

Mayor & Board of Trustees
Village Board Meeting
May 1, 2017

PRESENT:

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker

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

Village Administrator Kevin Hay

Village Attorney Stephanie V. Porteus

Village Board Secretary Susan F. Matthews

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and informed them of the fire regulations.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mayor Knickerbocker called for a Moment of Silence for the passing today of Ben Martinelli who served on our Planning Board for 17 years, 5 of them as Chairman.

2. APPROVE MINUTES:

Regular meeting of March 7, 2017: Trustee Funchion made a MOTION to approve these minutes as read. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.

April Organizational Meeting: The Mayor directed that approval of these minutes will be held over until next month's meeting.

3. PRESENTATION: NAMI Ribbon Program

Michelle Palella thanked the Mayor and Board for allowing her to come to speak about the NAMI [National Alliance of Mental Illness] program. She has a husband and 4 children and lives in the Hendrick Hudson school district and the Village of Croton-on-Hudson. She explained that May is national mental health awareness month. NAMI is a national alliance on mental illness. It is the leading advocate for raising awareness of mental illness and for legislation and reform to stop the stigma associated with it. They have ribbons that they tie around lamp posts to get people more aware. One in five people are afflicted with mental illness. The Town of Cortlandt and Village of Croton have the ribbons and the Hendrick Hudson High School started a campaign last year. Ms. Palella noted that on May 20 they will have their biggest fundraiser, an annual walk

on the boardwalk at Playland in Rye. Ms. Palella noted that she is not only a member of NAMI but a recipient of their services. She said they have done a lot for her. She noted the programs that will be starting in our area. She asked if the ribbons could be put up in Buchanan. The Mayor and Board agreed that it can be done. The Mayor asked where they would be putting them up. Ms. Palella said they would be put on the lamp posts around the Circle. The Mayor added some other locations and commented that it is a good organization and program. Trustee Jackson thanked Ms. Palella for volunteering and being involved. Trustee Funchion commented that it was very admirable and what they are doing is very important. He commented that mental illness is a second class citizen to so many other things but it affects so many people. Trustee Pasquale commented that he worked as a behavioral psychologist before he was a police officer. He thinks it is a wonderful thing for her to take part like this. It is dear to his heart and he thanked her for doing it.

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

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

a. PUBLIC HEARING: 2017-2018 Village Budget.

At 7:43 PM a MOTION to open the Public Hearing was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that Village Administrator Hay has been working on the budget and has new information.

Village Administrator Hay advised that at the close of the Budget Hearing the budget was at 5.8%. He tweaked some things and we are now down to a 2.85% increase with all the same things as when we closed the Budget Hearing. In reply to a question from Trustee Jackson, he advised that includes the \$50,000 for the truck for the Fire Department, \$25,000 for the tax stabilization, the vehicle we talked about for the Police Department, money for the Village Hall facilities and for the Building Inspector. There is the \$150,000 for paving and the \$100,000 for the removal of the White Street house. He noted that our medical benefits went up significantly. We have an extra police salary because we have an employee on disability who is waiting for a permanent disability retirement.

The Administrator commented that when the property tax cap first came out, the growth of the levy could only have been \$23,069. We have a growth of our levy of over

\$233,546 with it still with a 2.85% increase. That is because our special franchises increased, as well as the Spectra gas line. Their assessment went up significantly with that new southern route that went through the Village. Mayor Knickerbocker noted that no matter what we did even if it was a 0% increase it still would have been over the cap. The Administrator confirmed that was because they only allow for a certain growth rate factor, 0.15 of our levy per year. It is figured out by the tax and finance group of New York State who set it for villages.

Trustee Funchion asked the Administrator to further explain what the 7 things noted on the graph represent to give the public a better idea of what is in there.

The Administrator explained that: "Government Support" is the Village Board, Village Clerk's office, the Administrator, the Village Attorney, the auditing services and general government support. Trustee Jackson asked if the percentage has changed. The Administrator advised that the percentage has not changed significantly from year to year. "Transportation & Street Maintenance" is the Highway Department and sanitation. "Public Safety" is police and fire. "Recreation" is recreation. "Employee Benefits" is health care, Social Security, dental and pension payments. "Home & Community" is mostly the Zoning and Planning Boards and the Sewage Treatment Plant. Trustee Jackson asked what is included in "Other". The Administrator advised they are the bond payments and anything that does not fit into a category. It is a small group.

Mayor Knickerbocker asked if the Board members had any other thoughts or comments on the budget.

