

Mayor & Board of Trustees

Village Board Meeting

January 2, 2018

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 7:30 PM. She led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and informed them of the fire regulations.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mayor Knickerbocker asked for a moment of silence to remember Joe O’Toole who passed away on December 31, 2017. He served as Police Chief here. He came here in 1965 from the Peekskill Police Department. He was our first Detective. He became our Police Chief in 1980 and retired in 1982. In his retirement, he had a hot dog truck on Washington Street in Peekskill. Trustee Jackson noted that he was the Grand Marshal in our Saint Patrick’s Day Parade a few years ago. He commented that he was a great Buchanan man in his own way and is on the Historical Society’s video. Trustee Jackson commented that he was a great man to have met and a character in his own right. The Mayor advised that services will be at Carter’s Funeral Home, Montrose, on January 3 from 5-8 PM.

2. **APPROVE MINUTES:** None to be approved at this time.

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

None

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. **18-01 RESOLUTION STATING POLLING PLACES AND HOURS FOR THE NEXT VILLAGE ELECTION.**

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

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that this is something we do every year. The Village elections are in March. This year there are 3 positions to be filled: Mayor and 2 Trustees. Mayor Knickerbocker and Trustees Funchion and Zachary will be running for reelection.

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

b. 18-02 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF A ZONING BOARD MEMBER.

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

Mayor Knickerbocker commented that it is with great sadness that we accept Michael Chirico's resignation. He has been very good for the Village of Buchanan. For the last 23 years he served the Village and has been exemplary as a Zoning Board member who always put the best interests of the Village ahead. She was sad to see this resignation. He has some health issues. We wish him happiness and health in the New Year. We have a Certificate of Appreciation for him which we will get to him and thank him very much for his service to the Village.

Trustee Zachary commented that he served on the Zoning Board with Mike Chirico for 10 years. He loved the guy. He is a great guy in addition to being a valuable member of the Zoning Board for 23 years. Trustee Zachary is sorry to see that Mike's health is not allowing him to serve. He hopes to see him soon.

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

c. 18-03 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF CROTON ON HUDSON.

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

Village Administrator Hay explained that the Town of Cortlandt will not be able to accommodate our bundled clippings and bagged leaves when they switch over their facility. They do not have the space to maintain the transfer station at this point. They made an IMA earlier with Croton. They suggested that we reach out to them. Croton gave us the copy of the same IMA agreement they signed with the Town of Cortlandt, plus the 15 percent they charge for maintenance of the facility, plus the current recycling fee of Westchester County for organic waste removal. The Town of Cortlandt expects it to be between 1 and 3 years until they have a facility in Verplanck. Mayor Knickerbocker wanted to know if this is our first IMA with the Village of Croton. The Administrator advised that they are part of the three municipalities IMA we signed with with the Town of Cortlandt. But specifically this is the first one just between us and them. The Mayor

commented that we look to do IMAs as a cost savings. In the future we will be talking with another community on other possible agreements to save money and work together.

Trustee Funchion asked about the 15% and if we are currently paying 15% to the Town of Cortlandt for maintenance of the facility. The Administrator advised that currently we pay a quarterly fee to maintain the transfer station with the Town. Croton's fee is just structured differently with the amount. Trustee Zachary noted that it says that the County will bill Croton-on-Hudson separately for everything that they bring in based on tonnage. Croton will then turn around and charge us. He asked if it meant that Croton is weighing the waste when we bring it. He wanted to know how they will charge us. The Administrator believes that they weigh it as it comes in. They have a facility to weigh it, then they go to the County and they will get that charge. They will prorate our percentage of the tonnage and bill us. Trustee Zachary noted that it does not specifically say that Croton will weigh it. It only says that after they take all their waste to the County that they will bill us based on the tonnage figures provided by the County. He assumes that they are not bringing the Village's material in a separate truck. The Administrator advised that he looked at their facility. There is a building with a scale. Otherwise there is no way to bill us.

