued for many hours after that. It was a marathon meeting. The Mayor commented that sitting in the audience all day was educational. You got to understand what was happening in the State. She commented that it was a long day but was definitely worth it.

The Mayor read excerpts from what she read at that hearing. In them she noted that we have many Seniors living here, many in homes they have lived in their whole lives. They are now concerned about being able to keep their homes and being able to live here for the rest of their lives. There is the impact to the value of all our residents' homes which is their largest asset. She noted that the Village is a wonderful community to raise a family or to retire. The trend now is for younger families to move away from New York City and lower Westchester to small towns like ours for their families. So we have a good mix of Seniors living on fixed incomes along with young families. The Mayor said to put a human face on this problem, not just numbers, so that Albany understands what we are looking and how this decision affects people's lives. She cited the article about that in the Journal News.

She summed up all the concerns in the affected communities. There is the loss of tax base and revenue which is big for us because the Village receives almost 50% of our operating budget from the Entergy agreement. So residents could see a substantial increase. There is the loss of 1,000 well-paying jobs. Some of those people live in our community. They would be hit two-fold through the loss of their job and a significant increase in taxes. There is a loss of grants. She noted that Entergy has been a good corporate neighbor. She cited how over the years they have given the Village grants for police vehicles, a Code Red system and many community events. The school district, Town of Cortlandt and local organizations have received grants which are important to our community.

The Mayor noted the security and storage of the spent fuel rods. They are currently stored in pools and dry casks located on concrete pads at the Entergy plant. After shut down all the fuel will be removed from the pools and stored in dry casks at the site. She noted that decades ago the Federal government promised to construct a recycling facility or national repository but has not met that obligation to date. She emphasized that for 25 years the New York Power Authority operated Indian Point Unit 3 and contributed to many of these spent fuel rods.

The Mayor said that there was a discussion on the affordable replacement of energy. She noted that there have been several articles touting the affordable replacement of this energy but no one had come forward with any details. She commented that we have seen subsidies given to other nuclear power plants. So the two plants that were supposed to be closed upstate will be subsidized.

Solar gets subsidies and the cost is passed on to the rate payers and tax payers. The Mayor asked for an independent study of the true cost of replacement power and how it would be achieved. She commented that after going through a lot of these meetings, she is not convinced that they have a plan.

The Mayor noted that the \$2.2 billion Champlain-Hudson line is under consideration but far from approved. She questioned even if it is approved, if it is wise to leave the State's energy vulnerable and contingent on power provided from Canada. She explained that the energy is created from hydro power in Canada. They would run a cable from Canada underneath the Hudson River to get the power down here. She noted that would only be 1,000 megawatts. Entergy produces over 2,000 megawatts.

The Mayor commented that all these things have a trickle down affect and affects our businesses also.

In the summary of her comments to the hearing she told them that the Village of Buchanan is asking for support with the loss of a major employer and tax payer and the economic fallout from this closing. We are asking for support from the Federal and State officials. Can we work together to reenergize this 240 acre commercial site? We are asking for a feasibility study for the reuse of this property. Is it possible to reuse it for a gas fired plant?

The Mayor advised that just today she received an unsigned letter. It says "Indian Point converted to gas fired. Algonquin Spectra think." It was signed by "Elmer Fudd". The Mayor said with a smile to let "Elmer Fudd" know that we are already on that. We are already asking that.

The Mayor commented that when this all happened, the leak went to the New York Times on Friday, January 6. What came out of that meeting in Albany was that there was no agreement between Entergy and the State of New York on that Friday. That did not happen until over the weekend. She commented that we were all in shock that day because of how the announcement was done. She commented that we all knew that someday there was an end date. Entergy made their official announcement on that Monday. The Mayor immediately got on the phone to a Spectra representative. She asked them that in that 42 inch pipeline that is coming through here, if there is any gas available in the other 26 inch line? They replied that they knew where she was going with that question. She asked if we could use it for a gas fired plant. They replied

no. All of that gas is spoken for so we would not be able to tap in this. The only way is that they would have to run another trunk line across the river. There was an opt in time to use that gas. Con Edison did not buy into it. So it is all going up north. The Mayor commented that does not mean that there is not a possibility. It is a potential so we will see what happens.