Trustee Zachary asked about the tax stabilization fund noting that we had \$25,000 allocated. He commented that at the beginning of April there was a discussion where he wanted to open it at \$100,000 and a compromise was discussed. He noted that he was not at the last Workshop. He wanted to know if the Board decided to increase it to \$50,000. The Administrator believes it was left for discussion. Trustee Zachary commented that since our fortunes are a little better that he would like to open that for discussion again. He is in favor of putting more money aside against future tax increases. Trustee Funchion wanted to know what the difference is between having it in the General Fund versus a dedicated fund. He noted that if it is in a dedicated fund you cannot use it for anything but that. Trustee Zachary commented that is why he is in favor of setting it aside for the future. He thinks that if we are funding it, it should be an amount that would have an impact on offsetting future tax increases. Trustee Funchion is concerned about what is going on at the Federal level and tax proposals coming out of Washington that will severely impact states that have income taxes. He commented that if we will no longer be allowed to deduct taxes it will be a harder hit on everybody. He commented

that at the last meeting, there were 3 Board members who said to rescind the \$25,000 and make it zero. The Administrator advised that at the Budget Hearing the Board left it at \$25,000. Trustee Zachary did not understand how we are opening it at \$25,000 even though 3 people said to make it zero. He commented that he has asked for this fund for 5 years. He believes that it is a reserve fund that will benefit us in the future rather than have some very big tax increases in one year. He wants to revisit this. Trustee Pasquale wanted to confirm that the \$25,000 is already allocated in the 2.58%. The Administrator confirmed that it is.

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that that Joe Hochreiter summed this up by saying that we cannot tax our way out of this. Half of our budget comes out of Entergy. The money that you would be saving for the tax stabilization is a probably a one shot deal. We will be losing \$450,000 the first year that Entergy ceases operation. The State has set up what is basically a stabilization fund for coal plants and nuclear power plants that cease operation. The first year, whatever you lose, it would be 80% then decrease in 10% increments annually down to 10% over 7 years. The Mayor does not want to be over taxing for a future event. She commented that she understands what Trustee Zachary is saying but we are 4 months into this announcement and there are a lot of things that are going on. She commented that as we have talked about, this Board needs to step back and do a lot of looking at how we run the Village, what things can be done better and more efficiently. That is what we are looking at. She commented that if everything comes to fruition that she thinks that we will be okay. She is going to be optimistic. She thinks that there are going to be a lot of changes but we are going to be okay.

Trustee Funchion commented that hopefully this summer the Board would be going door to door around the Village to get input to see what the Village residents want. We are a small enough community. He commented that they did great with the survey for the Master Plan. At this juncture the Board does not have a read on what the community wants. Trustee Zachary's proposal is one of the questions that could be asked. After the Board does the survey, there are several years. We can see what the rest of the Village wants. He commented that the impact of a tax increase is subjective depending on what your income is. He does not know what is going to come out of Washington and the impact that might have.

The Mayor agreed that we do not know what people are thinking at this point. She agrees with Trustee Funchion regarding the survey and that from it we can get the heart beat of the Village. She does know that there is a lot of concern but she does not want people to panic. There are a lot of different options we are going to be working through. The Mayor asked the public not to panic. She commented that for anyone who has questions, she is available and the Board members are available. If the residents want a special

meeting to go over and talk about their concerns, that is not a problem. She commented that this is 4 months into the announcement. There are a lot of balls in the air and a lot of things that are happening. We all need to stay calm and work through this.

Trustee Zachary commented that panic is a mental state and no matter what the Mayor says some people will panic and some people will stay calm. Hopefully most people will approach it rationally. He commented that he is not saying that we should tax our way out of it. He is saying that the final solution is a multi-faceted approach. It will involve business development and maybe State aid. He hopes that we are not going to have to make up all that money through a tax increase that is excessive. But he thinks that being honest and realistic we are going to have to see some increase in taxes. There are various ways to work with our services. There are a lot of things we have to look at and it will take research and weighing options. He commented that for him this dedicated fund is like keeping an ace in the hole. It is money that could not be used for anything else but taxes. It could be used to offset taxes whether they went up a certain percentage in a few years or not. He respects the Board's opinion. He commented that none of us claim to be experts in finance.