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

5. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS:

a) Justice Court Report – November 2017

Mayor Knickerbocker noted that the amounts received were \$1,545.00 and \$1,206.00. She noted that she announces this because people are curious about what the amounts are.

b) Planning Board Minutes – November 16, 2017
Received and filed.

c) Attorney's Report

Village Attorney Porteus reported on the White Street property. She commenced action and is waiting for word from the County. She will then get it served and hopefully it will then move along. It has to get to the Department of Social Services and the nonexistent owner. Mayor Knickerbocker commented that it has been a very long process. She thanked Village Attorney Porteus for staying on top of it.

d) Administrator's Report

Village Administrator Hay reported that they had a meeting last week about the Bannon Avenue water pit project. The contractor was going to start next week. The extremely cold weather has now pushed the timetable back. They are now expecting to start in February depending on the weather. The project will take about 6 weeks. The Administrator will update the Board when he has a firm date.

The Administrator reported that there were a lot of questions about Governor Cuomo's Executive Order to accept tax payments. He advised that the Village is unable to do that. Some communities can because they have already established a tax warrant. We have no way to set a tax rate because we have not set a budget. In addition we do not have a budget assessment roll. That is not final until April 1. He commented that some places have said that they would just take last year's amount. But in speaking with our auditor, that would be an accounting nightmare to try to figure a way to put that money somewhere because at the end of the year our General Fund gets wiped out to zero and the money we would be collecting for the next year would have to be moved somewhere. It would not be feasible for us, especially on such short notice. He commented that he has been going around to the other villages that have the same fiscal year as us - like Ardsley, Tarrytown, Pleasantville, Hastings, Mount Kisco, Mamaroneck, Irvington and Briarcliff – and they all said that like us, it was not possible to accept next year's taxes in advance.

Mayor Knickerbocker commented to do the time frame. The law was passed on December 22, the Friday before Christmas weekend. So we lost Friday and Monday. This was a very short span of time even if it were possible for us to do it. She commented that we are not tax advisors. We could not tell people that we will collect your taxes in advance and it is okay. Our fiscal year starts June 1. According to the IRS ruling a warrant or an assessment had to be issued in order for it to be deducted in 2017 if you are paying over \$10,000 in taxes. We do not begin to discuss the budget until March and do not vote on it until May. The Town of Cortlandt said to pay what the amount was last year. That was their thought. The Mayor commented that there were people who were unhappy but we could not do that. We did not want to give people false hope that they could deduct this money and then after they paid all this money find out that they could not. If we could have figured out a way to have made it happen, we would have done it. The Mayor commented that we apologize that it would not work. It was not because we did not want to do it. We run a different tax year. We are in the same position as the school district. The school taxes are levied in September. They may not be prepaid as it is a future fiscal year that runs from July 2018 to June 30, 2019. So the only way you could prepay your school taxes is the second half which are due by January 30. So you could have paid that in December. Your school tax is

your biggest tax. The Mayor advised that if you want to pre-pay a tax, it would be your school tax. She thinks that would have been the thing to do.

Trustee Funchion commented that he did pay the second half of his school taxes and he believes that is the only tax that the Town of Cortlandt was accepting in advance by December 31. It was his impression that was only because the assessment was already made for that time period. He does not know if the Town of Cortlandt was accepting any other tax other than the school tax. The Mayor read the communication from the Town stating that because they are unable to compute the actual 2018 tax rate for the County, Town, fire and special district taxes at this time they request that payment be remitted in the amount equal to your 2017 tax bill. She reiterated that for us, it was an accounting nightmare. We did not want to disappoint anyone if they found that they had prepaid their taxes early and then could not deduct them.

The Administrator reported that we put the speed monitoring device on Westchester Avenue. We got a printout for the period from October 31 to December 15. There were just under 32,000 passes of vehicles. Trustee Zachary noted that is almost 1,000 per day. The Administrator read the speed statistics: 7 vehicles were going between 41 and 45 miles per hour, and 3 between 46 and 50 miles per hour, for a total of 10 out of almost 32,000. Trustee Zachary commented that the speed monitor was put on a curve where cars are going to slow down anyway. He thinks that it should have been put on a straight away. The Administrator advised that it was put where the resident who had come with a complaint was. We can move it to other spots. Mayor Knickerbocker commented that the thought was that there were a lot more people doing 40 to 50 miles per hour on that road. Trustee Zachary commented that as Trustee Pasquale has advised in the past, it is deceptive. You think it is speeding because you are on a small street. But when you put out the radar gun they are actually not going as fast as you think. Trustee Pasquale commented that also you can usually see those monitoring devices ahead which gives you ample time to slow down. Trustee Zachary commented that the device only faces one way and this one was facing the Circle. So you would be coming out of the Circle into a curve in the road. He questioned how fast could you be going? He noted that it is amazing that someone was doing 45 miles per hour in that spot. The Administrator reiterated that we put it where the person had complaints was. We can move it to other spots. The Mayor suggested moving it to where we have the pumping station by the lake on the opposite side of the street. Then it would be on a straight away. Trustee Pasquale would like to also put it on Tate Avenue. The Administrator advised that we borrowed the device from the Town of Cortlandt. He confirmed that both suggested locations can be done and he will keep the Board updated.