The Mayor continued with the excerpts from her statement at the hearing. As for whether it is possible to reuse this site for a gas powered plant, she noted that other communities have already converted from nuclear to gas fired. There is a plant in California. She noted that the new plants are more environmentally friendly and more efficient. Con Ed owns the switch yard across from the plant. They recently completed a \$2 million dollar upgrade. The transmission lines are already in place so it would make sense to re-energize this property.

The Mayor commented that her biggest take away from that hearing was that Entergy got a little upset because everybody is talking about redeveloping. The person who spoke for Entergy said that this is Entergy's property. The Mayor commented that yes, we understand that it is Entergy's property. But we are trying to be proactive. They are a publicly held company. They are responsible to their stakeholders so if there is some way that we can match somebody who would like the property with Entergy then they could have a discussion. We all understand that they still own the property and have to go through decommissioning.

The Mayor raised the question of can we make this model for communities in the future facing the loss of a major business. She noted that there is an article from the NY Post that there is a \$1.5 billion State fund that covers a range of economic development projects. Included is \$5 million for CBS to refurbish the Ed Sullivan Theater in Manhattan, a \$25 million grant to help build Empire Outlets, a planned \$350 million mall next to the proposed NY Wheel. The Mayor said that we are asking to have access to this fund or something similar. She noted that New York is ranked as 49<sup>th</sup> on the list of business-friendly states. As this moves forward the Village will need money to transition for tax stabilization. The Mayor asked at the hearing what development money is available. Is there support from New York State planning and consulting regarding this site? The Village of Buchanan is asking for the State's assistance during these challenging times.

The Mayor thought the meeting went well. State Senator Murphy was there. Senator Croci is former Trustee Joe Tropiano's nephew. He is from Long Island and is the head of the Department of Homeland Security in the State. Assemblyman Kevin Byrne from Putnam Valley and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin from lower Westchester were on the panel. The Mayor commented that Senator Griffo from upstate was very good. When he was mayor he went through a similar thing when the Air Force left the Rome area. So he knows what is happening and what we are going through. The Mayor commented that they were very good. They really grilled the State employees about who was in the meeting and different things.

The Mayor commented that for the last two months it has been fact finding and really understanding better what is happening, and looking for support for us and all the local communities. Mayor Knickerbocker has been asked to be on the Governor's task force. She will be on the front line of everything going on and will be a voice for the Village. She said that the Board has to hold the State's feet to the fire. We cannot let up. We have to let them know we are here and that we are not going to quit.

The Mayor is going to send out a letter to our residents in the next few days to let everyone know what is going on. She wants everyone to know that we are working on this. She remarked that Con Ed says, "We are on it!" and we [the Board] are on it. The Mayor asked if there were any questions from any of the Board members.

Trustee Pasquale commented that he also went to the hearing. He noted that Senator Croci said that it is virtually impossible to use this land in our lifetimes. Trustee Pasquale commented that there is always that safety concern with the spent fuel rods there. Who knows how long they are going to keep them there? By the time they find a place to get rid of them, that is going to take a long time. Trustee Pasquale wanted to know, because they are going to be stored on that site, if we can get taxes from them.

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that we are going to look into that. Right now we are in the second year of the PILOT Program. Either party can ask to renegotiate. She advised that with the PILOT Program there is a step down once they stop producing energy. So we are going to talk about that as a Board. When she was in Vernon, Vermont where they are ahead of us in the decommissioning process and still pulling rods out of the fuel pool, they were telling her different things such as what the value of those rods are on the pad. The Mayor noted not that we want rods here. But for years the Department of Energy charged all the nuclear plants in the country a fee so that they could find a repository. They failed to do that. Yucca Mountain never materialized. A couple of years ago the nuclear power plants had to sue the Federal government to stop them from taking money from them when there was no place to put these things. The Mayor commented that it is not looking good. They are going to be stored here. She will find out how many they intend to store. She believes there will be 100. They will be on cement storage pads until there is a place to put them. She commented that she does not want to get too much into the negotiations at this time. It is something that the Board will talk about in Executive Session. But there is a value to them. She was told what the value was. She commented that we might be looking at eventually putting them back on the tax rolls. That is something we are going to be working on. There are a lot of things going forward.