Trustee Jackson was in favor of a prudent reserve between \$25,000 and \$50,000. Now that the Administrator has reworked the numbers, he is comfortable with the \$25,000 to be put aside as a starting point. He agrees with the Mayor that there are a lot of unanswered questions, a lot of balls in the air and things that we do not know. He commented that as things move forward we will take a step in that direction to make sure we start that fund and as things develop address them accordingly. Mayor Knickerbocker wanted to confirm that Trustee Jackson wanted to start the fund at \$25,000. Trustee Jackson advised that was correct.

Trustee Funchion commented that he was at the meeting at the Town of Cortlandt to work on this problem. They had two people from the decommissioned nuclear facility in Vermont. They emphasized things concerning panic. The way the closure of the plant occurs brings about a natural tension because people do not know what they are doing. They have such an extended period of time. They could even go to 60 years to close it down. People who live there want to know what they can do. Trustee Funchion commented that if everyone on the Board wants to go along with the \$25,000 he would not object.

Trustee Pasquale commented that with being able to add the \$25,000 and keeping the tax rate at 2.85%, he is comfortable with it.

Mayor Knickerbocker asked the Administrator for the additional amount the average resident would be paying in their Village taxes this year. The Administrator advised it would be \$37.35 for the average household.

The Mayor asked for comments from the floor.

David Lorine, 169 Westchester Avenue, commented that at a meeting two months ago it was said that it is illegal for the Village to put money aside for this purpose. Trustee Zachary advised that New York State has very specifically defined funds that you can set aside for certain purposes. The government allows for reserve funds for specific uses. There are capital development funds that we have which is used for roads or building repairs. The tax stabilization fund is specifically to offset future tax increase. It is one of the legal funds. It is legal to set it up as long as it is not more than 10% of your allowable budget. If it exceeds that you would have to start using it which would mean offsetting taxes with it. He commented that he understands what Trustee Funchion is saying. It is basically just like having money in the General Fund. Every year when we do our budget we take money in, we spend money and there is a certain pool of money that is left. It is the General Fund that everything operates out of. There is always something in there. He commented that it is healthy to have a good bit of reserve. He commented that this is the same as having that money in that reserve fund except that it can only be used for the tax offset. It is a legal set up.

Eileen Absenger, Tate Avenue, wanted to know if this money is set aside and we do not use it, does it reverse itself. She does not like that it would be in a designated fund that cannot be used except for that. She feels that it could be put into the General Fund and it could be added to. She wanted to know if this plant takes 40 years to go away and is still coming in with tax revenue and the Board is still taking \$25,000, \$50,000 or \$100,000 and does not use it, can it be dispersed back to the people they took it from. The Administrator advised that it can be used for any tax increase over 2.5% percent. It is designated for the taxes. Trustee Zachary advised that the Village Board can dissolve the fund by resolution and it goes back into the General Fund. You have to spend the fund for the specific reason it was set up for. Ms. Absenger wanted to know where the money goes if the fund is dissolved. Trustee Jackson advised that it goes to the General Fund. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that after it is expended for the purpose it is set up for you can no longer fund it. The Administrator does not think it can go back into the General Fund. He will research that.

Trustee Zachary noted that the Recreation Fund was a reserve fund which could only be used for new things in the recreation program. It was set aside so when multi-unit developers did not create public space. Through the Planning Board process they are

expected to put aside a certain amount of money in the fund for that specific use. If it was not done then in a year where the budget could not provide for it you would not have the money for the specific use of recreation. He commented that if the money was in the General Fund a different Board in years to come could dip into it. With a reserve fund, the money would be there. Ms. Absenger commented that she understood that. She commented that there are so many variables and unknowns here that designating that does not make sense to her as a resident. Trustee Zachary commented that he was used to having unpopular opinions.

The Board agreed to set this tax stabilization for \$25,000.

At 8:18 PM a MOTION to close this Public Hearing was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. 17-17 RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2017-2018 VILLAGE BUDGET.

Mayor Knickerbocker read the Resolution (*copy attached*). The budget will be at 2.85%.

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

b. 17-18 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE TOWN OF CORTLANDT

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

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that the Federal and State governments have recently made a big push to do this in villages and towns but this is nothing new to us. We have been doing this with the Town of Cortlandt for years. She commented that going forward we will be looking at other things to help us save money.

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

c. 17-19 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF A SEASONAL EMPLOYEE

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

Mayor Knickerbocker noted that we do this every summer. We have a lot of work in the Village. These two people were recommended by our Highway Foreman. They will start on May 26.

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

d. 17-20 RESOLUTION DECLARING VILLAGE VEHICLES SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO ACCEPT BIDS.

