

Village of Buchanan
Mayor & Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting

October 5, 2009

PRESENT:

Mayor Alfred Donahue

Trustees Theresa Knickerbocker, Sean Murray, Gail F. Richard and
Brian Smith

Village Attorney Stephanie V. Porteus

Village Secretary Susan F. Matthews

ABSENT:

Village Administrator Thomas J. Jankowski is on vacation

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Donahue opened the meeting at 7:30 PM, welcomed everyone and informed them of the fire regulations. Trustee Murray led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVE MINUTES: Village Board Special Meeting –
August 31, 2009

Trustee Knickerbocker, page 3, second to last paragraph in the middle, the spelling of “weir”. Replace any of these that were misspelled.

A MOTION by Trustee Richard that these minutes be approved as corrected was seconded by Trustee Murray with all in favor.

3. PRESENTATION: Michele McGinnis – Proposal to open
Doggy Day Care

Mayor Donahue announced that they called and were unable to be at

this meeting because of an emergency situation. This item will be taken off the agenda until the Board hears further.

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

None

5. OLD BUSINESS:

**a) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET
TRANSFERS TO CLOSE**

**FISCAL YEAR 2007-
2008.**

A MOTION by Trustee Richard to adjourn this until the following month until we get a Village Administrator to check it over was seconded by Trustee Smith. Trustee Knickerbocker and Trustee Murray were opposed.

Trustee Knickerbocker would really like to get this balanced so they can close the books on those years.

Mayor Donahue would like to also. He is waiting for the audit to be completed by the New York State Comptroller's office. There is nothing that they are not looking at. They should be done this month.

Trustee Murray made a MOTION to accept the budget transfers as listed in the Resolution. Mayor Donahue advised that he voted to accept the Motion to hold this over to next month. The MOTION to carry this over was approved by a vote of 3 to 2 with Mayor Donahue, Trustee Richard and Trustee Smith in favor and Trustee Murray and Trustee Knickerbocker opposed.

**b) CONTINUATION OF PUBIC HEARING TO
CONSIDER IMPOSING A SYSTEM TO USER
FEES FOR THE COLLECTION OF GARBAGE IN
THE VILLAGE.**

Trustee Richard made a MOTION to hold this over. She reported that she got information from Highway Foreman Jeff Tiernan with regards to the commercial pick up, whether they are dumpsters, how many of them, and cans. Now the Board has to get into the accounting and try to find out what the dumping and tipping fees are and try to regulate how much is for each, whether it is commercial or residential as instructed to do. She was in favor of adjourning this Motion until the Board gets the information they need.

Trustee Murray commented that if they are waiting for an Administrator, that person is not going to be up to speed on our garbage collection and what the Board is are trying to do. He felt this Public Hearing should be closed and to reopen it when they have had a chance to discuss this with a new Administrator who would be able to do a little more research on it. Trustee Murray felt that keeping this on the agenda does not serve any purpose at this time.

Trustee Richard commented that keeping it on the agenda keeps it alive. Trustee Murray commented that the Village has to keep advertising for it. Trustee Richard commented that they do not keep advertising for it. They just hold it open.

The MOTION by Trustee Richard was seconded by Trustee Murray, with all in favor.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a) 09-40 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF PLANNING BOARD MEMBER.

Mayor Donahue read the Resolution (copy attached).

Trustee Murray thanked Mr. Jack Cito for his years of service to the Planning Board. When Trustee Murray used to sit next to Mr. Cito on the Planning Board, Mr. Cito did bring a lot to the table, a different perspective than some of the other Board members did. His

questioning of the applicants was in the best interests of the Village. Trustee Murray wished him well in any new endeavor he wishes to have.

A MOTION to accept this resignation was made by Trustee Richard, seconded by Trustee Smith with all in favor.

a) **09-41 RESOLUTION APPOINTING PLANNING BOARD MEMBER.**

Mayor Donahue read the Resolution (copy attached). This is a Mayor's appointment. No vote is necessary.

