

**Village of Buchanan
Mayor & Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
August 11, 2020**

PRESENT: (This meeting was done via zoom and zoom audio)

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker
Trustees Richard A. Funchion, Duane Jackson, Cesare Pasquale and Nicolas Zachary
Village Administrator Marcus Serrano
Village Attorney Stephanie Porteus
Village Clerk Cynthia Kempter
Westchester County Commissioner of Planning, Norma Drummond

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. She led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PRESENTATION:

Westchester County Commissioner of Planning, Norma Drummond updated Buchanan on the 2020 Census. She explained that the Census has been conducted since 1790 and why the Census was so important. For every person not counted it is a \$2500 loss to a community. The Census is scheduled to close on September 30. The response rate as of August 9 in Buchanan is 69.8%.

3. APPROVE MINUTES:

June 23, 2020 Workshop Meeting: A Motion to approve these minutes as presented was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.

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

None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Consider a Motion to open Public Hearing regarding amending § 211-19 of the Village Code entitled "Accessory Structures and Uses".

A Motion to open the public hearing was made by Trustee Jackson and seconded by Trustee Pasquale. Mayor Knickerbocker summarized the local law.

Mayor Knickerbocker did a brief overview of the law. Any garage or parking space in a residential district when used for boat or vehicle storage shall be occupied only by boats or vehicles owned and operated by the resident of the same lot. No box trucks, dump trucks or similar trucks are allowed. One commercial vehicle no longer than 20 feet in length and eight feet in height, nor more than 7500 pounds of laden vehicle weight. We want to take out these vehicles in neighborhoods that are wrapped and have advertisement on them. There shall be no parking on front lawns. Trustee Zachary added you can only have up to two privately owned combination of trailer, RV, or commercial vehicle. Mayor Knickerbocker stated all recreational vehicles and trailers must get a permit and sticker from Village Hall. There is not a fee for this. The penalties are: The first offense will be a warning; second offense \$25; third offense \$50; fourth offense \$100. Any additional offenses shall receive a \$250 fine.

Village Attorney Porteus mentioned that Sargent Farrell found some inconsistencies in terms of enforcement. After discussion, the following changes were made.

E.(4) Parking of any trailer, recreational vehicle, or commercial vehicle on front lawns or front yards, **other than on paved driveways**, is strictly prohibited.

E.(5) Parking of any trailer, recreational vehicle, or commercial vehicle on streets and/or Village right-of-way is strictly prohibited for **periods in excess of three hours, unless a variance is obtained from the Village Building Inspector.**

7.(g) There shall be no parking on any front yards, **other than on paved driveways.**

A Motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Zachary and seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

b. 2020-21 Resolution to adopt Local Law #4 amending § 211-19 of the Village Code.

A Motion to adopt this Resolution was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

c. 2020-22 Resolution Declaring the Renovations to the Veterans Pavilion Project to be a Type II Action Under SEQRA

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

d. 2020-23 Resolution Authorizing Tax Certiorari Settlement

The refund of Village tax to Equity Enterprises amount to \$5,440.83.

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

e. Consider a Motion to authorize use of pool parking lot to Joseph Dina on October 2, 2020

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

f. Consider a Motion to Ratify the MOA Agreement with the Police.

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

g. Consider a Motion for a budget transfer of \$27,303 from Contingency to Law-Other Expenditures-A1420.460 to cover the cost for special counsel regarding Indian Point intervention.

Mayor Knickerbocker explained that this money was for legal fees in the closing of Entergy. We are now an intervener in the proceedings. It is important that we are at the table for the negotiations. The full cost was split between Buchanan, Town of Cortlandt and Hendrick Hudson School District.

A Motion to adopt this Resolution was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.

h. 2020-24 Resolution Appointing Registrar and Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics.

A Motion to adopt this Resolution was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

6. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS:

a. Justice Court Report – June 2020

Received and filed.

b. Police Report – June 2020

Received and filed.

c. Highway Department – July 2020

Received and filed.

d. Wastewater Treatment Plant Report – July 2020

Received and filed.

e. Building Department – July 2020

Received and filed.

f. Attorney's Report

Village Attorney Porteus mentioned that there will be a zoning board meeting August 12. It has been around six months since there has been a meeting. There are two applications on the agenda. Village Attorney Porteus has one more item to discuss in executive session.

g. Administrator's Report

Village Administrator Serrano mentioned Highway Foreman Wheeler met with a pool company today because there are some leaks in the pool and issues with some pumps. Since the pool is over 40 years old the recommendation is to go out to bid and replace the pumps and pipes. After the bid process, the Village Board can decide what they would like to do with the pool.

Village Administrator Serrano mentioned that since the storm this week there have been conference calls with Con Edison seven days a week. A lot of people with FIOS did not lose connectivity because the technology is different than Altice. The State is going to have hearings with the Public Service Commission with all the utilities including Verizon and Altice. If you have any complaints you can contact the Public Service Commission.