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

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that we use our vehicles for a long time. There is a 1983 Jeep which got a lot of use. It is time to move on.

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

e. 17-21 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX CERTIOTARI SETTLEMENT.

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

Trustee Zachary asked about the reduced assessed value and how it works. Those 4 years translate to a tax refund of \$5,182. In one year, 2015, the assessed value is cut in half. Village Attorney Porteus advised that the break down is on the third page. Trustee Zachary wanted to confirm that if you do a tax certiorari for a given year the assessed value is reduced for that year. He noted that it is showing the assessed value went down in 2015 but went back in 2016. He did not understand it. The Administrator explained that it still is \$26,000. It has not been changed at all. It is not permanently reduced until the final settlement is reached.

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

f. 17-22 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ASSEMBLY BILL A-6825 AND SENATE BILL S-5197 LIMITING PLACEMENT OF ANCHORING AREAS.

Trustee Zachary 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.

g. 17-23 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING UNPAID WATER CHARGES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE VILLAGE TAX BILLS.

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

Mayor Knickerbocker commented that the people know who they are. Sometimes people forget to pay. It gets put onto their Village taxes and most times they pay it then. Trustee Zachary would like to see us set it up where bills can be paid on the Village web site. He commented that we used to do everything by check but now more and more people do everything on-line. He does not know if it will reduce the number of people who do not pay their water bills but he thinks that it would help. The Administrator advised that we have had internal discussions about taking credit cards and paying on-line. We are setting up to have some vendors talk to us and are getting recommendations from other municipalities.

Trustee Funchion commented that this list is pretty long. He thinks that we should give some consideration to increasing the penalties. He commented that we have all made mistakes and missed a bill. But he noted that every year that he has been on the Board this list goes on for 2 pages. He thinks that it is pretty convenient to put it on the tax bill because it is very hard to fool the IRS in taking water charges off their taxes. The Administrator advised that currently if they do not pay, the penalty is 5%. Trustee Zachary wanted to know if we still have outstanding bills from the previous year. The Administrator advised that they were put onto that year's tax bill. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that the Board will talk about the fee schedule at a Workshop.

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

h. 17-24 RESOLUTION DIRECTING PUBLICATION AND COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION.

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

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that what this means is that we are now going forward with taking down the abandoned White Street property. It is a hazard and dangerous. We have budgeted the money for that. In the future, we will try to recoup it. We have

more information on potential ways that we can save money. The Mayor advised that last week she was in a meeting with the Village Administrator and Building Inspector where they met with another company who gave us a good report. The Administrator advised that we had previously got an asbestos survey on the property. Building Inspector Conti found this new group. After reviewing the survey they felt that the previous group did not go far enough in testing to determine if the asbestos was located to certain areas of the house which would allow us to get variances and take down portions of the house as regular commercial debris. This company found that most of the asbestos is contained to the basement. That is beneficial to us. They will work through the variances and things so we can look to take down most of the house as commercial debris at a significantly lower cost. They will get back to us with a report. Mayor Knickerbocker commented that the first report would have meant that we would have to take down the complete house and treat it as completely asbestos. It is not and it will now be a significant savings. \$85,000 was the lowest bid to do that. Now we can do it for less once we have obtained the variances. There are a lot of liens on this house. We are going to pursue recouping that money. It is a dangerous house and since it is in the Village, we are responsible and need to take it down.

Village Attorney Porteus advised that we went through the procedure several years ago. Our Code is very specific about an abandoned property. The Village is not the ultimate authority to deem it a nuisance and permit us to take down somebody else's property. So the first part deals with trying to serve the owner. The Building Inspector and Village Engineer come out and tell the owner to bring an architect as their expert. They have the opportunity to say if they can repair it. In this case, we know that the owner is not alive and that it was never probated or deeded to anyone else. But procedurally we still have to go through the steps. In this case, it took a little longer because we know that we will not get personal service. Pursuant to our Code, the Board is authorizing it to be published in two separate newspapers once per week for 4 weeks. That must be done before the Village Attorney can be authorized to bring an action. Since the reports are already done, once the notice requirements and publications are done the Village Attorney will advise the Board that the complaint has been prepared and it will be filed. The Supreme Court then has to order it. The Village Attorney noted that there is a little glitch because Social Services has such a large lien so they have to be given notice. She advised that she spoke with them in the past and they did not want anything to do with it. She commented that they certainly they do not want to help us and do not want to repair it. She does not anticipate a problem there but wants the Board to know that the lien holders must receive notice. The Town of Cortlandt will receive notice because of their tax lien. The Village Attorney wants the residents to be aware that the reason the house will not be taken down right away is because there is a procedure.

