

**Village of Buchanan  
Board Meeting  
October 3, 2011  
7:30 PM**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Sean Murray  
Trustees Theresa Knickerbocker, Richard Funchion, and Jane Hitney  
Village Administrator Kevin Hay  
Village Attorney Stephanie Porteus  
Village Board Secretary Susan F. Matthews

**ABSENT:**

Trustee Nicholas Zachary

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**2. APPROVE MINUTES:**

August 16, 2011 Workshop: Trustee Funchion had corrections on page 5, paragraph 2, line 8: take out “we”; paragraph 3, line 1: change “I” to “if”, and line 6: add “it”; page 6, line 6: add “to”; line 21: add “how”; page 7, line 1: change “get” to “go”; paragraph 2, line 3: delete Mayor Murray’s sentence; page 9, paragraph 2, line 4: change “with” to “in”.

A MOTION to approve these minutes as amended was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Hitney with all in favor and Trustee Zachary absent.

September 6, 2011 Regular Village Board Meeting: Mayor Murray had a correction to Page 14, second paragraph: add “create one”.

Trustee Funchion wanted to let people know about the offer for a free Cablevision box. He believes it is free for one year. After that you would have to pay for it. It is incumbent on people to tell Cablevision if they do not wish to keep the box. Someone who does not have a digital t.v. can go to a store like Radio Shack and get a box. With it you would be able to get regular stations, but he does not believe you will be able to get the Buchanan Channel. The box from Cablevision would have to be paid for by the customer after one year. Village Administrator Hay will check the franchise agreement.

A MOTION to approve these minutes as amended was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Knickerbocker with all in favor and Trustee Zachary absent.

**3. PRESENTATION: BUCHANAN ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1 DONATION OF PARTIAL PROCEEDS OF BUCHANAN FAMILY DAY TO BUCHANAN-CORTLANDT-CROTON 9/11 MEMORIAL PROJECT.**

Bob Outhouse, President of Buchanan Engine Co. No. 1, presented the donation. With him were Trustees of the Engine Company. Andy Cody and Bob Wheeler ran the committee for the food, for the firehouse, for that day. He thanked them for their efforts and thanked the Mayor for all his help. They raised \$250 for the Buchanan-Cortlandt-Croton 9/11 Memorial which he presented to the Mayor.

Mayor Murray thanked the Fire Department for helping to support the 9/11 Memorial fund. We are all working to raise funds. Jerry Underwood, the principal fund raiser, was unable to be present tonight. It is very difficult to raise funds in these times. They are a volunteer organization. The Mayor appreciates their taking time and working hard to raise funds for this memorial. This donation is a tribute to the Fire Department and is very commendable.

Trustee Knickerbocker commented that the Buchanan Day Committee really appreciates the support the Buchanan Fire Department gave, not only as a food vendor but also for the ground coordination of the helicopter landing. Without them, we could not have had the helicopter land. She said they were a valuable asset to our community and were really appreciated.

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:** (Agenda items only)

None

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a) PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED PLACEMENT OF STOP SIGNS ON WESTCHESTER AVENUE AT THE BUCHANAN-VERPLANCK SCHOOL ENTRANCE.**

At 7:40 PM, a MOTION to open the Public Hearing was made by Trustee Hitney, seconded by Trustee Knickerbocker with all in favor and Trustee Zachary absent.

Mayor Murray explained that last December a blizzard took down a tree which took down all the wires and the light that controlled traffic at the entrance to the school B/V School at Westchester Avenue. The latest estimate to repair this was \$140,000. He did not think that it is a good amount of money to spend for a traffic control device. The Mayor noted that he spoke to the School Board in May but we have not been able to find a reasonable solution. Neither the Village's nor the school's insurance will cover it. Right now, our Police Department is directing traffic when the school is starting and finishing. Mayor Murray read a letter from Chief Tubbs (copy attached) in which he recommends the installation of Stop signs on Westchester Avenue and on the school driveway at that intersection until a traffic light can be installed there.