Trustee Murray noted that the date on the Resolution is incorrect. Mr. Cito's resignation is effective September 17. This resolution says it is effective November 1, which it technically could not be because it he is not a resident of the Village anymore. The date would have to be changed for September 17 as per Mr. Cito's letter and previous Resolution. Mayor Donahue advised that the date on the Resolution will be changed to September 17.

b) **09-42 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF RECREATION SUPERVISOR.**

Mayor Donahue read the Resolution (copy attached).

Mayor Donahue noted that Mr. Camarra's last official act will be the Halloween Party on October 31. He was thanked for his years of service.

Trustee Murray commented that he has known Mr. Camarra for many years. He was very involved and dedicated to the Village. He was very involved in the hiring and interviewing processes. Trustee Murray felt that Mr. Camarra did a very good job in all his endeavors for the Village. Trustee Murray thanked him.

A MOTION to accept this Resolution as presented was made by Trustee Murray, seconded by Trustee Richard with all in favor.

c) 09-43 RESOLUTION APPOINTING SEASONAL PERSONNEL.

Mayor Donahue read the Resolution (copy attached).

A MOTION to accept this Resolution as read was made by Trustee Murray, seconded by Trustee Richard with all in favor.

6. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS.

a. Zoning Board Minutes – July 8, 2009

Received and filed.

b. Fire Inspector's Report – May 2009 to September 2009

Received and filed

c. Planning Board Minutes - received and filed.

d. Attorney's Report

Village Attorney Porteus reported on the billboard issue. She wrote a letter last month or the month before regarding the removal of the billboards and never heard a word from the attorney. She wrote a second letter to the attorney by Certified mail to get a signature back to make sure counsel is receiving her letters and to see whether or not they are still counsel. She has heard nothing. She is still looking for an answer. Trustee Murray commented that when this was discussed this last month, he wanted to know what the revenue impact was to the Village and what the Village would be losing off of that. Village Attorney Porteus has not been able to get an answer to that.

Village Attorney Porteus reported an update on the CK Trucking litigation. Discovery is continuing. The next court date is in December. We might have some sort of update by then. In the meantime, they are just exchanging documents back and forth.

Village Attorney Porteus had a question on the bond for roads and the sewage treatment plant. She wanted to be correct because of the timing. She understands it that the Board agreed to put it on mandatory referendum and put it on the ballot vote and asked for confirmation of that. Trustee Murray advised that the Board was going to put it on permissive referendum, allow the public contest the Board taking the loans out and having the 30 days notice for them to have petitions. If the Board receives 20% of the voters to sign the petition, then it is mandatory to put it on the ballot in 60 days. That is Trustee Murray's interpretation. The Board agreed with him. Trustee Murray recommended that the Board schedule a Public Hearing in November so the public can have the total tax impact. They know the tax impact of the road, which is \$88,000 a year to pay back. This would be approximately a 9% tax increase. The Board is still waiting for the information from the State on whether they can get grants for the sewer plant which would be \$1.4 million and would be over 30 years. He thinks that is another \$120,000-\$130,000 per year. Trustee Murray commented that they need all this information set before they can allow either a permissive or mandatory referendum. He wanted to know from the Village Attorney if she felt that the Board can have this information within the next 30 days. Village Attorney Porteus advised that they can definitely have the information on the roads. She was less sure about the sewage treatment plant.

Trustee Knickerbocker commented that for the sewage treatment plant, the list has not come out yet. It is supposed to be out in October to see where Buchanan falls on the list. If the Village falls above the line, they pretty much have to have this wrapped up by March 31. If they do not move on it by March 31, what happens is the people that are below the list and are ready to go will go ahead of us. Until the Board gets the list from the State showing where we fall on the list, we are in limbo.