Trustee Jackson wanted to know when we will start the process for the new Ids. The Administrator advised that we are starting that now that it has started to quiet down a little. We are setting it up on the computer and put a form together. People can then start coming in to get their Ids.

e) Mayor's Report

Mayor Knickerbocker reported that in the next couple of weeks in January she is going to talk to the Buchanan Seniors about Entergy and to go over the survey and answer any questions. In February she wants to set up a night meeting. She was doing "Coffee with the Mayor" but there were not that many people. She would like to set up a meeting in February where people can come in and ask questions about Entergy, go over the survey with the group and answer questions about what is going on as things go forward.

Mayor Knickerbocker reported that on December 19 there was a New York State Task Force meeting. She is on this task force. She said that there were two take-aways from that meeting. One is the New York State Independent Operators. They have done an independent study and believe that in 2020 and beyond there is really no need for the energy at Indian Point and that it was fine for Entergy to close. The Mayor noted that there are 3 gas burning plants that are being built. They are using that for the replacement. As they were talking, the Mayor questioned that. She noted that one is having a problem getting gas to the plant. The DEC is giving them a hard time. They need the gas to go to the plant to be able to operate. They assume it was going on-line this year but there is still no resolution to the gas [issue]. So the Mayor noted to them that they included that as one of the replacement gas fired plants. They confirmed that was correct. So they felt confident that the energy to replace Indian Point will be there as of 2017.

The Mayor thinks that one thing that was good for the Village of Buchanan is that the State task force hired a company called D. L. English. They are looking at the Indian Point property and have come up with a very interesting report. There are 3 pieces of the property that they feel could be redeveloped. There are the 60 acres that the Mayor has noted in the past. There is a 15 acre section. The Mayor commented that gives us some hope. There are a few other properties they will be looking into for us. The Mayor commented that the reason we are looking for redevelopment is to replace our tax base. It will not completely replace everything but it is a start. She reminded that we always have to keep in mind that all that property is owned by Entergy. They would have to want to sell the property so it is all contingent on their selling it.

Mayor Knickerbocker reported on the Buchanan 2021 meeting. The first meeting was very good. She commented that we have a very good group of people who will be addressing all kinds of things including the spent fuel casks at Indian Point. They were able to do a tour there just before Christmas. They saw where they were being stored on a concrete pad. They were

told that eventually there will be 120 spent fuel casks on the property. They have not yet built the second pad nor even decided where it will be. The Mayor commented that will be important for the Village going forward especially if the Stranded Act is approved by Congress. That would mean that communities would be compensated per kilo of spent fuel that is stored in there. The Mayor has to get the number in kilos for the 120 spent fuel casks that will be stored here. That will tell us the amount of compensation we could expect. She thinks that the tour was very interesting for people who have never been on Entergy's property. Going forward the Buchanan 2021 people will be working closely with the spent fuel casks. Some people think that it should be spread throughout the property. The Mayor thinks it should not; that for security reasons they should stay in a relatively small space. The committee feels that it is probably going to be stored there for a while. They will be going back there in March or April to tour the plant itself and look at the spent fuel pad.

Mayor Knickerbocker commented that last year was a tough year. It is coming up on the first year of the announcement of Entergy's closing of Indian Point. We have a gotten lot of information and been to a lot of meetings. There are a lot of balls in the air and no decisions yet made. She commented that was why the Buchanan 2021 Committee was formed. They will be looking at all aspects of Entergy's closing including how the Village runs our business. There is a lot of work to do. We are working with everyone and she thinks there are different options.

Mayor Knickerbocker wished everyone a Happy New Year and that hopefully it will be a quieter and calmer one. She commented that we have our work cut out for us but that is what we are here for.

f) Trustee's Reports

Trustee Funchion wished everyone a Happy New Year. He attended the Buchanan Seniors' Christmas Party. It was a lot of fun as it always is. He also attended the luncheon for the Village employees. He thanked them for their dedicated work throughout the year. We are lucky to have everybody. They do a great job.