Mayor Murray asked for comments from the floor.

Mary Ellen Keefe of Verplanck commented that both her boys went to the B/V School. She is in favor of having a traffic light. She wanted to know if Stop signs are put in, would there be a

warning as you go around the turn on Westchester Avenue since you cannot see the Stop signs until you are on top of them. Branches would have to be cut down. She also wanted to know if the reason the insurance was not covering this was because they were considering it to be an “act of God”.

Mayor Murray advised that when he spoke to the School Board at the May meeting that was one of the questions that he asked. He was told that school law states that school districts are not allowed to use funds for municipal projects. Since it was the Village’s light, they consider this to be a municipal project, and that even though it was their tree, the tree came down by an “act of God”. Mayor Murray advised that that one solution the Village offered was for the Village to repair the light and then deed the light to them for any future repairs and costs. They wanted to reach out to the PTA and some others. That was in May and we have not had any other correspondence. The Mayor advised that it was his not his intention to have a police officer there. It is not a good cost to have them there, sometimes on overtime. He would rather have a permanent solution. Right now it is a stop gap. The last estimate was \$140,000. Ms. Keefe believed that the price was not unheard of for a traffic light. The Mayor noted that Frank G. Lindsey School is the only other school in District 3 that has any kind of traffic control device. The Mayor asked her if she had a problem with Stop signs. Ms. Keefe commented that her concern was with people who do not stop for them. There were traffic concerns even with the light. She felt that with Stop signs, there would have to be a police officer there writing tickets until people became aware of the signs. She felt it is the only way people are going to stop.

Trustee Funchion wanted clarification on what the \$140,000 covered. Mayor Murray advised that it was for the installation of the arm. Since the light was put in so many years ago, it is not up to code and we have to do it to the current DOT specifications.

Mayor Murray was in favor of keeping this Public Hearing open one more month so other members of the School Board and the PTA could attend.

Barbara Pettersen, a Trustee on the Hendrick Hudson School Board, commented that this is something that will be taken to the School Board and put on their agenda for discussion. Her concern is that the B/V School is set back and when you are coming around the curve you do not realize that the school is up there. People go very fast there. Whether there is an officer there for a while or whether the traffic light gets fixed, she does not know what the total solution would be. She commented that it is something that they have to continue to talk about with the School Board and the Village. Mayor Murray advised that he would like to be notified. He would speak to the School Board. He asked that they submit some information to the Village because we have not received any correspondence since he spoke to the School Board in May. Ms. Pettersen did not know how many bids were received. Mayor Murray advised that we only received a few. There were not a lot of people who were enthusiastic to do such a small project. Ms. Pettersen commented that it was an issue that needs further communication between the Village and the School Board. She will take it to the members of the School Board and get more information.

Trustee Hitney noted that she worked in that school building for 25 years. She was in and out daily. There was always a problem with the traffic light there because it went to a blinking light after 4:00 PM. She commented that Ms. Keefe might see people running Stop signs in the beginning once or twice a week. People were running the traffic light as well. She does not feel it is intentional. She feels it just does not register with them because they are there in the late

afternoon and evenings when it is a blinking light. When you change a light from one format to another, it is going to take people time to recognize that. She feels that if it is worked out that the light is put back up, it must either stay on all the time or be a blinking light all the time. She feels that Stop signs are good for the time being. Besides the issue of visibility on Westchester Avenue, when you come out of the B/V School you have to be almost into Westchester Avenue to enable you to see in both directions. Right now there is a white line there. When the light was there, you had to stop behind that line to allow the buses and other vehicles to turn in. She believes that will still be a problem.

At 7:50 PM a MOTION to keep the Public Hearing open until the November Village Board meeting was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Hitney with all in favor and Trustee Zachary absent.

**b) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF STOP SIGNS.**

This is being held over until the next meeting.

