

Mayor & Board of Trustees
Village Board Meeting
March 5, 2019

PRESENT:

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker
Trustees Richard A. Funchion, Duane Jackson, Cesare Pasquale and Nicolas Zachary
Village Administrator Kevin Hay
Village Attorney Stephanie V. Porteus
Village Board Secretary Susan F. Matthews
Police Chief Eric G. Johansen

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and informed every one of the fire regulations. Police Chief Eric Johansen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVE MINUTES:

December 18, 2018 Workshop Meeting: Trustee Zachary added for clarification to page 2, paragraph 1, line 8, “instead of Zoning basics”; and made a correction on page 4, Trustee Zachary was on the Zoning Board not the Planning Board. A MOTION to adopt these minutes as amended was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.

January 22, 2019 Workshop Meeting: Trustee Funchion amended for clarification page 8, last paragraph, line 2, change “as that could happen, nothing happened” to “if we do nothing”. Trustee Zachary amended page 12, paragraph 1, line 8, change “200” to “2200”. A MOTION to adopt these minutes as amended was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

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

None.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a) 5-19 RESOLUTION APPOINTING A PART-TIME POLICE CHIEF

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

The Mayor advised that we have Civil Service approval and all the required approvals for this.

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

Trustee Funchion is very happy to have Chief Johansen. Trustee Funchion commented that he has interviewed a lot of people in his life and Chief Johansen's resume' is superior. He feels that Buchanan is lucky to have him come here.

Trustee Jackson echoed Trustee Funchion's remarks regarding Chief Johansen's background and experience. He wanted to be on record that he voted against a part-time Police Chief. He thinks that the Village deserves a full-time Police Chief at a cost that is more than a part-time Chief will make but which he feels would have been in the better interest of the Village. He commented that is to take nothing away from Chief Johansen. Trustee Jackson said that he told Chief Johansen that he wishes they were hiring him as a full-time Police Chief. His resume' speaks volumes. As to the part-time situation, Trustee Jackson hopes we do not get into a situation where Chief Johansen may be burning the candle at both ends. He hopes that Chief Johansen feels free to come to him as a Trustee if there is a work load over something that may not be the way he wants it to be. Trustee Jackson was very impressed with Chief Johansen's credentials and feels that he will be a great addition. His experience and ability to train our existing members of the Police Department is something Trustee Jackson looks forward to. He is dismayed by the part-time status. He welcomes Chief Johansen to Buchanan.

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that we went through a lengthy process with Civil Service to get their approval. They felt that a part-time Police Chief was appropriate for our very small department. We have a department of 5 people and one of those will be a sergeant. He is still on probation. We have 5 officers with one Chief and one sergeant to supervise 4 other officers. The Mayor felt that a part-time Police Chief would be enough to handle the small department that we have. If we feel that we need more supervision, there is an opportunity to perhaps appoint another sergeant in the future. That will be up to our Police Chief. The Mayor commented that the benefit of having Chief Johansen here, beyond his extensive experience, is that he has flexibility. Most Police Chiefs work 9 to 5, Monday to Friday. The benefit with Chief Johansen is that he told us that he will be here afternoons, evenings and weekends. He is very community minded and will be out in the community. The community will get to meet him and to know him. The Mayor commented that if we had a larger department she would have to agree with Trustee Jackson. She thinks that because of the size of our department that the part-time Chief will work for us and Civil Service also felt that way. The Mayor read some of the highlights of Chief Johansen's many years of experience in the police force and also in getting grants (*copy available*). She noted that we want somebody that can work on getting grants. The Mayor congratulated Chief Johansen. He can bring his experience to the Village. She feels that we are very lucky to have him.

Trustee Zachary commented that Chief Johansen is very qualified, is an excellent communicator and that the Village is saving money.

Trustee Pasquale commented that Chief Johansen's resume' is outstanding. As a former police officer himself, reading it was amazing. He wanted Chief Johansen to know that he will be supervising a very professional and dedicated department. Our 5 officers are

awesome. Trustee Pasquale thinks that we will be fine with a part-time supervisor for a 5 person department. He welcomed the new Chief saying that we are lucky to have him.

Mayor Knickerbocker swore in Chief Johansen, following which photos were taken.