Village Administrator Serrano mentioned that the Route 9A paving project is mostly done through Buchanan and will be totally completed by August 28.

h. Mayor's Report

Mayor Knickerbocker stated that she had been sending out Code Red messages without realizing the people who had Optimum could not hear any of the updates. In the future, please call the Village office for information.

Mayor Knickerbocker mentioned that Josie Vavrek is turning 100 on August 20. The senior club, police department, fire department and anyone else who like to come will be meeting in front of her house at 1:30 to sing Happy Birthday to Josie. Also next Thursday at 5:00 we will be celebrating the Women's Suffrage. The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote. This is the 100th anniversary of that. This will be a zoom meeting with Supervisor Puglisi and the League of Women Voters. The Village of Buchanan will be sponsoring the 911 Ceremony this year. This will also be done on a zoom meeting.

Mayor Knickerbocker stated that the Village is going through one of the biggest changes it has ever experienced other than when Con Edison came in. When the announcement to close the plant was made on January 2017 that is when the change process started. That change is continually happening. We know people are upset with the tax increase. We understand that and are trying to mitigate this the best we can. Unit 3 will close the end of March next year and that is another loss for us. We need to embrace this change and look at it as an opportunity to do things better. If you want to yell, please call the Governor and Riverkeeper, it was their decision to do this. There is a bill that was passed in the Senate and Assembly that will be going to the Governor to sign to allow us to tax the casts that store the spent fuel rods. We are going to need your help to get this done. This is a time to work together as a team. We need to stick together. We need to get things done. We need to look what our future looks like. What changes would make the Village better. Holtec understands that we need to grow our tax base. If any property become available we are going to look into it to see what should be developed there. Please tune into the next workshop. There is a company that wants to come in. The Board does not think it is beneficial to the Village. It is a manufacturing company of windmills. Their plan is to take the whole 240 acres of Entergy property. This is not where we get out top dollar for taxes. Trustee Zachary introduced an overlay district. This is a tool for developers. We need to bring in developers to start building up our tax base. We want the input of Village residents. We want to look at smart development. We need to focus on going forward.

i. Trustee Reports

Trustee Pasquale thanked Mayor Knickerbocker for her comments. He hopes everyone is well. He has nothing to update.

Trustee Zachary would like to say “yay” to New Yorkers. Almost everyone is wearing a mask. It is not just an accident that New York went from one of the

worse places to one of the best places in the country. Trustee Zachary thanked Mayor Knickerbocker for her words on change. Trustee Zachary mentioned that at the next workshop AKRF, the company that wants to do something on the Entergy property with windmills, will be here and that will be an important discussion. We will also be discussing the overlay zone in the next workshop. Trustee Zachary explained that an overlay district is used in any place you want to rezone in a relatively easy way that will encourage certain types of actions and developments that will be beneficial to the Village. This is a great starting point to make it easier to get developers to come in, to develop guidelines to improve the appearance of the 9A corridor and to make it more pedestrian friendly. We have to move forward. It can only improve property values and bring in additional tax revenues. Trustee Zachary encourages people to listen in on the next meeting.

Trustee Jackson mentioned that he has been talking to many neighbors recently. They all agree that a great selling point for the Village is that you can get small town Americana just 30 miles from New York City. The character of the Village and the services that are offered are outstanding. We should be very proud of that. In regard to change, we have to think outside the box and reimagine those pluses that we have in the Village and those things that are traditional to the Village, but we can't be afraid to not seek another way of bringing business into the Village. Trustee Jackson encourages all residents to get involved and bring suggestions to the table as we explore what types of development can work. The Village's well-being is what we all want.

Trustee Funchion mentioned that the Board is not happy that Village taxes had to be raised. He also mentioned that the Village has nothing to do with the increase in school tax. Trustee Funchion mentioned that the school budget went from \$67 million to \$80 million, when the Village is trying cut expenses and the school system is spending more money. Trustee Funchion stated that while we are forced into certain changes, we also have to keep the Village somewhat the way it is. Trustee Funchion is still not happy with the 9A corridor potential overlay. We have to be careful what we do there. Trustee Funchion mentioned that he is also proud to be a New Yorker.

Trustee Funchion stated how hard Mayor Knickerbocker is working for this Village and how lucky we are to have her. Mayor Knickerbocker gave the Board a lot of credit for getting things done. Mayor Knickerbocker mentioned that we all work as a team and do what is right for the Village.

Village Administrator Serrano mentioned that Mayor Knickerbocker fought against the decommissioning bill and stopped that from being passed. Mayor Knickerbocker explained that the legislation wanted an oversight board to be set up with the meetings being held in Albany. That is not helping our local stakeholders. They

want Riverkeeper on the committee. Mayor Knickerbocker feels they don't care about our community. Mayor Knickerbocker stated that she has been fighting this and it will be a disaster for our community if this board gets installed. The stakeholders that need to have the input and be at these meetings will not be able to attend. We don't need another layer. This oversight board is not needed and will not help our community.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

None.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:13PM a Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss contractual and employee issues was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

At 10:46PM a Motion to exit executive session and adjourn this meeting was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.