**c) 11-58 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF SEASONAL HIGHWAY STAFF.**

Mayor Murray read the Resolution (copy attached).

Trustee Funchion wanted to know where the notification was put out to the public that there was part-time work available. Mayor Murray advised that they spoke about it when they spoke about the six-month rule. This part-time work was not advertised. Village Administrator Hay advised that these were people that we had from the previous summer. A few made it known that they would work for the leaf season. Trustee Funchion wanted to know if it needs to be advertised from a legal stand point. Village Attorney Porteus advised that she does not know how it was written into the hiring policy. Mayor Murray advised that they would review it. It has been a custom to carry over summer employees to help with the Fall season. He noted that we cannot hire anyone for more than six months in any one year. It is to avoid having the same temporary people here from year to year. It is not fair to them or to the union employees. Village Administrator Hay advised that he spoke to the Highway Foreman about the six month rule. Village Attorney Porteus will review the hiring policy. The Mayor does not believe that this would meet the criteria to have to advertise since they were carry-over employees. Trustee Funchion commented that his goal is to keep the hiring as transparent as possible.

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

**d) 11-59 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT.**

Mayor Murray read the Resolution (copy attached).

Trustee Funchion noted an inconsistency in the letter from the individual making the purchase. They speak of an Impala and do not indicate the year. Village Administrator Hay advised that we have always had a Ford Crown Victoria. Mayor Murray directed the Village Administrator to make sure that the contract is correct. Number 267 is the designation for the police car.

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

**e) 11-60 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A PROPOSAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF SURPLUS 2003 JLG LIFT.**

Mayor Murray read the Resolution (copy attached).

Trustee Knickerbocker wanted to know if this was the only bid. Mayor Murray advised that it was. He noted that the actual bid was higher but unfortunately, when we went to start it, it did not work. We had to do repairs to it. The lift did not work and we had to replace circuit boards. We had to put \$1,600 to \$2,000 into the vehicle in order to sell it.

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

**f) 11-61 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER FOR THE BLEAKLEY AVENUE ROAD PROJECT.**

Mayor Murray read the Resolution (copy attached).

Mayor Murray advised that they had a letter from George Pommer of Hahn Engineering (copy attached). The work includes replacing a solid manhole cover with a drain manhole which should reduce runoff onto private property.

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

**6. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS:**

a) Justice Court Reports: August 2011

Received

b) Zoning Board Minutes: August 2011

Received

c) Planning Board Minutes: August 2011

Received

d) Police Reports: February 2011 – August 2011

Received

e) Attorney's Report:

Village Attorney Porteus reported that they are continuing to move forward in the Planning Board with the applications on Greentown Recycling and AAA Carting. They have been busy.

Mayor Murray advised that regarding last month when they passed the Water Bill Resolution, he wanted to know how the changes were incorporated. He wants to get a final copy of the Resolution which incorporated changing the fees and submitting proof of repair.

f) Trustee's Reports:

**Trustee Funchion** congratulated Trustees Knickerbocker and Zachary on their spearheading of Buchanan Day. It was a great success. They put a lot of work into it. All the work was done by volunteers and all the monies were donations. Trustees Knickerbocker and Zachary accomplished an event that cost the Village taxpayers nothing. It was a great day and the weather cooperated. He thanked them very much. He was very proud to be part of the committee in late July and August.

Trustee Funchion reported that he attended the 9/11 Memorial in the Town of Cortlandt. He was the guest speaker. He appreciated being there among the firefighters and EMS who do so much for the community. It was a special day to remember them because so many of them suffered on that day ten years ago. Trustee Funchion attended the 9/11 Memorial fund raiser at Monteverdi Restaurant. It is a nice place overlooking the Hudson. They raised a good amount of money for the memorial.

Trustee Funchion reported that he attended the first Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee meeting. He encouraged residents to come and join them. The Committee is going to meet on October 18 at 6:30 PM at the Highway Department.

