

Mayor & Board of Trustees

Village Board Meeting

March 6, 2018

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker has the flu. Deputy Mayor Funchion hopes she gets well soon.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Deputy Mayor Funchion called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. He led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and informed them of the fire regulations.

2. PRESENTATION: Certificate of Appreciation to Officer Robert Budde

Deputy Mayor Funchion announced that we would be presenting this certificate to Officer Budde who is one of our dedicated police officers, Robert Budde.

Police Chief Tubbs said that on January 23, Officer Budde received a call from somebody in the Village. The only thing he could distinguish was the address. The woman was screaming hysterically. He went there not knowing what he would encounter. He was expecting a family fight. He encountered a home health care aide who was taking care of this infant. The infant was not breathing and had no pulse. He went into the house and immediately administered CPR. He was able to dislodge something that the child had swallowed and was preventing the child from breathing. Office Budde was able to save this child's life.

Trustee Pasquale thanked Officer Budde for all the wonderful work he does. He said that this is why having our own police department is so important. He noted that he is a retired police officer. As such there are jobs that he always remembers and he commented that when Officer Budde retires he is going to do the same thing and Trustee Pasquale is sure that this is one that he will always remember. He told Officer Budde how proud of him the Village Board is. They are proud of the whole Buchanan Police Department.

Deputy Mayor Funchion congratulated Officer Budde on behalf of the Mayor and the Board of Trustees. He commended Officer Budde on his professionalism. The Deputy Mayor commented that he could not have done what Officer Budde did, to go through the whole process he went through, as the Chief said, responding to a call with someone screaming and just having an address. The Deputy Mayor said he has witnessed Officer Budde do a great job. The Board is proud of all our police officers and the great job they do. He said that everybody in the Village wants to congratulate the Buchanan Police Department, especially Office Budde. He presented Officer Tubbs with a certificate of recognition.

Police Chief Tubbs presented Officer Budde with a Life Saving Award and citation bar from the Buchanan Police Department. He commented that when people join the Police Department they do because they want to make a difference. Officer Budde has made a lot of difference in a lot of people's lives. He made a huge difference on January 23.

Police Chief Tubbs announced that a movie production company will be shooting scenes at the Buchanan Hardware Store on Thursday, March 8, on the Albany Post Road from 5 AM and 1 PM. It is basically just a car turning into the Home Center. There will be intermittent traffic stoppages. The Chief advised to try to avoid Albany Post Road during that time.

3. APPROVE MINUTES:

November 9, 2017 Comprehensive Plan Workshop: A MOTION to approve these minutes as presented was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor and Mayor Knickerbocker absent.

November 28, 2017 Workshop: Trustee Funchion amended to add that he was absent because he was recovering from surgery. A MOTION to approve these minutes as amended was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor and Mayor Knickerbocker absent.

February 6, 2018 Regular Board meeting: A MOTION to approve these minutes as presented was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor and Mayor Knickerbocker absent.

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

None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a. 18-10 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE TOWN OF CORTLANDT.

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

Deputy Mayor Funchion commented that if you have heard Governor Cuomo speak about shared municipal services, we are on the forefront of doing this. Buchanan, Croton and the Town of Cortlandt have been sharing services for quite a long time. This is done year to year and it saves everybody a lot of money.

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

b. 18-11 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH WESTCHESTER COUNTY FOR ENHANCED 911 SERVICES

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

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

c. 18-12 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF A PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEE

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

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

d. 18-13 RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 181 OF THE VILLAGE CODE

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

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

e. 18-14 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING IMMEDIATE STATE RULE MAKING FOR TANKER AVOIDANCE ZONES.

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

Trustee Zachary explained the resolution. What the Coast Guard wanted was to establish anchorage sites in the Hudson River from Yonkers to Albany. Some would be oil carrying barges. There is the possibility of accidents along with appearance and recreational considerations. This proposal seems detrimental to the local communities. This resolution is in support of the State's action to combat these anchorage zones by establishing tanker avoidance zones. Trustee Funchion commented that in a recent storm one of the

barges by the Tappan Zee Bridge dislodged and just floated around. It was loaded with steel. Trustee Zachary commented that Lent's Cove is the magnet for things blown away in the wind. Six docks that broke loose from other places washed up there in the storm. There was a lot of debris from the storm. He commented that this shows how important this resolution is.