Chief Johansen thanked his family and commented that without their support he would not have been able to accept the position. He thanked the Mayor and Village Board for the trust they put in him. He is very honored and humbled. He noted that his family has a long history in the Village. His great-grandfather, Frank Day, was a Trustee. His grandfather Bud Edwards owned the Amoco service station on the corner of Tate Avenue and Albany Post Road (now a Shell station) for over 50 years and was a member of the Fire Department. His uncle, John Tangen, is a Life Member of the Fire Department. His uncle, Don Edwards, is a member of the Fire Department. His father is a retired NY State Trooper who worked out of the Annville station. His sister is an educator in the Hendrick Hudson School District. Chief Johansen is proud of his long history with the Village of Buchanan. He thanked the members of the Buchanan Police Department. He has talked with Sergeant Farrell who has brought the new Police Chief through some of the things he needs to know about here. Chief Johansen thanked Sergeant Farrell for his professionalism and support. He thanked Detective Courtney Loertscher. He looks forward to working with everyone in the department. He has fond memories of working with [now retired] Police Chief Tubbs and appreciates his service. He really looks forward to continuing the tradition, leading the department into the future and making sure that the residents have the most professional Police Department and safest Village possible.

Mayor Knickerbocker announced that we will have a collation downstairs after the meeting. She announced that Chief Johansen plans to set up “Coffee With A Cop” in the future.

b) 6-19 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COMPENSATION

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

Trustee Jackson told Sergeant Farrell that he did an excellent job stepping up to the plate. He looks forward to continuing to work with him as sergeant. He appreciates everything Sergeant Farrell has done in the past and looks forward to what he will do in the future.

Mayor Knickerbocker commented that she got to know Sergeant Farrell better through the process of his serving as Acting Chief. She thanked him and expressed appreciation.

Trustee Zachary noted that the resolution lists the base salary of the former Police Chief. The Administrator advised that this compensation would be based on the difference between the two.

Trustee Pasquale personally thanked Sergeant Farrell for everything he did and considers him an asset to the Village. He noted that the chain of command is very important here and Sergeant Farrell is an important part of it. Trustee Pasquale thanked him for stepping up. He commented that he knows how much work it is and that it did not go unnoticed.

Trustee Funchion thanked Sergeant Farrell. He commented that there were a lot of ups and downs and appreciates that Sergeant Farrell dealt with it professionally. Trustee Funchion thinks that Sergeant Farrell is going to have a really good time as sergeant and a long future.

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

c) 7-19 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF A VILLAGE FACILITY

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

Trustee Funchion confirmed that the insurance was in a different name than the applicant but that it was in order.

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

d) 8-19 RESOLUTION AWARDING A SLUDGE REMOVAL BID

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

Trustee Zachary noted that the address for the winning bidder is a P.O. Box in Montrose but confirmed that Fred A. Cook, Jr. Inc. has a location in Buchanan as well.

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

e) 9-19 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE TOWN OF CORTLANDT

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

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that this is something we do with the Town of Cortlandt. We always have inter-municipal shared service agreements. We are looking at doing it with other communities. We did a shared service with Peekskill with our Building Inspector. He is no longer is doing that. It was for a short time, a month, a half day on Monday and a half day on Friday. It did not affect his work in the Village. Going forward we will be looking at other ways to save money and use shared services.

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 – February 2019

Mayor Knickerbocker noted the amounts collected were \$295 and \$560.

Report received and filed.

b) Police Reports – January 2019

Received and filed.

d) Attorney's Report

Village Attorney Porteus reported that she was still waiting to meet with the attorney for the Fire Department to negotiate a contract. She hopes to do this within the next 2 weeks. Before meeting with their attorney, she would like to meet with Trustee Pasquale who is the liaison to the Fire Department.

e) Administrator's Report

Village Administrator Hay reported on the Water Meter project. They are down to 70 meters to be completed. The next billing cycle is in April. They will manually read or estimate the ones they cannot get done. Each meter removed is bench tested. Some preliminary results show that some were only running at 70%. Some were running as low as 50% of what they were supposed to. It is really going to be accurate billing for our water. In April, people will be getting the bill based on the new meter. If people's bills are higher and they were the ones with meters running at 50%, they will know why.