Trustee Murray asked if the Board can go on the assumption that they are not going to get anything from the State just so they can move forward. Whatever we get from the State will lessen the impact on our taxes which will come out in the May timeframe. He asked if the Board

can just go with the \$1.4 million estimate from the Village Engineer. If they could talk to the people looking for the loans and everything, have them base everything on the worst case scenario. If they go for the worst case and tell everybody what it is it can only get better and we can definitely get the work done. He could not see any other option. He commented that the Board cannot keep holding this off to November and December. They would run into the same problem they ran into with the November and March election. Then they would have to have a special election which would cost all kinds of money. He thinks they should plan on the worst case scenario; stick with the two separate referendums - one for the \$980,000 and the other for \$1.4 million as a permissive referendum; see about getting all the information together for a Public Hearing in November; put in for a permissive referendum the first week in December, which would give 30 days for everybody to challenge; and then they would put it on a ballot the first week in March, if it is challenged which would be right around our 60 days. He is sure the State is not going to kill us for 3 days one way or the other. If the Board can set it all up in calendar months, it would be much easier for the public and for the Board to plan. He did not know if the rest of the Board felt the same way. Trustee Richard commented in favor. There were no comments against this.

Attorney Porteus commented that they would be scheduling a Public Hearing for information purposes and not to pass a bond Resolution.

Trustee Murray confirmed that it was not to pass a Resolution because they cannot start the permissive referendum until 90 days before the election. He would like to have all the information for the tax payers, not to just hit them with it within 30 days and say they have 30 days to do this. He wants to give them all the information 60 days out so they would be more informed. He commented that technically, the Board does not have to do this, but it would be best for the residents to get as much information over the longest period of time so the Board is not stuck in a quagmire of a time frame. If they could get all of the monetary impact for both bonds to have a Public Hearing just to tell the public about it. Then they can put it on the December agenda and announce that on the first Monday in December they are starting this

permissive referendum and give the public 30 days. He noted that the law says 20 days but the Board would give the public 30 days so they can stay within the 60 day time frame for the Village elections. Village Attorney Porteus commented that it was exactly what she wanted to know for timing purposes. If they were going to do mandatory, they could wait. If they were not, they need to move it now.

Trustee Knickerbocker commented that it is important for the residents to understand that the Board realizes it is a substantial outlay of money. The Board is going to let the residents decide how this money is going to be spent. There are going to be two bonds up for approval. It is up to the residents what they want to do. Before this all happens, there will be cost estimates and the pay back per year. It will be very detailed information so when the residents vote on it, they will be able to make a decision. It is going to be left up to the residents as to what they want to do with the bonds.

Trustee Murray commented that they have the majority of the information for the roads. All that research is already done. The only thing they do not have is all the research for the sewage because plant it took us longer for that evaluation and final cost estimate. When this comes to a permissive referendum, if the residents feel that they do not want to spend this money they have to have a petition. They have to have a number of signatures. 20% of the registered voters who voted in the last election have to sign that petition if they do not want the permissive referendum, the Village to borrow this money. If you get the 20% on the petition that say "do not borrow this money", within 60 days it has to be on a ballot. The Board is trying to time this so that if it occurs that the Village residents put this petition together, it can be put right on the ballot for the March elections. If they did it outside that time frame, the law says a special election has to be held which would cost money and problems with the County. They discovered they ran into those problems last month with the way they were doing their election and things like that. This is the process the Board is going to follow. This will be brought up again in November and December. That is when the clock will start.

Mayor Donahue wanted everybody to know that the Board would not be bringing these issues up asking for bonds, asking for money. The Board, like everybody else, are also taxpayers and no one wants to add on to the cost, but they had no choice. Our sewage treatment plant is in a very bad situation. The Village got hit with bills. Since Mayor Donahue has been the Acting Administrator, he found bills that the Village owes, like \$35,000 that was not taken care of in the past. Other things come up where hundreds of dollars are needed just to keep the place running. He commented that we are in really bad shape. As far as the roads go, they speak for themselves. It is up to the people. They have to decide. It is very necessary that the Board act. Hopefully, they can pass both of these bonds. This is a time where the rates never will be lower as far as the interest goes. The Board hopes that when the time comes the people of the Village will act and support correcting these things which are extremely necessary.

Trustee's Reports:

Trustee Knickerbocker reported further on the sewage treatment plant. Tim Cronin Engineering is working on another submission for funding for the DEC grant. This is actual money we will receive. It will not be a bond. Hopefully, we get on that list. The submission is due by October 16.