The Mayor asked the Village Attorney's opinion on how long it may take to go through all this. Village Attorney Porteus advised that sometimes you get a judge who does it right away. If the survey is done and the Village Engineer comes out, which she thinks the Administrator is seeing will be done, she would expect to be in court in the next 4-5 weeks. It will be filed and notices sent and the parties will have a chance to respond. She thinks it could be a few months. She advised that she would do it as quickly as she can.

Trustee Zachary is happy that we are taking the first step. We have been talking about it for a long time. He is aware of another "zombie" property on Bannon Avenue. He wanted to know if there is any recourse for that property. He commented that if anyone living near it were to try to sell their houses, it would affect that. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that the Board has had discussions about that property on Bannon Avenue opposite Cortlandt Street. The Village continues to do the yard work and it gets added to the taxes. It is another situation of an elderly woman and a big lien on the property. She is in a nursing home. Taxes have accumulated. The Mayor does not know where it is right now. We cannot get into the building. It is secured. The son lives out West and is not easy to contact. The other situation is the value of the property compared to the lien. It has been many years. It gets overgrown but the Village maintains the front lawn. We do not have access to go into the house unless it is deemed dangerous or hazardous. Trustee Zachary commented it has been like this for 4 or 5 years. In the beginning it looked like it could have been fixed up and occupied. It is now questionable how much it would take to fix a house that has been without heat for 5 years. He commented to keep in mind other places that might need property maintenance. The Mayor commented that the only problem is that even if the Village wanted to serve the heir to the property, he is very difficult to contact. She advised that we could ask the Building Inspector if he could try to contact him at his last known address in Las Vegas. Trustee Zachary wanted to know what defines "dangerous"; if it is someone breaking in or animals getting inside. The Village Attorney advised that you wait until it gets to be dangerous then you have to go to the owner. The Administrator believed that the Town of Cortlandt tried to foreclose on it and someone came in and paid the taxes. He recommended talking to the Town. The Mayor believes there is still a lien on the property.

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

i. 17-25 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING USE OF A VILLAGE FACILITY

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

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that each year the kids from the B/V School march from the school, up Fourth Street and then down First Street to the pavilion where they have a Memorial Day ceremony. It is very heart warming. They read different things, essays and musings. She wants to let the Village residents know. They usually do it in the morning. They have a beautiful ceremony for the Veterans who also participate. She commented that she could not go on enough about what these kids do at that ceremony. The Mayor directed to have it put on the Village Facebook page to let the residents know.

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

7. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS:

- a) Justice Court Report – March-April 2017
Received and filed.

Mayor Knickerbocker reported that the amounts reported from the Justice court were \$1,788 and \$2,172.

- b) Zoning Board Minutes – February 8, 2017
Received and filed.

- c) Planning Board Minutes – February 16, 2017
Received and filed.

- d) Police Reports – February-March 2017
Received and filed.

- e) Fire Inspector's Report – March-April 2017
Received and filed.

- f) Attorney's Report

Village Attorney Porteus reported that the Board would be going into Executive Session to discuss contractual obligations.

- g) Administrator's Report

Village Administrator Hay reminded everybody that their tax bills should be received by June 1 and are payable by July 3. Trustee Funchion commented that we were going to

break out the lines similar to what the Town of Cortlandt does. The Administrator advised that ours is just one because we have a General Fund. Trustee Zachary commented that Trustee Funchion wanted a pie chart insert for the taxes.

h) Mayor's Report

Mayor Knickerbocker reported that as already discussed our Building Inspector is going forward with the White Street house.

The Mayor reported that yesterday, she and Trustee Pasquale went to Buchanan Engine Company's Remembrance Day. She thanked them for the beautiful ceremony honoring those who served in the Fire Department who have passed on. This is keeping their memories alive.

The Mayor reported that this Saturday, May 6 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM the Buchanan Beautification Committee is having a craft vendor fair at the Village pavilion. There are a lot of interesting vendors, food, and raffles. She asked residents to come out and support them. They do a lot in the Village. They are talking about buying new barrels and planters for the entrances to the Village. It is in the Newsletter and the Administrator will put it on the web site.

The Mayor reported that the Tri-Village Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29 at 10:00 AM. It will start at the Verplanck Fire House. Every year one of the three communities sponsors the parade. It will be sponsored this year by the Verplanck Fire Department.