The Administrator reminded residents that the Village elections are on March 19 from 6 AM to 9 PM. The Administrator reported that Grievance Day was the third Tuesday of February. There were only 9 this year. The numbers are down.

The Administrator reported that Cablevision is sending a tech to look at our system tomorrow. We have had an on and off problem where it works, then does not work. We know it is not us because the FIOS feed goes out with no problem. Hopefully we will have it taken care of. Mayor Knickerbocker noted that she heard a comment that we had cheap equipment for our meetings and asked the Administrator to explain. The Administrator advised that the microphones are all new. He does not know what caused the problem last month. They were tested before the meeting tonight and there is no feedback. It sounds fine. The Mayor noted that we upgraded the equipment within just the last couple of years.

f) Mayor's Report

Mayor Knickerbocker apologized for not being at the last meeting. She was in the Emergency Room with her mother. She commented that she would rather be here when people are upset. If it does happen again, she will cancel the meeting and make sure that she is here. She thanked Deputy Mayor Funchion for doing a great job and she appreciated him standing in for her at the last minute.

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that anyone interested in the state of the Village should come to the meeting on May 2. There will be some projections going forward for what the Village is going to look like with the lack of funding once Entergy closes. The Mayor will have projections of interest to the public. This will also be announced in the Newsletter for May. She will be answering any questions that night. She has no problem answering questions and telling people what is ahead of us.

Mayor Knickerbocker commented that it is time we recognize our volunteers in this Village: The Saint Patrick's Day Committee for the parade and dinner; the Beautification Committee; and the Buchanan Day Committee. At either the April or May Village Board meeting, as the Board may choose, she would like to declare Buchanan Volunteer Week and recognize each and every one at a Village Board meeting. They put in a lot of work in our Village and do a great job.

Mayor Knickerbocker reported that one of the important things coming up that people have seen in the newspaper is that Entergy is interested in a transaction. She has not received any confirmation from the company. She believes they have found someone to purchase the Entergy property. It will not happen until Unit 3 closes in 2021. People will see a lot of traffic in the next month. The outage will be starting on Monday for the last refueling of Unit 3. Two years from then it will close.

The Mayor advised that she has been working on something since the end of December. The NRC encourages participation in the decommissioning process. It has been seen in the newspaper that some of the environmental groups want to establish a citizen oversight board. The Mayor commented that the plant was closed down when they pushed the Governor so the environmentalists are not looking at our Village's best interests. The Mayor is forming a Citizens Advisory Panel. It allows the community to understand what is going on with the decommissioning process. The first meeting will be in May or June. There will be 4 meetings per year. It is to educate and communicate with the community to let everyone know what is happening every step of the way. Mayor Knickerbocker will be the Chairperson and Town of Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi will be the Vice Chairperson. 24 people are on this committee. The Mayor thinks that it is important that it stay on the local level because who looks out best for the community than the people who live here. She commented that decommissioning is a very interesting process and very important us. They will have their meetings in Peekskill on McKinley Street. She encourages people who can come to do so. The meetings will be videotaped. It is important that the community stays on top of this. She commented that with the environmental groups who want to take this over, one is Riverkeeper and we know how much they looked out for us when they had the announcement and closure. They wanted to have an oversight board. The Mayor advised that the NRC controls the process and decommissioning of the nuclear waste. We can make recommendations and suggestions but the NRC and the property owner, Entergy, makes the decisions. The Mayor commented that we are moving forward. We will keep everybody up to date. She thinks it is in everyone's best interest to be at the meeting.

g) Trustees' Reports:

Trustee Jackson reported that the Historical Society is working on the time capsule in May or June. They had a great suggestion to do a 25 year capsule. It reminds Trustee Jackson when he was meeting with the new Police Chief and how much he identified with what was going on with the Village. Trustee Jackson advised that they are going to do 10 year increments. The children from B/V and F. G. Lindsey Schools will come in and put together a

questionnaire which will include things like their favorite movie and games. 10 years later we will dig it up and have a new group of Fifth Graders put their information in there and see what the kids had put in there 10 years earlier. They look forward to having a volunteer committee. They are looking for different things from the Seniors, Highway Department, Fire Department and Police Department to put in the capsule. The idea is to keep the history of the Village relevant and alive and pass it on to our students and young people.