Trustee Knickerbocker reported on the Newsletter. A lot of residents were questioning that the Village is not going to accept any bundled clippings. This decision was made by Westchester County because the RESCO plant will no longer receive the bundled clippings. Trustee Knickerbocker spoke to Village Highway Foreman Jeff Tiernan because she got several calls from residents. He is working on an alternative. He believes he has another alternative to this. So we are not to panic yet with that. Right now, the last week for the wood chipper is next week. If it fits in the wood chipper, it will be taken. The week after, the leaf pick up starts. We have the leaf vacuum. Trustee Knickerbocker reminded residents that the most preferable way is to use the leaf vacuum that the Village sends out. Another way is to get

the bio-degradable bags so that this can be mulched. The plastic does not break down as well as the leaves themselves or paper.

Trustee Knickerbocker reported that there will be a Special Meeting on Wednesday night to talk about the Administrator position. She wanted to know from Mayor Donahue what type of format that is going to be, since it was announced for the public. There was some questioning on the advertising and the expenses on the advertising. She had heard some on the New York Times and Wall Street Journal.

Mayor Donahue advised that there were copies of the prices available here. Trustee Knickerbocker did not receive hers. Mayor Donahue noted that it would just not be possible to pay those prices. The Village paid the North County News \$280, the Journal News \$900, and the Cortlandt Gazette \$170. For the New York Times, for one day, on a Sunday, print ad only, the price is \$4,918; for two days is \$7,522. The Wall Street Journal for one day, a Tuesday, is \$348 for a 1 x 1 ad, \$1400 for a 2 x 2 and \$5,400 for a 2 x 3. This would be thousands of dollars and a waste of tax payers' money. Trustee Knickerbocker agreed with Mayor Donahue but she was given different prices. For Sunday alone, she got a price of \$711; for seven days for the New York Times was \$1,539; on-line for 30 days was \$395. She got different prices. Mayor Donahue thought there was something strange as the Journal News is only charging \$900. He did not see how they could be any less than those newspapers. These are the ones obtained by the Village office.

Trustee Knickerbocker wanted to ask about roads. She knows it is October and we are getting towards the end of the season, but she is not sure where the Board is with the Contingency Fund. She wanted to know if they could look into and get some costs to do a little crack sealing. There are still a couple of months left with that. The tar does come out very hot. This would prolong the life of some of our roads. She knows it does not look pretty but it would keep our roads for a while longer. Maybe this could be looked into. Mayor Donahue said he would talk to Jeff Tiernan about it tomorrow.

Trustee Knickerbocker wanted to know if Mayor Donahue was going to talk about the upcoming Special Meeting. Mayor Donahue advised that there is a notice out. There will be a Special Meeting to discuss the procedures the Board will follow, setting up appointments and things like that. Trustee Knickerbocker wanted to know if that would be an Executive Session. Mayor Donahue advised that they would not be putting the people's names out, as that would be in Executive Session. The rest would be out in the open; setting up the times, dates and things like that. Trustee Knickerbocker reported that she received 27 applications and wanted to know how many were received. Trustee Murray said that he did not count them. Trustee Richard commented that if they got one tonight, that would be 28; but she has 27 otherwise. Trustee Murray noted that the application they got tonight was for the Planning Board. Therefore, there are 27 applications.

Trustee Murray reported that last month he attended the September 11th Remembrance Day at the Pataki Leadership Center in Peekskill. There were a good amount of people who showed up. Trustee Murray wanted to encourage people to use the Pataki Leadership and Learning Center. It is a center that was set up by the former governor to help get young people involved in politics and in their community. He commented that as everyone knows, it is hard to get people to run for office. It is hard to get people involved in volunteer services. It is very difficult to get people involved in public service. This is one of the goals of the Pataki Learning Center. Trustee Murray wanted to encourage all the residents to try and use that center.

Trustee Murray reported that last month he attended the dedication for the Cortlandt Youth Center. It is another thing that hopefully a lot of our young people can use. He commented that anything that they can do to get the young people off the streets saves you money. It costs a lot more money to enforce the law than to help with crime prevention. This is one of the tools that our community has right now. It is the residents' tax money that funded this. It would be in the best interest of all the residents to use the facilities that we have. He thanked Town Supervisor Linda Puglisi for putting that together.