Mayor Knickerbocker commented on rumors going around the Village. She said these had to be responded to. One rumor going around is that we were going to have a double digit tax increase and would not do any roads. Our tax increase is 2.85%. She commented that we have budgeted almost \$500,000 in our Capital Fund for roads. The Mayor, the Village Engineer, and Village Administrator look at the different roads each year and the Engineer gives an opinion on those in critical need of being done. We have the list. We are going to do as many roads as we can and as much crack sealing as possible. The Mayor reported that one of the other rumors is that people are upset that there was a discussion going around that Buchanan's and Verplanck's fire houses were going to merge. She advised that this Board has not discussed the two fire departments merging. That is just a rumor. Going forward there are going to be changes and discussions with everyone. Because of the change with Entergy, our largest tax payer, there will be changes but the Board is going to minimize them. It is an opportunity to recreate ourselves. She commented that going back years ago there was no power plant.

Years ago there was a beautiful park. Over 50-60 years, it has been a nuclear power plant. That defined the Village for all those years. Now we have an opportunity as a Village to reinvent ourselves. The Mayor is forming a Buchanan 2021 group. There are two volunteers and she is looking for more. It will be put it out in the Newsletter. It will be starting in August or September.

i) Trustee's Reports

Trustee Jackson commented on the great job that the Highway Department continues to do in keeping the Village clean and that our services are not second best to anyone. It is a pleasure we shared with the audience. He commented a letter was sent to the Highway Department about a couple of guys on the garbage truck who saw lids flying everywhere and took the time to stop the truck and put them on the sidewalk. That is just one of the little things. Trustee Jackson commented that one day when he was coming down Tate Avenue, there was litter on the side of the road and there was a couple picking it up as they walked. This is one of the things about the Village. He commented that he is proud that we have a home town feeling.

Trustee Jackson reported that they were with the Senior Citizens last Tuesday. The Historical Committee is going to resume videotaping on the history of the Village by recording Village residents talking about Buchanan "back in the day". He noted that does not mean just the 1950s, 1960s. It could be more recent. He asked the Administrator to show the film again on the Buchanan Channel. They will do a second volume of that film. They will be having the kids over. The date is being negotiated now. Trustee Jackson reported that their big program will be in October where they will have the kids from the 5th Grade back and an Open House at night for the residents to take a look at the Historical Room.

Trustee Jackson reported that on May 13 the Verplanck Fire Department is having an "All You Can Eat Wings" event. It is for a worthy cause. It starts at 6 PM or 7 PM. It costs \$25.00.

Trustee Funchion reported that he attended the Cortlandt Community Indian Point Task Force last Wednesday. They had a man and woman from the decommissioned nuclear plant in Vermont. They are dealing with the same situation. It is also Entergy. There were discussions about what was going on and what they encountered. They reiterated what Entergy was saying, that they are leaving all these places as purely business decisions and that they are not getting sued. Trustee Funchion commented that Governor Cuomo likes to take credit for that. Entergy said that concerning the cost, they only get 20% of what they got years ago. There is so much natural gas and oil that it is not

economically feasible. In addition, all the plants in the North are unionized and they are not in the South. They want to consolidate because they act more like a Con Edison. Trustee Funchion noted that when Con Ed owned the plant it was more like a quasi-government than a private industry. Entergy says that is an easier plant to run. Trustee Funchion found it interesting that only .006% of energy produced in the United States is from nuclear power but 36% of the salaries are paid to nuclear generation plants. A typical gas or coal fired plant employs 75-80 people whereas a typical nuclear plant employs 950. Their salaries are all basically close to \$100,000 or more.

Trustee Funchion referred to the Mayor's comments on panic and the uncertainty. He commented that it is not like when a store like Key Foods leaves our area. They are gone and that is it. Somebody else can go there and take it over. This situation with the nuclear plant can go on for years. There is uncertainty. He does not want to call what that causes "panic". It does cause us uncertainty. We and our families are all trying to make difficult decisions such as your kids going to college or deciding on retirement this year. It is difficult when you have the uncertainty of the tax situation. He commented that there are plants closing down all across the country. There might be some chance of a coalition getting together. Washington State and California where plants are closing down may be unifying as one group. They talked about the taxing of the storage sheds. It seems to be up in the air. Trustee Funchion commented that we may not be able to tax that as we thought we might. After listening to them, his guess is that Entergy is probably going to sell that place to a company that specializes in closing down nuclear facilities. In Vermont, they are in the process of negotiating a sale to a company called North Star which is now up and coming because plants are closing down. In Vermont that facility paid 92% of their taxes. There is nothing else there for their employees. Trustee Funchion commented that there are still a lot of good jobs to be had here in Westchester County.

