

Village of Buchanan
Mayor & Board of Trustees Meeting
September 3, 2019

PRESENT:

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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

2. PRESENTATION: Beautification Committee

Mayor Knickerbocker asked the members of the Beautification Committee present to introduce themselves. They were: Becky Makelainan, Cheryl Gilmore and Tania Drezek. Ms. Makelainan said that they were looking for permission to buy 10 pole flags and the brackets. She presented the Board with a rough drawing of the flags. They will be 42 inches long and 18 inches wide. They plan to put them on the lamp posts on the Circle. The first ones would be in front of the Post Office and by the bus stop and go completely around the Circle. Two others would be on Tate Avenue right off the Circle. They picked the clock because it stands out in the Circle. The color will be dark green. The lettering is to be black, the background light blue. They will say "Welcome" on the top and "to the Village of Buchanan" below that. They are double sided so both sides would say the same. They are looking for the approval to purchase them. The only thing that they would ask from the Village is help to hang them. Trustee Zachary asked if they would have a top and bottom brackets. Ms. Makelainan advised that it is almost like a zip tie. It is metal with 2 little screws. She noted that some of the same type flags were just put up in Montrose. Trustee Zachary commented that the Board thinks it is great.

Ms. Makelainan advised that the Beautification Committee is going to pay for everything. They will have a fund raiser on Buchanan Day. Their vendor fair is their biggest fund raiser. They are doing well. She commented that they cannot just keep planting flowers. She does not know how long the flags last in the weather after they get them up. But we will have the brackets so if they need to be replaced it would only mean purchasing the flag itself. She commented that the first time is costly. If they get the Board's okay, it would take 3 weeks after they place the order. She asked if it would be no problem with the Village helping them then. The Mayor advised that we would coordinate with the Highway Foreman.

Mayor Knickerbocker asked if the Board was in favor of this and they all were. She thanked the Committee for beautifying the Village. The Mayor reminded that Buchanan Day is September 28. The Beautification Committee will be selling mums. She asked that people come out and support them.

3. APPROVE MINUTES:

June 4, 2019 Regular Board Meeting: A MOTION to adopt these minutes as presented was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

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

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a. 19-35 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF A VILLAGE FACILITY.

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

Trustee Zachary noted that the insurance certificate is from Indiana. Mayor Knickerbocker confirmed that is where their insurance carrier is from. It is probably their house insurance. The most important thing with these applications is that the liability insurance is always there.

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

b. 19-36 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS.

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

Mayor Knickerbocker noted that this is something we do every year, sometimes a couple of times a year. Some of our lines are over and some are short. This is an accounting move. Trustee Zachary agreed that it is bookkeeping, that it is not an exact science and that you have to shift things to balance it out. He noted that the biggest ones here are coming from personal services. He wanted to know if that was payroll and payouts. Cindy Kempter confirmed that it was.

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

c. 19-37 RESOLUTION APPOINTING A PART-TIME JUSTICE COURT CLERK.

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

Trustee Funchion asked if there are specific requirements for this job. Village Attorney Porteus advised that the person is a Court Clerk in North Salem. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that Cindy Kempter has been researching it with Civil Service. Trustee Zachary

asked if there were educational or certification requirements. Cindy Kempter advised that there are none in our Court because our Justices are elected. Others have to take the Civil Service test. It is different. Mayor Knickerbocker thanked Cindy for looking into that and doing all the work.

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

Mayor Knickerbocker noted that tonight is our court night. She has asked Justice Jennifer Daly to come in and introduce the new part-time Justice Court Clerk. When she has finished at Court she will be popping in for a minute.

d. 19-38 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ATTEND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AND USED FUEL STRATEGY SUMMIT IN 2019.

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

Trustee Funchion commented that the Mayor is going out of her way with her personal life to do this. He commented that we are fortunate to have a mayor who can go to these meetings because they are very important to us. You meet a lot of different people and get a lot of different ideas on how we can deal with decommissioning. It is good to compare notes with what is going on in the rest of the country. Trustee Zachary agreed.

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

Mayor Knickerbocker thanked the Board for approving this. She commented that this is a huge summit where all of the nuclear industry and NRC will be there. She will learn new and different things. One of our biggest interests is the spent fuel and what is going on with that. The industry is transforming itself. There will be people from other communities. She will continue to bring back to the Board any information or knowledge she gets. She commented that she is not a nuclear physicist or engineer so the more we know and the more we understand what is going on, the better the process will be.

e. 19-39 RESOLUTION AWARDING A ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

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

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that every year we go out for road bids. Peter J. Landi, Inc. of Hawthorne, NY had the lowest bid. We have used him before and he has done good work for the Village. We did have \$350,000 in the budget. We will see what other projects can be done that we might be able to add on. There is always something to do with road work. She will look at it with the Village Engineer and let the Board know. Trustee Zachary asked if they do another section of road, can they do it as a change order to this contract so they do not need another resolution. The Mayor advised that they may do more crack sealing, sidewalk repairs or patches. This project includes Lindsey Avenue from Craft Lane to Route 9A. She would like to do all of Lindsey Avenue but we did not think that we had the money in the budget to do that so we will do the worst parts at this

time. Trustee Zachary wanted to know what other streets would be covered by this. Cindy Kempter advised that it will cover doing White Street and part of Lindsey Avenue. The Mayor added also lower Ketchum Avenue going down the hill. Trustee Zachary wanted to confirm that what we have available would not be enough to do all of Lindsey Avenue. The Mayor advised that the estimate was \$400,000. She would have liked to do it.