Trustee Murray reported that yesterday, he attended the Fire Prevention Day at Buchanan Engine Company. Unfortunately, there was not a big participation by the public. He would be willing to take any kind of suggestions to get people to come to these types of events. Fire prevention is very important in the area. There are so many little things that can help you prevent a fire. There are so many things to prevent you from having an automatic car starter from starting your car in your garage when you are sleeping at 3 o'clock in the morning. These kinds of things happen. Any suggestion that the public can give Trustee Murray to pass on to the Fire Department to get more people involved to learn these techniques; to learn how protect yourself when you leave something on the stove; to learn how to prevent putting smoking materials out incorrectly and burning your porch down; so many things; residents should feel free to contact Trustee Murray about this.

Trustee Murray reported that on Wednesday, October 14 at 3:00 PM there is going to be another rally at the Veterans' facility at the Montrose VA. This will be to try to bring light again to the efforts that the community wants to keep the services at Montrose. The V.A. is for the veterans. Trustee Murray commented that as everybody knows, this is the on-going issue of trying to sell some of that land to private developers. There has not been a lot of movement in the last couple of months, so they do not want the public to think that this is just going to go away. This is to try and keep it in people's minds that this is an important issue. He hopes a lot of people will come out for this.

Trustee Murray reported that as Mayor Donahue touched on earlier, October 31 will be the Halloween Parade starting at 10:30 AM. The Halloween party will be at 11 AM in the Community Room for all the residents to come and have the kids put on their costumes, parade around and have a little party downstairs. Hopefully, a lot of people will come. If his wife is not in labor, he hopes to take his child there. It is only a day away from when his wife is due, so he might not be able to attend.

Trustee Murray reported that Village Attorney Porteus touched on some of the things he wanted to ask her about concerning money for the loans, the grants and the time frame. He will not ask that question again.

Trustee Murray wanted to know from Mayor Donahue about the notice for the Special Meeting. It reads that the purpose of the meeting is to review applications for the position of Village Administrator. As stated, the Board has not set up any criteria of what they want to ask the applicants. He wanted to make sure that it was not the intent of the Special Meeting to hire a Village Administrator on Wednesday. Mayor Donahue advised that is correct and he did not know why Trustee Murray would think that. The idea is to lay the ground work for what they are going to do. There are 27 applicants. They have to sit down as a Board and decide how they are going to handle this; how they are going to set up the people coming in; how they are going to set up notification and other things. That is what they will be doing on Wednesday night.

Trustee Murray wanted to know if anybody has been contacted about filling the Ethics Board positions which have been vacated in the past year. There were two resignations to the Ethics Board. Trustee Murray wanted to know if anybody has been contacted or was anybody going to be put on the Ethics Board. Mayor Donahue advised that he has had very little communication concerning that. The last he heard was that there was a complaint registered that he knows nothing about. He is still trying to find out about what has been going on. Trustee Murray commented that his question had nothing to do with a complaint but just about the two vacancies on the Ethics Board. They started out with 5 members and are now down to 3. He has asked for the last couple months if anyone was going to be appointed to the Ethics Board. Right now, it is not functioning as far as he knows. Trustee Murray commented that last month Mayor Donahue advised that he had not contacted anybody yet. Mayor Donahue has to check and see what party registration people have because you can only have so many from each party. He will do that tomorrow. He will see what is open

and see who may be interested in serving. Mayor Donahue spoke to a couple of people who said they do not want anything to do with it. If anybody has any names, they can bring them to Mayor Donahue. Mayor Donahue will check, as there can only be a certain number from each party. Trustee Murray understood that, but one person resigned in May and another one in July. Mayor Donahue commented that it all happened after the complaint was made. Mayor Donahue will move on this as soon as he can. If anyone has any names of anyone interested, he would appreciate it if they give them to him.