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

6. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS:

a) Justice Court Report – January 2018

Received and filed.

b) Planning Board Minutes – December 2017

Received and filed.

c) Police Report – February 2018

Received and filed.

d) Attorney's Report

Village Attorney Porteus had nothing new to report this evening.

e) Administrator's Report:

Village Administrator Hay reported an update on the Bannon Avenue water pit. The weather has been rough. It was scheduled to start in February but could not due to the weather. The project start date is now April 2.

The Administrator reported that no bids were received for the water meters to replace the ones for every household in the Village. After speaking with the Village Engineer and speaking with potential bidders, we received some suggestions. We will make tweaks and rebid this project. Trustee Zachary thought that his was changed last week. It was determined that was Con Edison's electric meter, not the water meter.

The Administrator reminded that Village Elections are on March 20 from 6 AM to 9 PM.

f) Mayor's Report:

Deputy Mayor Funchion reported that Mayor Knickerbocker is out with the flu. She gave him a statement to read on her behalf. She reported that we have not had the problems and damage from the recent storm that other communities had. We did not have to open a warming center. Many properties in the Village had tree damage. Most of the Village did not lose power but we do still have a few homes on Center

Street and Third Street without power. Tree damage, boat docks and other debris washed up on Lent's Cove. There is a damaged pole on Broadway that closed the road. It is being repaired today and the road is being reopened. The Mayor was in contact with Con Ed today to see that this happened and to get the power back to Center and Third Streets. State Senator Murphy made calls on our behalf. Because the forecast is for heavy snow tomorrow, if a warming center is needed it will be on the second floor of the Village Hall and also at the Fire House. If necessary we will send out a Code Red announcement. The Mayor's statement ended by telling everyone to stay safe and to stay off the roads so the Highway Department can clear them and emergency responders have access.

g) Trustee's Reports:

Trustee Jackson said that he echoes the Mayor's message. He reported that a big tree came down on his street, Lake Drive. The tops of trees knocked off leaders and gutters from the house. It could have been a lot worse. He commended all the Village employees, Police and Highway Department for the excellent job they did in removing the trees out on the roads and in keeping the Village running during last Friday's storm. It was a testament to the work they do and testament to our Highway Foreman. Trustee Jackson told residents to check on elderly neighbors and make sure that they are okay. We are all one neighborhood. He told everyone to stay safe.

Trustee Pasquale reported that he attended the Saint Patrick's Day Parade dinner on Saturday. There was an outstanding turnout. Karen [?] and Beth [?] were co-chairs. Also Holly [?], Rich [?], Shelly [?], Colleen [?], Michelle [?] and Bobby Wheeler who all did a wonderful job. He gave a shout out to the emcee Mike Guida who kept everyone laughing. He congratulated the Grand Marshal, former mayor Dan O'Neill and his Aides. The parade is this Sunday.

Trustee Pasquale reported on the highlights of the Police Department's activities this past month. There were 60 calls for police service last month. On February 7, Officer Farrell received a call for a vehicle driving erratically on Albany Post Road. The driver was intoxicated and placed under arrest, averting what could have become a disaster. On February 20, Officer Palmietto offered medical aid on First Street until the paramedics arrived. On February 19, Officer Loertscher rendered aid for an overdose until an ambulance arrived. On February 21, Sergeant Guida responded to a neighbors' dispute and assisted them to come to a resolution to the disagreement. On February 21, Officer Budde responded to a person leaving the scene of an accident on Albany Post Road involving a vehicle and a pedestrian. Several hours later he was able to identify the driver of the vehicle and issue summonses. A couple of days ago throughout the day there were multiple trees down and roads were blocked. Officers worked with Con Ed and the Highway Department. Trustee Pasquale praised the Police and Highway Departments and all those involved. Trustee Pasquale reported that on March 5 there was a special needs individual refusing to return to the residence. Officer Budde was able to calm down the individual and the person agreed to return to the residence accompanied by Officer Budde.

Trustee Pasquale wished everyone a Blessed Easter to those who celebrate it.