Trustee Pasquale commented that what stuck with him from that hearing was that it is virtually impossible to use the land in our lifetime. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that there are three ways for the plant to be decommissioned. One is the sarcophagus. That is basically going to

the site and throwing cement over it and sealing it. That is not used. Two, there is decommissioning and also safe storage. "De-com" is a quicker decommissioning process. Entergy has not told us which process they will be using. She thinks that 120 days after they close they have to do studies. So they are not saying anything yet. Safe storage is another way where they have 60 years to bring the property back to "park like". The Mayor commented that the biggest thing is how much money they have in their fund. Eventually they have to bring it back to "park like". So that area of the property where Units One, Two and Three are cannot be used because they are going to be decommissioned. Even Unit One has to be decommissioned. The structure had to come down. They said that some of the radioactive material would be shipped to Texas. It is going to be taken apart. The Mayor noted to remember that there are 240 acres that they own there. Not all 240 are being used. This is why when Senator Griffo asked her what the two things are that we would like to see, she advised tax stabilization for us as we go into this new world and someone to come in and help us with economic development. He told her okay. The Mayor commented that those are the things we are looking at right now and are going to try to replace our tax base. She understands what Trustee Pasquale is saying but noted that there are other portions of that property that can be looked at for redevelopment.

Trustee Zachary noted that the Mayor had said that it was significant that the NY Power Authority owned and operated that plant for 25 years. He wanted to know once Entergy bought the plant did they not buy it lock, stock and barrel? So don't they now own all the spent fuel? The Mayor advised that they end up getting their decommissioning money. They have to take possession of the spent fuel but the State's hands are dirty. She commented do not let them get away with saying, "Oh! Look at all this spent fuel!" She commented that their hands are dirty too because the State produced some of that spent fuel. The State has to step up to the plate too. The Mayor believes that from the decommissioning of Unit 2 they ended up getting \$680 million from the State. They only got that last year. The State held on to that decommissioning money. The Mayor commented that they should not have. It should have been turned over but they held on to it.

Trustee Zachary wants to express his appreciation of the Mayor's diving right into this. He remarked that for the next couple of years this is her life. It is going to take quite a bit of commitment and she had shown so far that she is going to be right in it. He wanted to express his appreciation. He commented that we need to remember that Entergy is a large business. When they were here, it was part of their business plan to be good neighbors. So the Village got grant money. The Town of Cortlandt got grant money. They have always gone out of their way to be good neighbors. Once they are leaving here, the business plan is money. It is profit. Right now, they have 60 years to decommission that plant. If there is no outside influence, legal or financial, they will stretch it out as much as they can. He thinks that part of what we need to do is to look at ways to accelerate that plan. A plant could be decommissioned in 60 years. There are accelerated ways to do it that are more costly. He commented that whether or not we

can have more of that land available in a shorter period of time, in our lifetimes, is very questionable. He commented that when we say in our lifetimes, everyone on the Board is over 39. Maybe our children will see that as some other development. He commented that everyone has to recognize that right now it is the identifying the questions phase. Right now we are asking all the questions, looking at all the possibilities, looking at every angle and researching possibilities. There are no immediate answers right now. He thinks that when they come up, they will be multi-faceted. Concerning redevelopment, he thinks there will be some tax impact. We cannot say that there will be zero tax increase. We need to look at a redevelopment. He commented that as the Mayor said, we seem to be seeing more young people coming into our community. He commented what is it that makes our community appealing and how do we keep the identity of the Village, reinvent ourselves and make this a place that people want to be? There are a lot of different angles to look at. He thinks that when all the dust settles the solutions will be very multi-faceted. He commented that right now while the Mayor is taking on the lion's share of this work that the Board has to do what we can because there are going to be a lot of things to look at for the next couple of years. He commented that the bad news is that it is closing; the good news is that we have 3 or 4 years but we have to stay active with it.