Trustee Murray wondered about contract negotiations that he touched on in the couple of last months. He commented that as the public is aware, all the contracts with the municipal employees expired on June 1. He wanted to know the status of any contract negotiations. Mayor Donahue advised that he was contacted by members of the Teamsters Union. They want to come up and discuss things as soon as possible. Mayor Donahue was hoping the Board could move quickly with the Village Administrator and have him participate. Mayor Donahue will get back to the Teamsters Union and make a call. As far as the police, their representative retired. Mayor Donahue will call them tomorrow to see who is sitting in for them and set up some kind of meeting with them to discuss what is going on. Trustee Murray commented that the lack of having a Village Administrator is not going to affect the Board's ability to negotiate. Mayor Donahue advised that the last contract took the Village two years to do. It has only been a few months since May. So they are ahead of the last pace. Mayor Donahue commented that they are going to move on it as soon as they can.

Trustee Smith reported that he spoke to Jeff Tiernan earlier today who advised that he got an even better price for those blocks that he will need to construct the temporary salt shed. Instead of \$50 per block, he got it down to \$40. He is estimating a cost of \$600 for the base or foundation and another \$2800 - \$3200 for the temporary structure itself. Hopefully, very soon, a request to the Board to get some funding for this will be coming across the Board's desks. Then, they can move forward with it. From the treatment plant side, we are hanging in there.

He spoke with George Smith earlier last week and everything is hanging in there. At this point they are crossing their fingers. What they do need is an operator for the plant. The State requires it. Trustee Smith requested that the Mayor or the union move on it and get it taken care of by the middle of this month if at all possible, as they are looking for that.

Trustee Murray wanted to know if Trustee Smith knew if any of the water testing results came back from the sampling that was taken. Trustee Smith knew that the results came back but he did not get all the details. Trustee Smith advised that he spoke to Jim Annicchiarico. He mentioned that one of the samples, Trustee Smith did not know which one, was very high in organic acids. Trustee Smith did not know what that means. He did not want to give people the wrong impression. Trustee Murray wanted to know where that sample came from. Trustee Smith was not sure and did not want to speculate. More of a report will come back very soon. Trustee Smith will speak with them tomorrow to get more information on that. Trustee Murray wanted to know if the Board would get a copy of all those results. Trustee Smith will try to get it in everyone's box and stay on top of it. Aside from that, we are hanging in there, crossing our fingers and hoping that the wheels do not fall off the wagon.

Trustee Richard reported that she had a memo from the Zoning Board. The regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Wednesday, October 7 which is one week earlier than it is regularly scheduled. Anyone interested, should note that it has been rescheduled to October 7.

Trustee Richard reported that on September 27, it rained. They tried to get the Buchanan 5K to go off. Several people did show up and she appreciates their attendance. They cancelled the race that day. It has been rescheduled for October 25. Some people have already pre-registered. She wanted to let people know that it is still going to go on at the end of the month on October 25.

Trustee Richard reported that she has been in contact with the woman

who is in charge of setting up our web site. So far, she is doing a great job from what Trustee Richard can actually see. Trustee Richard has set up separate e-mail accounts for each individual Village Board member as well as the Village Attorney, Village Clerk and Water Department. The accounts are all open and active. Trustee Richard does not suggest that they should be actually used until they get the web site going. They will be listed on the web site. Hopefully, it can be put on the Buchanan Channel scroll on Channels 30 and 78. Then residents will have an e-mail address for each individual person in case they want to contact them personally. On the web site will be individual contact information besides calling into the Village Hall. If one of the Trustees wants to give out their home phone numbers, and wants it on the web site so people can contact them at home, it is up to them on an individual basis. Also on the web site, they are going to set up several individual sites. One is going to be set up strictly for the Senior Citizens. She is looking for anyone who is interested and computer savvy from the Seniors, in order to give updates about what is going on. Possibly about when they are going on their trips and there are photos being taken, if they want their photos uploaded to the web site, that can also be done. They are also going to set up a department for the Fire House for announcements for any kinds of parties going on there. They just had a nice, beautiful golf outing. Pictures were being taken. We can actually upload the pictures onto the web site. At the same time, this account will be able to do what they call a reverse advertising. People will have to register their e-mail with the Village. Then in cases of such things as the Special Meeting next Wednesday, that can be e-mailed to residents rather than have to wait or have to see it posted. Residents can be e-mailed about any type of event that is going on. People actually have to register their e-mail with the Village. People are not required to do. If they are interested in it, they can e-mail Trustee Richard's account at "grichard@villagebuchanan.com". If residents send her their e-mail, she will send notice if anything special is going on to them. Eventually, it will be taken over by the Village Clerk and special notices will be going out at that time.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Donahue reported on the reported that he attended the dedication of the Cortlandt Youth Center. It was well attended and a very nice affair. They honored Michael Kaufman, who used to own Kaufman Auto Body, for all his help that he gave to the community concerning recreation for children. Mayor Donahue has known Michael all his life. He was born and raised in Peekskill, as was Mayor Donahue.