At the next task force meeting, they are asking Entergy to attend to hear what they have to say. It is an on-going thing. He commented that as the Mayor brought out concerning the gossip that is why the Board wants to do the survey and get a real read on what people want to have done. He cited the useful responses that Trustee Zachary and the Master Plan Committee got from their survey. The Board will share whatever we find. We will be transparent in everything we do. He commented our mayor is working very hard and he admires her. She is everywhere, from Albany to New York City.

Trustee Funchion reported that he is on the Buchanan Day Committee. Buchanan Day will be on September 23. This year we will have a very interesting booth. Guiding Eyes will have a kissing puppy booth.

Trustee Funchion noted that he lives on Kings Ferry Road and Tate Avenue. Con Edison's contractors are back to fix their work. He is very disappointed in Con Edison. He commented that this is a good example of people who contract out things and privatization of things that should be run by governments because there is a disconnect. The contractor blames Con Ed and Con Ed blames the contractor. If you call Con Edison they will not give you the number of the person who deals with the contractor. They dig up holes and leave them. They do not say when they are coming back. They leave no information. They make a mess of the street. He commented that his neighbor in Montrose who is blind almost got killed because they parked their truck right on the corner where you cannot see traffic coming from Verplanck or Tate Avenue. He commented that they do not care. He feels that there is a total disconnect between Con Ed and them. They were supposed to do work on Trustee Funchion's house today. He called up and they did not show up. He commented that they only seem to work on Mondays. He does not know where else they work the rest of the time.

Trustee Funchion commented to all the people who own motorcycles, everybody likes to sit out on their porch. The motorcyclists revving up their motors sail up and down the Village. It is being a bad neighbor. Trustee Funchion commented on the leaf blowers. The Board addressed this before. You are not supposed to blow dirt into the street. After the leaves are taken care of for the Spring cleanup, he does not know why the use of the gas powered blowers continues. He thinks that it only circulates pollution all over the Village.

Mayor Knickerbocker thanked Trustee Funchion for going to the task force meeting. She was not able to attend. She noted that when Con Edison ran Indian Point they were paying 92% of the Village's taxes. It changed to 50% when Entergy came in. The Mayor advised that she is part of the State Task Force. The next meeting is on May 31 at the Town of Cortlandt. She will have more information to report in June.

Trustee Zachary thanked the Mayor for mentioning about rumors and such. He commented that everything has to get thrown out there for discussion. Ideas will come from the public, the Board members and from a variety of sources. That fact that it comes up does not mean it will get adopted. We have to explore all ideas. He commented that things that do happen will not happen without the public knowing. We are in a period where we are doing a lot of research, weighing different options, running financial numbers. No action will be taken without the public knowing. It is all for the purpose of serving the public. Before anything is enacted, there will be hearings. He commented to not be worried about hearsay.

Trustee Zachary reported that the Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting will be on May 16, the third Tuesday, at 6:30 PM at the Village Hall. He commented that after discussion the Master Plan Committee requested a building moratorium from the Village Board. He noted that it was brought up. He thought it would be brought to a resolution or at least discussed further but it has been dropped. He wanted to know if that discussion could be resumed at the next Workshop or if there was some legal issue. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that we will have a Public Hearing on it next month. Village Attorney Porteus wanted to know if the Master Plan Committee referred it to the Village Board. The Mayor advised that they talked about this at a Workshop. There was an issue and we did not go forward with it. The Village Attorney advised that moratoriums are sometimes challenged. The Master Plan Committee researches it and then refers it back to the Village Board. She advised that our planner is very helpful in that. Trustee Zachary wanted to confirm that the committee should talk to the planner at their next meeting and document the basis for their decision, and asked if it then must be submitted as a letter to the Board or if he as the liaison can submit it by word of mouth. The Village Attorney advised to put it in writing. Trustee Zachary advised that they will do that at their next meeting.

Trustee Zachary commented that the Board talked about having an additional Workshop at the end of this month about enforcement issues. He wanted to know if we can set a date. Trustee Funchion noted we have to do it in June to put it in the Newsletter. The Village Board meeting is June 6. Trustee Zachary proposed doing it on June 13. The Mayor advised that we would discuss it at the next Workshop.