Trustee Funchion congratulated former mayor Dan O'Neill who will be the Grand Marshal for our Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

Trustee Funchion commented on celebrating Martin Luther King's birthday this month. He said to think about what Martin Luther King did in his lifetime. It all revolved around non-violence and his attempt to change things in our society. Trustee Funchion commented that it would be good for us to think about that in today's world with so much violence going on.

Trustee Funchion advised everyone, especially Seniors, that he was informed by the Highway Foreman that since we are having this very cold weather that salt does not work under 15 degrees. We are expecting temperatures around 0-5 degrees later this week. He advised everyone to keep this advice in mind when you put salt out at your home and also when out on the roads.

It is not going to be able to melt anything. He suggested going to the supermarket, if needed, on Thursday. He hopes people are watching, that everyone realizes that this is good advice and pass it on to their neighbors.

Trustee Funchion reported that he has seen a story on the news about water meters. We are supposed to get new water meters in the Village. He thinks that the story was from New Jersey. They had a big problem with new water meters not working and people were getting bills for \$2,000 or \$3,000. The meter company that that community bought them from was in New Jersey. They sent their people to check them out and they found problems with some of the meters. Trustee Funchion wants us to be aware of that.

Trustee Funchion commented that after going around the Village at Christmas time, he would like to suggest having a contest next year for the nicest Christmas decorations. There were some beautiful decorations. Mayor Knickerbocker thinks that would be nice. She noted that we used to do a snowman contest but we have not had that much snow.

Trustee Zachary reported on using \$5,000-\$10,000 from the Recreation Fund to do a few improvements to the property in front of the Village Hall to make it a little bit more hospitable to people who would like to use it like a small park. He gave the Board a drawing he made showing possible locations for benches. He noted that the drawing was not to scale but there is actually a good bit of room out there. When the weather is better, the Board can go outside and mark those locations. Trustee Zachary also wants to put up a sign and call it “Village Hall Park” or “Village Hall Commons” with a little history of the [former] school building. He thinks that it is one of the few attractive, historic buildings that we still have in the Village. He would like a little plaque with the basic information. He has a summation taken from the history done by our late Village Historian Fran Stein. Trustee Zachary noted that the building was built in 1910 as a high school. It became an elementary school when Hendrick Hudson High School was later built. He noted that the Mayor attended school in this building. It continued to operate as a school until 1967. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that there is a plaque commemorating its dedication as Village Hall in 1976. Trustee Zachary suggested having a metal outdoor sign. He thinks that in general if we have any buildings that have historical value, we should put up a sign so that people can appreciate that. He asked the Board to look at it. He noted that he included some bench possibilities. He commented that benches are not that expensive. They can be anchored with concrete. Trustee Zachary advised that our Highway Foreman advised that our Highway Department can do that which would make it more economical. Trustee Funchion noted that there are metal benches and ones in a plastic or resin wood. The plastic resin ones are more expensive but look better. Trustee Zachary agreed and thinks they might hold up better. Trustee Funchion wanted to know if there is a difference in how they hold up. Trustee Zachary advised that it is not included on the web site where he got this information but he can find out. Mayor Knickerbocker directed to discuss this at the next Workshop meeting.

Trustee Zachary wanted to follow up on the subject of taxes. He personally spoke to his accountant. He commented that this new Federal tax bill says that it is going to help everybody but 8% of the people will actually see a tax increase. He believes that most of those people will be here in the area of the country where we live, the Northeast, and other high tax states like California. The cap on what you will be able to deduct on your Federal income tax is not only your property taxes but what you pay in New York State income tax. He commented that even though our taxes in Buchanan are lower, it is not uncommon to be paying \$20,000 in the Town of Cortlandt or Croton and most of Westchester County. The new \$10,000 cap includes what you pay in your real estate taxes when you do your State tax return. He will be over that cap. The rates are a little bit lower. He does not know what his numbers will be. They may be the same. He remarked that whatever it is, he is mainly pissed because it is unfair to him, the people in this region and the high tax states. He thinks that it unfair for another reason. Every state pays out a certain amount of Federal tax dollars. Every state gets back a certain amount of Federal funds for programs. In New York State for every dollar we contribute to the Federal government, we get back 74 back cents for Federal programs. In Alabama for every \$1.00 they pay in Federal taxes, they get \$2.03. In New Mexico, they get back \$2.63. Hawaii gets back \$2.38. Mississippi, the biggest, gets back \$2.40 for every \$1.00 they pay. New Jersey is worse than New York. For every \$1.00 they pay, they only get back 49 cents. California also gets back much less that they pay. He commented that we in New York are already subsidizing some of the poorer states. He commented that everybody had mouths the idea of socialism but that is socialism. Now we will be getting even less as a result of this new tax law, which pisses him off.