Mayor Knickerbocker commented that Trustee Zachary made a good point. She thinks that as Trustee Jackson once mentioned, it is an opportunity to reinvent ourselves. They are talking about how they are going to re-energize but here you have to remember there was an end date to the plants. They were going to close in 2034. So we were going to face this. It was coming. We were hoping that it was not going to be so soon.

Trustee Jackson commented that one of the other things that the Board had talked about at another meeting was the idea of a Buchanan Task Force to really zero in on those things that are germane to our particular plight and how to get together with the citizens and businesses to talk about some of the things that we would like to see occur and how we can make those ideas known to the Governor's committee and to Representative Nita Lowey at the Federal level to make sure that those local concerns are well orchestrated into the larger body of the State and Federal governments. He commented that a lot of people have moved up here because of the proximity to New York City, the quality of life, the fact that we do have our own police department and the general facilities that we enjoy here in the Village. They are a treat for someone to look forward to and to raise a family. He does not think that we need to push the panic button. He commented that as County Legislator Kaplowitz said, use this as an opportunity to dig deep and come up with some logical solutions as we move forward. He commented that as the other Board members have said, the Mayor had shown leadership in going up to Vermont and investigating things and getting ideas of what other communities that have faced these challenges are doing. He commented that we are right here at the Hudson River finding out how much land is available for development. He commented that as we peel back the onion we want to make sure that we keep the public aware and ask for their input and

suggestions. He commented that some of the people in the real estate market talked about a couple of things. All that will be very valuable going forward.

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that she had spoken to the Master Plan Committee. She is not sure if we will do a separate task force. She would like to have people come in and put different ideas out. She commented that one of the take aways from her trip to Vernon, Vermont was that they said was to not replace what you have with something big again. Do not count on that one big thing but have an assortment of things to do. The Mayor agreed noting that is why we are in this position now.

The Mayor commented that this meeting is a good update for the Board. She thanks them. She commented that this is a challenging time. She commented on their support, their questions, that they were all there Thursday night at Senator Murphy's hearing asking questions. She commented that she can honestly say that this Board has always, always done whatever is in the best interest of the Village. She said that as we go forward it is so important that we continue to work together. She is comfortable with the team that she has behind her. It is all about the Village. There are no politics here. It is always about the Village. She cannot say enough how much she appreciates that. She commented that they all come from different backgrounds. They look at things differently. They do not always agree. But the bottom line is it is always what is in the best interest of the Village. It is in our hearts that we always do the best thing for the Village.

The Mayor commented that in Vernon Vermont, they are looking to do something different. Entergy said to not count on that happening here because they do not know yet. There is a company called North Star. There are different subsidiaries that work with them. They are in the business of decommissioning nuclear power plants. There is a conversation going on as to whether North Star will buy the Vernon plant, which is decommissioned, because this is a company that is in the business to that. So they can do it faster and cheaper. The Mayor was told that there are no discussions for this plant yet but Vernon, Vermont might be the trail blazer for what might happen at these other plants. Trustee Zachary wanted to confirm that this is the Vermont Yankee plant which was also owned by Entergy and was closed in 2014. The Mayor advised that was correct. She commented that the ladies that she met with from the planning commission there might be coming to our community in April. The Mayor commented that their planning commission is a very dynamic group. They are probably going into Manhattan. North Star is based in Manhattan. When they do, they will be stopping in Buchanan. They would be very willing to speak and answer questions. That is good.

Trustee Funchion commented that the Mayor has commented on taxing the nuclear waste. He thinks that is very important. He commented that since the plant in Vermont is proceeding down that path that maybe we should be acting together with them and looking for help in the

legal area from both the State and Federal governments to combat what he thinks would naturally be Entergy's probably saying no, that they will have a PILOT program. Trustee Funchion thinks that by doing this it might speed up moving those fuel rods out of the area if they are going to have to pay a good amount of tax on it.