Mayor Donahue reported that he attended the Buchanan Engine Company's Fire Prevention Day yesterday. The firemen were all there. It was too bad that there was not a better attendance but a lot of things are going on. We are fortunate that we have our own fire department.

Mayor Donahue reported that on October 14, he will be attending the rally at the VA. Mayor Donahue commented that he is pretty active down there. He goes there at least twice a week and sometimes a couple times in the same day bringing Veterans down there who have no transportation and need help. He commented that we have to do everything we can to keep it open. He knows it is hard for people who are working to attend but if anybody can, the more that can the better.

Mayor Donahue reported that on October 25, he will attend the Buchanan 5K Race. It is a great thing to raise money for cancer victims. Anybody who can attend, participate or donate is more than welcome.

Mayor Donahue reported that he had correspondence from Saint Christopher's Church. On behalf of the Ladies of Mount Carmel and Saint Christopher's Church, they thanked Mayor Donahue for attending their marathon on August 23. They appreciated his starting the race and for staying to participate in the awards ceremony for the winners. They thanked him for his kind words of encouragement to the group. The marathon helped raise funds for a classroom in Ecuador which will help further education. They thanked Police Chief Tubbs for the help of the Buchanan Police Department and for his help with the paperwork for permits. They thanked the Westchester Emergency Police Force

and New York State Troopers who helped with safety for the event. They will hold this again next July. It was signed by Monsignor Hendricks, the pastor of Saint Christopher's Church in Buchanan.

Mayor Donahue reported that he had another letter to the Village Board from Pete Lazarra, 139 Lindsey Avenue at the corner of Craft Lane. He was writing because he was unable to be present in person due to surgery. In his letter, Mr. Lazarra described how a large maple tree blew over into his yard on Friday August 21 at 5:30 PM due to high winds. It blocked Craft Lane and caused slight damage to his yard. He called the Buchanan Police and reported this to Officer Mike Guida who responded quickly and who called the Highway Department. Among those who responded were Bob Wheeler, Scott Horton and Dick (?) who helped clear it quickly. Highway Foreman Jeff Tiernan also made himself available to coordinate with the police and to supervise the removal even though he was on vacation. Mr. Lazarra wrote that the Village is very fortunate to have these employees and he thanked every one of them.

Mayor Donahue reported that he attended a POW-MIA meeting on September 16 at the VA Hospital in Montrose. It was to honor the POWs and MIAs. The main speaker said that 20 years ago, there would be 20 to 40 people who were either Prisoners Of War or Missing In Action that were found. The other day there were 6 in attendance. There were a lot of other people and veterans there. Assemblywoman Sandy Galef was there. It was a very nice affair. Mayor Donahue was glad he had a chance to attend it.

Mayor Donahue reported a notice from Town Supervisor Linda Puglisi that on October 14, the one year Veterans Rally to protest the downsizing of medical and other services at the VA Hudson Valley Hospital Care System, Montrose Campus by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C. would be held. It will on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 3 PM, rain or shine. The location is the front lawn of the VA, off Route 9A, Albany Post Road, Montrose. Parking will be at the Town recreation area off Memorial Drive, Rte.