Trustee Pasquale reported that he attended the Buchanan Engine Company Remembrance Day with the Mayor. It was a beautiful and touching ceremony.

Trustee Pasquale commented that he was going to bring up being considerate of your friends and neighbors when operating gas powered tools and vehicles. He commented that for those who ride off the road vehicles, motorbikes and quads to make sure they are properly registered and to wear safety equipment. He has often seen people on these vehicles doing “wheelies” on Tate Avenue. It is very dangerous. He remembered people who had accidents that he has seen when he was a police officer. He admonished to always operate vehicles within the law.

Trustee Pasquale wished all the mothers a “Happy Mother’s Day”. He commented that for those who have elderly moms to give them an extra hug, to make your call 20 minutes longer and to cherish them.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Former Trustee Joe Tropicano, Burke Court, commented on the passing of Ben Martinelli and noted the passing of Joe Glickman who passed away at the same time. He retired from the nuclear plant a few years ago and passed away in the last couple of days. He was in the nursing home. Mr. Tropicano commented that the passing of Ben Martinelli was a shock to all.

Mr. Tropicano thanked the Board for putting aside money for the Seniors. They are looking forward to having a good year. They put flyers out for anyone age 54½ and older.

Mr. Tropicano agreed with Trustee Funchion's comments about Con Edison's contractors digging up the street. He agrees that it is a disgrace, especially having those steel plates in the road for that long. He also agrees about the motorcycles that drive up and down the street and are annoying. Mr. Tropicano wanted the Board to look at Burke Court when they think about road work. Mayor Knickerbocker thanked Mr. Tropicano for the great job he does as president of the Seniors. We are losing members and she was sure that the flyer they put out will bring in new members. The Mayor advised that she would be going to the next Buchanan Seniors meeting to update them about what is going on.

Eileen Absenger, Tate Avenue, commented on the debris on the streets and what was talked about at the Workshop concerning the landscapers. She feels that the Board needs to put their feet to the fire. She described how a landscaper had all the leaves on the corner house from Valerie Court and Tate Avenue on a tarp and left the dirt. The dirt remained there and goes into the drains when the rain comes. She thinks that the Board should get the homeowners to point this out to the landscapers. Trustee Zachary advised that it is in our Code and is about enforcement. Trustee Funchion commented that he has been thinking about this for a long time. Yonkers does not allow gas blowers during the summer months. It is not only the stuff that is blowing, it is one of the highest forms of contamination into the area. He commented what do they need to blow in the summer. They should not blow it onto a pathway. Blow it onto your own property. Ms. Absenger commented that she needs to use a blower but that she knows how to use it properly.

Mayor Knickerbocker reminded that it is in our Code that you cannot use equipment before 8:00 AM. You cannot use it in most municipalities at 7 AM. Trustee Zachary would like to change the times of equipment use on the weekends to be not before 9 AM. The Mayor commented that she recently had to call the Highway Department about a landscaper who had left a huge pile of leaves in the street on Henry Street. The Administrator advised that the rules are printed on the Village calendar. Trustee Zachary commented that if someone cutting your lawn commits a violation by blowing things into

the street, the summons goes to the homeowner not the contractor. Ms. Absenger commented that nobody thinks about it because it is not enforced. If you are not home and they are coming in after you leave for work, you are not going to see this. She commented that she did stop one person that started a business and told him he could not do what he just did. It was like "Who cares?"

David Lorine, Westchester Avenue, wanted to know what the quitting time is for heavy machinery. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that it is 8 PM. Mr. Lorine wanted to know if there was anything in the Code concerning noise pollution from 4 wheel vehicles and off the road vehicles. He commented that even if they are on their own property they make a lot of noise. Mayor Knickerbocker commented that what happens is that sometimes people go into the back woods in the area of the school. Mr. Lorine commented that they are a lot closer than that to his home. He commented that it sounds like the Daytona 500. Trustee Pasquale asked if they are on the street or on their own property. Mr. Lorine advised that mostly they are on their own property. The Mayor did not know what the Board can do. Mr. Lorine said that when the Board does the survey that he would volunteer to go around. The Mayor advised that they were going to start formulating the questions next month.

9. BOARD MEMBER REBUTTALS:

None

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:24 PM a MOTION to enter into Executive Session to discuss contractual agreements was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.

At 10:00 PM a MOTION to exit Executive Session was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor. Mayor Knickerbocker noted that no decisions were made and no moneys were expended.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

At 10:01 PM a MOTION to adjourn this meeting was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.