Trustee Funchion commented that if you Google military bases, you will find out how many are located in states where they do not have income taxes or high property taxes. Military bases make a lot of money for the community. We have very few in the Northeast. Trustee Funchion commented that he is still pissed that on 9/11 we had to wait for two jets to come from Cape Cod to protect 30 million people. They still have not fixed that. He agrees with Trustee Zachary. He feels that this is a tax on tax. He commented that when they instituted the Federal income tax they recognized that you should not be taxed on taxes that you are paying elsewhere. He thinks that this new tax law is absolutely absurd. He commented, to use a term that was used before, in these states we should be talking about repeal and replace. Trustee Zachary agrees that it is unfair. He acknowledges that wages are higher here and in California than in places like Alabama but property values are higher so it is proportionate. You make more, you spend more. He commented that the way the Senate and Congress work right now there is a lot of power in those other states. They do not want to recognize that are being supported and that the financial engine of this country is California and New York. He commented that everybody should keep aware of the issues and make sure that they are a voter because right now that is all you can do.

Mayor Knickerbocker commented that she would play devil's advocate. She commented that one of the things is that the deduction for married couples has doubled. That should compensate a little for this higher tax. The huge, big thing is that even before this happened we are already paying ridiculous taxes in this state. She commented that thankfully the Governor is maybe now going to listen. She noted that the Board has had the discussion before. We are one of 8 or 9 states in this country where the property taxes that the property owners pay solely supports everything. The Governor has said we need to restructure the New York State tax system. The Mayor commented that maybe this is our opportunity to now change the tax structure for this state. She thinks that there is "something wrong with that picture" when the property owners are footing the bill for absolutely everything, when we are one of only 8 or 9 states still doing it that way and when other states have figured out a better way to do this. You cannot burden the property tax owners any more. They are suffering. There are people who are leaving the state. The Mayor commented that we can bring this whole discussion back down to our village. We pay high property taxes here and we are going to be paying more. Now it is right on the State's doorstep. She commented so now we need to ask the State what they are going to do to help the small communities. The Mayor commented that yes, this new tax law is a bad thing. Maybe it is not a good thing for the State. She does not know all the details yet so she does not want to comment too much. She commented on the other hand, that forces the State's hand to re-look at things, acknowledge that we have some pretty hefty taxes here and ask how we can fix our system here. She commented that when something bad happens it forces other people's hands to figure out a better way.

Trustee Zachary commented that he understands that. He agrees that high taxes are a problem. He commented that what he is talking about is the discrepancy between how we are getting hit in an area like this compared to some of the rural areas that we already subsidize. He noted that the figures he cited were from prior to that tax change. They will probably increase now. The Mayor asked how many years has this been going on. Trustee Zachary commented that we are already paying more to the Federal government than we are getting back yet we are impacted more so than the areas that we are subsidizing.

Trustee Funchion commented that we pay for the schools and everything else and then when people retire, they move out of state to states that brag that they do not have an income tax. But they do not have children to educate the same amount that we do. Trustee Funchion commented that another issue which the Mayor brought up is how we pay for our school systems. He commented that if you go to New York City the property taxes are actually not that terrible because they have an income tax. He cited a \$30 million building there where the property taxes

were only \$16,000. Trustee Zachary commented that people come to our area because of the good schools. He commented that you can go to other places with a quarter of what you pay in taxes here but would have schools that you would not put your children in. He commented that he moved here from New York City. He could have stayed in the city and laid out more for private school or move up here and pay it in the form of taxes for his kid to go to school. He commented that there are a lot of factors to this.

Trustee Zachary reported that his Village e-mail is not working. He wanted to know if we are making any effort to change back to the provider we had. He does not know where we go. Trustee Funchion does not know how the expenses go as far as paying for it, but he suggested that maybe there should be one e-mail [address] to the Village. The Administrator could then e-mail it to the recipient's personal e-mail. Trustee Zachary commented that on the Village web site we want a place where people can send e-mails to the Board. The Administrator will look into the problem. Mayor Knickerbocker commented that she is not thrilled with Outlook.