9A near the Cortlandt Train Station. Transportation will be provided to the Veterans' Rally. Everyone is urged to join this rally as they continue their fight to save the VA. Our Veterans need and deserve these services and they must be adhered to. Mayor Donahue commented that a lot of people either have Veterans in their families or they know Veterans. It is very important to keep this place open. Otherwise, they would have to go down to the Bronx. Mayor Donahue commented that he was there numerous times. The ride down is not that bad but once you get there, the parking is almost impossible. The other alternative is Castle Point which is a ride but at least you can park there. Mayor Donahue commented that we owe it to the Veterans and the families of the Veterans to do everything we can keep the VA in Montrose open because it is a great hospital and nicer than any of them, as it is laid out like a college campus. Anyone should attend if they can. He knows it is difficult for people who are working. The rally will be this Wednesday, October 14 at 3:00 PM.

Trustee Knickerbocker wanted to know if it would be appropriate to hear Comments From The Floor before they go into Executive Session so residents would not have to wait for the Board to return, since she did not know how long they would be.

A MOTION to change the order of business on the agenda to hold "Comments from the Floor" before the Executive Session was made by Trustee Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Murray with all in favor.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Jane Hitney, Lake Drive, commented that with Election Day being about a month away, that the sign code be enforced. She noticed that there is already one political sign placed in Monroe Park, which is not allowed on Village property. She asked that when our Building Inspector is not working, as she is part-time, that the Police or Highway Department are able to enforce that regulation and remove that sign. She could see it starting quite a problem in the next month. She commented that it is an eyesore and is littering the Village. Ms.

Hitney respectfully requested that all the departments are reminded of that enforcement.

Ken Sherman, Craft Lane, commented on living on Craft Lane and entering onto Rte. 9A. At that point to the left, there are a number of shrubbery that are overgrown which makes it very difficult to see down the road. You have to stick the nose of your car out there and hopefully get through without an accident. There are a lot weeds growing on the right hand side and it makes it equally difficult on that side. He requested that it be taken care of. Mayor Donahue advised that he would talk to the Highway Foreman and Building Inspector tomorrow. Trustee Knickerbocker commented that she had talked to the Building Inspector about that previously. She knows that it is still a blind spot and is something that has to be addressed as it is an accident waiting to happen there. She knows that some of the shrubbery was cut at one point but not enough to have the sight distance. The Board will have the Highway Foreman and Building Inspector look into it. It might be a situation the Board might have to get together and talk about possibly having no left hand turn there because it is a dangerous spot. When people are coming up over the hill, someone on Craft Lane trying to take the left cannot see them until it is too late. She knows the Building Inspector and Highway Foreman looked into that at one time but it still needs to be addressed. She thanked Mr. Sherman for bringing it to the Board's attention. Mayor Donahue advised that he will contact the Highway Foreman and Building Inspector tomorrow to look at it.

8.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:22 PM a MOTION to go into Executive Session with regard to issues pertaining to the audit by the State Comptroller's Office was made by Trustee Murray, seconded by Trustee Richard with all in favor.

At 9:28 PM a MOTION to come out of Executive Session to return to the regular meeting was made by Trustee Murray, seconded by Trustee Knickerbocker, with all in favor.

9. **09-44 RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF DIT RECOVERY
SERVICES.**

Village Attorney Porteus read a Resolution authorizing the hiring of DIT Recovery Services. The Resolution includes that the Board has authorized the spending of not more than \$1,000 to attempt to recover computer documents and files from the Village computer hard drive.

A MOTION to adopt this Resolution as read was made by Trustee Murray, seconded by Trustee Richard with all in favor.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Donahue reminded everyone that October 31 is our Village Halloween Party and October 14 is the rally at the VA Hospital in Montrose to keep it open. For Navy veterans, he wished them a “Happy Birthday” on October 27th which is the birthday of the United States Navy.

At 9:39 PM a MOTION to adjourn this meeting was made by Trustee Murray, seconded by Trustee Richard with all in favor.

11. **AUDIT OF BILLS:**

General Fund: _____ Water Fund: _____

Capital Fund: _____ T&A Fund: _____

See Abstract of Audited Claim Vouchers for details.

Thomas J. Jankowski