Mayor Knickerbocker thanked everyone for letting her explain where we are with the Indian Point issue.

Moving on, Mayor Knickerbocker advised that next year in May is the Village of Buchanan's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are going to get a committee together to have a celebration. She wanted to let everybody know that will be coming.

g. Trustees' Reports:

Trustee Zachary commented that the main things were covered. The Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting will be on March 21 at 6:30 PM at the Village Highway Department. He noted that a survey went out in the mail with a requested return date of February 25. He advised that they are still going to accept them. The survey can be completed on-line on the Village of Buchanan web site. There is a link for the survey on the Home page. If you have the paper copy, return it to the Village Hall. They would be glad to accept any surveys.

Trustee Zachary reported that Buchanan Day will be in September. The committee usually starts meeting around now. They are trying to put together a committee meeting in the next couple of weeks. He will announce the schedule for the committee meetings as soon as it is completed.

Trustee Pasquale wished everybody a Happy Saint Patrick's Day. The parade will be on Sunday. Hopefully the weather will cooperate. He commented that it is always a good thing that he can lose his Italian heritage and be Irish for a day. He reported that he attended the Saint Patrick's Day Parade dinner on Saturday. The committee did a wonderful job. He commented that we have to keep trying to keep getting Buchanan Police Sergeant Guida for the master of ceremonies. He gave congratulations to the Grand Marshal and Aides.

Trustee Pasquale reported that he attended the meeting in Peekskill last Thursday. It was a packed house and good to see that. He wishes that more of the audience could have spoken instead of just State Senator Klein giving a presentation. But it was a first step. He commented that it was very informational and good because he got a better understanding of what the concerns are outside of our Village. They had the school district, local businesses and unions. He commented that when the union leaders spoke up and gave their presentation and all the union members gave a standing ovation at the end that was beautiful. It was also good at the

end to hear State Senator Murphy say, “We got your back and will not hang you out to dry.” Trustee Funchion commented that it is going to come to a point where it is time to take the gloves off and start some bare knuckle punching because that is what it is going to take.

Trustee Jackson said that his hat goes off to the Saint Patrick’s Day Parade Committee. They did a terrific job. Also all the guys and gals involved in the volunteer fire department who did a great job hosting the Saint Patrick’s Day dinner.

Trustee Jackson was at the meeting last Thursday along with the other members of the Board. He commented that we are listening to what is being said. He commented that the 800 pound gorilla in the room was that the Governor’s people were not there. He commented that we need to be very mindful to listen very carefully to what they are proposing from wherever they are in the State of New York. They are not here in Buchanan or Cortlandt that is for sure. He commented that we have to keep their feet to the fire and make sure that they have information that is to our well being and that we understand their planning methods. He commented that there is an old planning tool that says “poor planning prevents perfect performance”. We have seen how this started out with some poor information in the fact that the Village was not at the table. No one locally was there. As it has been described, it was three men in a room. He commented that being very mindful of that going forward and hoping to know that they will be sensible enough to understand that we are not just “dots and o’s” on a board in this State take over or decommissioning of the plant. There are actual people living here in Buchanan that have lives and businesses and children to raise, and that our concerns should be first. Not those who just carry on about the closing of the plant but those who carry on about what our energy needs are going to be for the future.

Trustee Jackson encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy the Saint Patrick’s Day Parade. He commented that whatever the weather will be, we will be there in force. He wished everyone a great Buchanan Day.

Mayor Knickerbocker noted that Trustee Jackson has been a planner before and that experience is invaluable going forward.