Trustee Zachary noted that April 22 is Earth Day. It is a Sunday. He would like to put together something at Lent's Cove Park. One year we had a park cleanup day. He was thinking maybe some other event like a tree planting or some kind of environmental activity and maybe do something with the kids. He will talk to the Recreation Supervisor. He commented that he is mentioning it now and that if anybody has any ideas they should contact him [he joked, at his Village e-mail which doesn't work!]. He is able to check his e-mail on his iPad. The problem is when he tries to respond, he gets an error message.

Trustee Jackson reported that he went to the Buchanan Senior's luncheon. It was fantastic to be out there with our warriors from WWII. Everybody had a good time and the food was great. A good time was had by all.

Trustee Jackson commented that our Highway Department people, our volunteer firefighters and ambulance corps volunteers, and police officers who were out in this cold weather answering calls did a yeoman's job. He personally cannot thank them enough for all they do in this frigid weather. He thanked the Village employees for the fine job they do for the Village.

Trustee Jackson wished a Happy New Year to all.

Trustee Pasquale wished everyone a Happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Trustee Pasquale went over some of the calls to the Police Department. Among the incidents responded to in the Village were: On December 2 Officer Farrell observed a drug transaction in the area of Fourth Street and Donahue Court. He arrested a 33 year-old male for possession of marijuana. There have been possible drug activities around that area. Trustee Pasquale commented that it is good to see that officers spent time there and made an arrest. On December 5, Officer Palmietto responded to a possible domestic incident on Lindsey Avenue. He de-escalated something that could have gotten way out of hand. On December 13 Officer Budde affected an arrest warrant for a previous 23 year Buchanan resident for a past domestic incident on Tate Avenue. The person was arraigned by Judge Daly and has a court date in January. On December 20 Officer Farrell arrested a 27 year old male resident of Peekskill for driving with a suspended license, operating an unregistered vehicle and multiple other infractions. There is a court date in January. On December 21 Officer Loertshcer responded to complaint of an unwanted person refusing to leave. The officer resolved the situation. On December 24, Sergeant Guida responded to unlock a car door where an 18-month old child was locked inside.

Trustee Pasquale urged residents to check on any elderly persons they know because it is getting cold. Give them a phone call, reach out and make sure they are okay. Sometimes they do not like to ask for help even when they need it but they will respond if someone reaches out to them.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Eileen Absenger, Tate Avenue, commented that if it was not for Trustee Zachary's comments she would not be speaking. She wanted to say if Bernie Sanders was president [of the United States] who is also on the same line as the current president for the tax law that was passed, she does not know if Trustee Zachary would be griping as much. She commented that since he is then he has a decision to make. She commented that it is like having a job. You either stay, put up or get out and shut up. That is the bottom line. Trustee Zachary commented that she is assuming that he would have voted for Bernie Sanders. Ms. Absenger commented that she really likes Trustee Zachary. She is not saying anything about him voting for Bernie Sanders. She commented that if he had not mentioned anything about the tax law, she probably would not have gotten up. Trustee Zachary commented that this has nothing to do with the President, that he is not smart enough to put together a bill like that. Ms. Absenger really feels that as a Trustee on the Village Board right now that is an unfair thing to say. It is disrespectful about the current president whether she likes him or not. Trustee Zachary commented that is a fact. Ms. Absenger disagreed. She thinks it is an opinion. She commented that it does not make a difference. She is just saying that there are other politicians who have introduced bills of a similar nature that may

end up taxing you unfairly. She commented that if you look at the socialism that was propagated for the election, it was to equalize everybody. She commented that even though people were equalized prior to this tax, they are even more equalized after it. She commented that we really should not complain, equalizing meaning that Alabama and Mississippi and the rest may get a little more because we have to pay a little more. She agrees with the Mayor that we have to look at this because it is a problem.

Mayor Knickerbocker said this is a great country. We can say what we want to say. We thank our veterans and all those who keep us safe which is why we have these freedoms. We can all agree to disagree. She commented that in this country we have to learn to do that better. Even if we do not do not like what someone says, that does not mean that they are our enemy. We need to get along. She commented that this is something we have gone away from in this country. We can agree to disagree.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:30 PM a MOTION to close this meeting was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.

Mayor Knickerbocker wished everyone a great Buchanan Day!