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

6. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS:

a. Justice Court Report – July 2019

Received and filed.

Mayor Knickerbocker reported one amount was \$3,680 and another was \$500.

b. Police Reports – July 2019

Received and filed.

There were 151 total calls. There were 45 calls for service, 6 motor vehicle accidents and 12 vehicle and traffic investigations.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PART-TIME COURT CLERK:

Mayor Knickerbocker called for a moment for the Village Justice to introduce the new part-time Justice Court Clerk, Jennifer Santis. The Mayor thanked them for stopping by.

INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS (resumed):

c. Attorney's Report:

Village Attorney reported that everything she had was for Executive Session.

d. Trustees' Reports:

Trustee Pasquale hoped that everybody had a nice summer. He reminded that now that school is open, everyone should be careful when driving and protect our eager young minds of the future.

Trustee Pasquale reported that the 9/11 Memorial ceremony will be held at Croton Landing on September 11 at 4:30 PM. He commented that if you never saw it, it is a good remembrance and well worth it to see the monument. It is a beautiful monument. It is something we will never forget. He will get to put on his old police uniform and be with his buddies.

Trustee Pasquale gave a selected summary of the police report: On June 29 at 2:30 AM Officer Tiernan responded to a report of a vehicle that struck a utility pole. The pole was snapped in half and there were power lines in the roadway. The Fire Department was

dispatched. After investigation, the vehicle operator received a DWI summons. On July 9 at 7:50 AM, Sergeant Farrell made a vehicle and traffic stop of a driver travelling at a high rate of speed on Albany Post Road. The person had a suspended NYS license. He was charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle and issued traffic summons. On July 19 at 2:06 PM, Detective Loertscher and Sergeant Farrell responded to a call that 2 small children were accidentally locked in a vehicle. It was 90 degrees. The officers worked to get them out of the vehicle and returned them to their parents. On July 23 at 12:05 PM, Sergeant Farrell observed a person driving without a seat belt on Westchester Avenue. The operator had a suspended license and was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and issued a summons. Trustee Pasquale commended the Buchanan Police Department for the great job they do.

Trustee Zachary commented that he was asking people to get involved with what is going on the Village. He commented that we have our handful of people who come to these meetings. This is a small village and you can make an impact. He suggested it was a form of patriotism to be involved in your community. He commented that when you think of patriotism your first thought is often of military service. That is not something all of us can do but we can be involved to some extent. To him being involved in your community is a form of patriotism. It is not just cheering. It is involvement. The Beautification Committee are devoted people and active in the community. There are EMS and volunteer firefighters. He commented that he has lived in a big city. People in our Village can get involved and have more impact than you might think. He asked everyone to give more of their time. There is so much to do and we have to keep up. Everyone here gives a lot.

Trustee Zachary gave a dining report. The Factoria [at Charles Point] is a wonderful place. We should be very happy to have that there. There are a lot of outdoor things. There is the Fin and Brew Restaurant and the River Outpost. It is on the river. It is really nice and right on our Village border.

Trustee Funchion reminded everybody about Labor Day. We are proud of the people in our country who unionized and got us many benefits including minimum wages, holidays and safety laws. We should not forget that. It is good to think about it on this day. Trustee Funchion commented that summer is not over until September 21. He commented that more and more September is like August. It is an artificial thing that it is over on Labor Day.

Trustee Funchion reminded that Buchanan Day is on the last Saturday this month. Every year it gets better. The committee does great work. They have more and different things. He encouraged everyone to bring their families out and have a great time.

Trustee Funchion commented on a personal note to please remember September 11 in your thoughts and prayers and those who unfortunately are still dealing with the casualties from that day. In these investigations from Congress, he has never heard one investigation as to who was responsible for saying that the air was breathable in lower Manhattan immediately following 9/11 and that people did not have to be using masks. People did not use them. The people who came afterwards like policemen and firemen are dying horrible deaths. He

feels that it is a disgrace. He commented that you saw the Congressional hearing and the person who crawled to the Capitol to plead for the money to support the families of those people. The 9/11 Memorial [at Croton Point] is very nice because it sets up a dichotomy between the horror of the day and the place selected has been so peaceful when you realize that right there one of those planes went right over where it is.

Trustee Jackson hoped that everyone had and is continuing to have a nice summer.