Trustee Funchion wanted to echo and agree with what Trustee Pasquale said. He is another Bronx kid. He wished a happy Saint Patrick’s Day to everybody that is coming. It is a very special day to him. He noted that he is a dual citizen, an American and an Irish citizen. Part of his growing up was in Ireland. Trustee Funchion thanked all the people on the Saint Patrick’s Day Committee who did an enormous amount of work. He is on the committee but he thinks that he does half of one percent of the work. The rest of the committee does all the work. Trustee Funchion commented that as reported the whole Board attended State Senator Murphy’s meeting. He commented that it really showed the impact of the workers in place and also the

trickle down from that, which will impact local businesses. That is very important because that is the human factor. He commented that we are all going to have to tighten our belts and probably pay more taxes but we are not in as bad shape as some of these people who will be laid off. He commented that especially for young people with families, where is the next meal and the next mortgage payment coming from? The reality is that there are some real human factors here.

Trustee Funchion wanted to add his agreement to the other Board member's comments that Mayor Knickerbocker is doing a fantastic job. He noted that she ran all over the place. She basically is now doing a full time job as a mayor.

Trustee Funchion attended the Community Unity Task Force meeting. It is made up of about 15 people from the Town of Cortlandt and also includes mainly our Mayor, Town Supervisor Linda Puglisi and Joe Hochreiter. It was also a preponderance of a lot of real estate people. It also included the Verplanck Fire Department and the library. The first meeting was two weeks ago. Trustee Funchion commented that it was really more about getting to meet people and getting the committee started. He thinks that it will be another stick in the fire that will be helpful. He knows that the Town is not as impacted as our school district and the Village but it is good that the committee was put together.

Trustee Funchion commented that everything else has been mentioned about the St. Patrick's Day parade. He encouraged people to come out on Sunday. The party was great.

Trustee Funchion wanted to emphasize that working with this Board had been very good. He commented that as the Mayor pointed out, everybody is really interested in putting the community first. He feels that we tried in every way, have attended every meeting and asked every question. He commented that together, everybody in the Village and this Board, we will get through it and work it out. He feels that we will be in much better shape when we get through this. He thanked Mayor Knickerbocker for all her work.

Mayor Knickerbocker thanked Trustee Funchion for covering for her in that task force in the Town of Cortlandt. She commented that looking back over the last couple of years, we have faced some tough challenges. One of the big ones was the Entergy agreement. We worked on it and negotiated it and it turned out well for the Village. She commented that unfortunately you can never predict how long that was going to be. We had talked about that. We did not know if we were going to have the full 10 years and what potential things we could look into. The Spectra pipeline was another challenge. She feels that we came through those two challenges well and she is comfortable. She feels that this is a tough one. She commented that if she had to look at the two biggest events in the Village of Buchanan, one was when the nuclear power plant came here. Con Edison bought it in the 1950s and it went on-line in 1962.

Now the next biggest event is the closure of those plants. It is another challenge that we are going to face. We are going to work together and figure it out. She thanked everyone.

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

Eileen Absenger, 138 Tate Avenue, commented that she appreciates what the Mayor has done. She was also at State Senator Murphy's meeting. It was very well attended. She commented that there are phases to this dilemma. She thinks that the Board has been very cohesive and she hopes that it stays that way. They should continue to ask the questions, keep an open mind and think out of the box. She commented that we will be behind you with any questions and any thoughts. She thinks that all our residents need to think and really come up with questions that maybe the Board has not thought of or may assist them in coming up with other ideas. She thanked the Board and hopes to see them continue.

Mayor Knickerbocker commented that the whole Village is in this together. We are all in this together, the Town of Cortlandt and the school. She commented that this is a whole big problem but this community has rallied together before. She noted that we received the official announcement on a Monday and had the first meeting here at Village Hall on that Thursday. We had a great turn out. It was just people wanting answers to questions. There are many more questions and we do not have all the answers yet but the Mayor noted that to put things in some type of check, it is two months and we are not sitting on our hands. We are moving forward fast. She commented that we will continue to do that because we love our little village here.

#### **8. BOARD MEMBER REBUTTALS:**

None.

#### **9. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 8:39 PM a MOTION to go into Executive Session to discuss contractual agreements was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT:**

At 9:35 PM a MOTION to exit Executive Session was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Funchion with all in favor.

At 9:36 PM a MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.