Trustee Funchion noted that Trustee Pasquale is the liaison to the Police Department. He is the one who had the idea of taking the police report and bringing it to life. Otherwise it is just a bunch of numbers. It lets people know just how much our Police Department is doing and how much interaction they have with our residents. He thanked Trustee Pasquale.

Trustee Zachary reported on reports in the newspaper about Columbia University doing environmental testing in the Hudson River and finding different pharmaceuticals in the water. He wanted to remind people that we have a pharmaceutical drop off center at the Village Hall. He said not to flush used medications that are sitting around. Most of all are the pain killers. 42,000 deaths in this country have been caused from overdoses from pain killers. There are County-wide days where you a drop off used medications. The information is on the County web site. He commented that we do not need to have those pharmaceuticals winding up in the river or in the wrong hands.

Trustee Zachary reminded everyone that garbage left in the street can wind up in the river. He said to put your cigarette butts in the ash tray and keep the McDonald's wrappers to yourself. It amazes him that people have no qualms about throwing garbage out their car window. Anything you throw into the street winds up in the river. Trustee Zachary urged everyone to keep our Village and our water ways clean.

Trustee Zachary reported on Code violations. He commented about the importance of the appearance of properties around the Village. He knows how important enforcing Code violations are. The Building Inspector has his hands full of the cases that come to him. The way the process starts is that if there is a building on your block in disrepair, like gutters falling for example, the Building Inspector gives people 30 days to remedy it. It starts with a complaint. Trustee Zachary advised that anyone who does not want to complain can contact him. He can put in the complaint and not say who told him. People should be aware of a run-down building. Trustee Zachary reported that we are working on the building on White Street. There is a legal hurdle but in the next few months, we will be able to take it down. The beautification of the Village and keeping things in repair is everyone's responsibility. He reiterated that the process starts with a complaint. You can leave him a note in his box at the Village Hall or go to the Village web site. He commented that he would be glad to pass the complaint on without revealing where it came from. He noted that he has complained about a couple of properties himself.

Trustee Funchion reported that there was a great show put on by the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee. He was not able to do anything this year. The people who work on it do a lot of work and he appreciates it. The parade will be on March 11.

Trustee Funchion reported that he, Mayor Knickerbocker and Trustee Zachary attended the New York State Task Force meeting on the closing of Indian Point. Town Supervisor Puglisi was there. He noted that there were 19 people from the State there who were all well meaning. He, Mayor Knickerbocker and Trustee Zachary made very clear what we want. He commented that the Mayor, Town Supervisor and school chancellor, not the whole community, should be meeting with Governor Cuomo, not just this committee. He commented that it is the Governor who can pick up the phone and get things done right away. The head of the school district, Joseph Hochreiter, was there and said that their problems cover not

just several State agencies but also education. Trustee Funchion commented only the Governor can get these people to sit together with everybody with the direction that whatever needs to get done must be done. Trustee Funchion reported that we made it very clear that we should be getting a sizeable amount of the money that Entergy has been putting away for the storage of spent fuel. Hopefully we may be able to get grants for our sewage treatment plant. There are some plans by the Town for having an amusement park. The details include that they would be hooking up to our sewer system. It might become a money maker for the Village. Trustee Funchion commented that every little bit we can make helps.

Trustee Funchion wished everyone a Happy Saint Patrick's Day. He noted that he grew up in Ireland for part of his life so it is a big day in his family. He wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Trustee Funchion said we were all glad to have Village Administrator Hay back after undergoing major surgery. Trustee Funchion congratulated Officer Rob Budde. He commented that it says a lot about our Police Department. He saved a person's life and that is incredible.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Eileen Absenger, 138 Tate Avenue, welcomed back Village Administrator Hay. She asked if the Public Hearing on the proposed local law amending Chapter 181 of the Village Code would be on the Village web site prior to the Public Hearing. The Administrator advised that it will be in the supporting documents and they will be on the web site.

Ms. Absenger asked for an explanation of Enhanced 911. The Administrator explained that instead of just receiving a number for the 911 call you are going to receive an address and a name. It names the departments covering the area, like the police and fire departments and ambulance services covering that area. He advised that you will be getting more information instead of just getting a number. It is also maintaining the infrastructure.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:15 PM, a MOTION to adjourn this meeting was made by Trustee Jackson seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.