He commented that on September 11 he was down on Wall Street just 7 blocks away that day. There were effects afterward on people who just worked in the area. Trustee Jackson recently signed an affidavit verifying that a personal friend of his who now has cancer from that was there on 9/11.

Trustee Jackson reminded that school is open and we should be watchful of the kids on the buses. We should be thankful that we live in the open great society where kids can learn and reach their full potential.

Trustee Jackson asked if we have a date yet for the road work by the State on the Albany Post Road. Trustee Zachary will reach out to them again. He advised that the last time they said that they were going out to bid on August 22. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that they are saying late summer into the Fall.

Trustee Jackson reminded that the Cortlandt Family Day is coming up this weekend. We are all part of the Town. We pay Town taxes. It is a great way to come out and meet other neighbors.

Trustee Jackson reminded everyone about the catch basins. He said to be mindful that what goes into the catch basins goes out into the lake. He reminded everyone to curb their dogs and pick up the poop.

e. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Knickerbocker noted that last month she mentioned that she spoke to Town Supervisor Puglisi. Lake Meahagh is having some troubles. The DEC is involved. They are going to be working on the lake. There is an invasive species. It is going to take time for it to come back. She hopes it will be in better shape by next Spring. The things that go into the catch basins like cigarette butts and dog poop go into the lake. It is not helping the health of the lake. Nothing should go in there but drainage and ground water.

Mayor Knickerbocker thanked Police Chief Johansen for coming to our meetings. Chief Johansen reminded that school is open. One of the things we are doing this year is something we had done in years past. We have had some issues on Seward Street with people dropping off and picking up students to access the high school campus through the rear gate. That has created multiple safety issues. Cars are exiting the school that way. They are turning around on people's front lawns. It is a safety issue and a quality of life issue for the people of the neighborhood. He said we have worked with the Principal. The parents are not allowed to

drop off their kids there. The police were there this morning and will be for the foreseeable future. That exit way is very narrow. When the cars come through and people are walking that way, there is not a lot of room. You are asking for someone to get seriously injured. The only way to get to the high school campus is through the front. The gate is school property. It is open from 7 AM to 7:30 PM. The school said that they will not tolerate students going to the property that way. They will take disciplinary action. If you go that way, you will be late for school. He said to respect the people. He asked parents to cooperate and for kids to take the bus. He commented that we are lucky that we have a busing system here.

Chief Johansen noted that there is a census coming up in 2020. As part of that, it was brought to his attention by a resident that someone knocked on their door claiming to represent the census agency and that they were doing a “pre-census”. The resident was suspicious. She contacted the Village. Chief Johansen verified with the Census Bureau that they are doing pre-census and address verification in our area. They are legitimate. They have identification and they have a form that verifies who they are. He commented that you never can be too safe. The Chief said that it is the Buchanan P.D.’s pleasure to be able to assist in this type of situation and they are equipped to do that easily. Trustee Zachary advised that people should be looking for a photo ID. He asked if they were wearing a uniform. The Chief advised that they are not. When in doubt, he advised to just call and verify. Mayor Knickerbocker thanked Eileen Absenger for bringing this to the Chief’s attention.

Mayor Knickerbocker reported some good news. The Village is receiving a grant from State Senator Harckham to do repairs on our pavilion. He will present the grant at a press conference at 1 PM on September 28 at Buchanan Day. She asked everyone to thank the Senator for enabling us to do the work.

Mayor Knickerbocker reported that on October 2 from 6 PM to 9 PM there will be an NRC meeting at the Muriel Morabito Center in the Town of Cortlandt about best practices for setting up the Citizens Advisory Panel. That panel has already been set up. The bulk of the meeting is supposed to be a discussion of best practices but there are some anti-nuclear people that are starting petitions to stop Holtec from purchasing Entergy. There are other forces that are pro-nuclear that will be there too. She is hoping that the NRC can keep the focus on what the meeting is about. She said to come out and see what is going on. In November and December, the Citizens Advisory Panel will meet at the former McKinley School in Peekskill. They are working on a couple of speakers. She will be announcing that next month.

Mayor Knickerbocker reported that the road on Broadway is not in good shape. We are aware of the problem. Con Edison has been notified. They know they have to repair that. One of the lanes was dug up over the summer to replace the gas line. They have just done a rough patch. If they do not do repaving, our Highway Department will have a rough time plowing. We will have half the road repaved. It is just getting Con Edison to coordinate everything to get that done.

Trustee Zachary asked if there was any update on the Waterfront Advisory Committee. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that she spoke to the Town Engineer this week. He will get back to us shortly. They are still working on a few things. We are potentially getting a \$50,000 grant to get money for sidewalks or any type of bridge work or something that is close to the State road. The Mayor commented that \$50,000 does not go too far but we will see what we get with that.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

None.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:16 PM a MOTION to enter into Executive Session to discuss employment and a contractual agreement was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Funchion with all in favor.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:40 PM a MOTION to exit the Executive Session and adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Funchion with all in favor.