Trustee Jackson noted that the Police Chief was related to Don Edwards. Trustee Jackson noted that he was his golfing buddy.

Mayor Knickerbocker asked about the cost of the time capsule. Trustee Jackson advised that it would be \$2800. The Mayor said to discuss that at the next Workshop. It is taxpayers' money so it should be brought before the whole Board to explain what it looks like and what it is. Trustee Jackson thinks that it is maybe \$300 or \$400 over the budget for the Historical Society.

Trustee Funchion attended the Saint Patrick's Day party along with the Mayor and Trustee Jackson. They all had a nice time. The parade is Sunday, March 10 at 2 PM. It will be a very unique parade this year. It is going to be all the Seniors.

Trustee Funchion commented that in volunteering, he has worked with people on the Buchanan Day and Saint Patrick's Day Parade committees. They do much more work than he does as the liaison. The head of the parade committee is Karen Park and Beth Rendee (sp?) Beth is also on the Buchanan Day committee. Holly Eichler is on the parade committee. There is Kelly Hesselgrave. They do an incredible amount of work. Colleen Lonergan runs the Buchanan Day committee and is also on the Saint Patrick's Day Parade committee. There is Jill Wheeler. Trustee Funchion commented that he cannot find greater people to work with. They are dedicated to the Village. He thanked them all for the fantastic work they do. The Buchanan Day Committee is starting up. That event will be in late September. It will be announced in the Newsletter.

Trustee Funchion commented on the new Police Chief and wanted to thank the families. He commented that is a very important part of the job of a police officer and Police Chief because their jobs take up a lot of time. There are a lot of holidays where you want to be with your family. It is a big sacrifice for the family not having them.

Trustee Funchion wished everybody a Happy Saint Patrick's Day. Part of his growing up was in Ireland. Both his parents emigrated from there. He is extremely proud of people from the U.S. who can trace their ancestry to Ireland. He noted that you cannot get corned beef and cabbage in Ireland. It is an American dish. You used to be able to get pig's feet and cabbage there. They could not get it here and wound up making corned beef. Ireland has good fresh food and a lot of good restaurants but he would not recommend getting a steak there. All of their beef is grass fed and ours here is corn fed. It makes a big difference. He wished everybody a Happy Saint Patrick's Day and encouraged everyone to come out to the parade.

Trustee Pasquale commented that what was described about corned beef being an American dish is likewise true about ravioli.

Trustee Zachary reported that at the next Workshop the Board will be discussing the Route 9A corridor plan for parking regulations between Bleakley Avenue and Tate Avenue. We will be looking at resolutions for coming up with a plan to submit to the State and get approved so we can then take over the parking in that area. Anyone with any input should come to the next Workshop. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that she asked the Administrator to contact the NYS DOT to come in so that we can show them. The Administrator advised that he is awaiting their reply. Trustee Zachary will have a draft letter to be reviewed at the Workshop on the law we passed last year imposing parking restrictions and certain requirements on residences.

Trustee Zachary reported that the Board will have our budget discussions and a Public Hearing on April 9 for input and comments. This will be the last budget that we pass that will not have the income reduced by the phasing out of Indian Point.

Trustee Pasquale advised that he was unable to attend the Saint Patrick's Day Dinner Dance because he was not feeling well. He congratulated the Grand Marshals and Assistants, and the Saint Patrick's Day Parade committee. He hopes to see everybody at the parade.

Trustee Pasquale reminded everyone to put your clocks ahead for DST on Saturday night.

Trustee Pasquale noted that 3 months ago he reported attending a meeting at Cortlandt Town Hall about the pros and cons of the legalization of marijuana. State Senator Harckham will hold a public forum on legalizing marijuana on March 8 from 7-9 PM at the Mahopac High School auditorium.

Trustee Pasquale commented that he did not get a chance to sit down with Sergeant Farrell to go over the monthly police activity report. He did go over the Buchanan Police Monthly Call statistics and two things jumped out. There were 69 moving violations. He commented that shows that our police were out there and actively keeping our streets safe. There were 9 total arrests. That is a lot for our Village. He thanked our police officers for all they do to keep our Village safe.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

7. ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:25 PM, a MOTION to adjourn this meeting was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Funchion with all in favor.