**Trustee Hitney** echoed Trustee Funchion's comments about Buchanan Day. Trustees Knickerbocker and Zachary did a phenomenal job pulling together this first annual Buchanan Day. She received positive comments from people in the community. They enjoyed it. Buchanan Engine Company and all of the other volunteers worked all day long and kept going. It was nice to see the enthusiasm and energy that went into this project. Trustee Hitney commented on seeing Trustee Funchion's car which survived 9/11. He brought it to the pavilion so people could see it. He had a lot of mementos from that day explaining the amazing story of how his car was found.

Trustee Hitney commented that she wanted to report on the Historic Hudson Rivertowns but when she went to a meeting on Friday, she found out it was cancelled. There is an enrollment time coming up. We are hopeful that we will be able to get some funds from this organization.

Trustee Hitney reported on Hudson Valley Hospital Center's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Symposium on Saturday, October 29 from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM in Cold Spring. The topic will be "Finding Purpose And Passion In Life's Balance". Speakers will be Darlene Rodriguez from NBC and Elizabeth Ailes, publisher of the Putnam County News & Recorder and the Putnam County Courier. For further information, call 734-3557.

**Trustee Knickerbocker** read a list of thanks (copy attached) on behalf of the Buchanan Day Committee.

Trustee Knickerbocker read a thank you letter from Trustee Zachary (copy attached).

#### **g) Mayor's Report**

Mayor Murray thanked everyone who made Buchanan Day a success. He commented that when he was growing up in the 1970s, we had a similar type of event in the Village pavilion. Through the years everybody stopped doing it. It was great to have all the different people in our community there at Buchanan Day and come together for a common event. It was great to talk to people whom you do not see in the normal course of your daily activities. He hopes that next year they can improve on it and make it even bigger. It is all done with volunteers. He was very proud to have been associated with it.

Mayor Murray reported that they repaired the roof on the garage at the Village Hall. Part of it was caving in and that part of the garage has been fixed.

Mayor Murray reported that residents can see that the paving has started on Second Street and Henry Street. The curbs on Valerie Court and Donahue Court are nearing completion. That money is coming out of the bond.

Mayor Murray thanked Highway Foreman Jeff Tiernan and the Highway Department personnel for fixing the pavilion roof. On Buchanan Day, the weather caused some concerns about whether the roof was going to leak. The guys were able to repair the leaks.

Mayor Murray announced that the Halloween Parade and party will be on October 29 at 10:15 AM. The Mayor hopes that everyone will come to the party immediately following the parade. If it rains, the party will still be at the Village Hall at 10:45 AM. There will be a magician and other activities.

Mayor Murray reported on Fire Prevention Week. Buchanan Engine Company will have an Open House on October 16 at 1:00 PM at the Fire House. It will help you if something happens at people's houses. People will be taught how to help themselves in that type of situation. It

helps the children to learn not to panic because whenever you go to anyone's house in an emergency, there are things happening such as people running in and out of the house.

**6. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Trustee Hitney announced that on Buchanan Day someone left their tote bag. It had a child's name and fingerprints. It had a goodie bag from CCVAC and toys. It is in the Village office where the owner can pick it up.

Bob Outhouse, President of Buchanan Engine Company, referred to Mayor Murray's report on the Fire Department and their gift to the 9/11 Memorial. He wanted people to know that at their breakfast this year, they are going to be putting out a boot on the table for donations towards their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He said they are going to have quite an event in 2015 and need to begin raising money now. Their plan is to host the Westchester County Firemen's Convention and Parade. They are starting to plan it now. Their fund raisers include breakfasts, calendars, golf outings and clam bakes. This year's clam bake will be on Sunday, October 9. The golf outing will be on October 21. Mr. Outhouse would like the community to support them as they gear up for their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:15 PM a MOTION to adjourn was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Hitney with all in favor and Trustee Zachary absent.