

**Village of Buchanan
Mayor & Board of Trustees
Annual Organizational Meeting
Monday, April 2, 2012**

PRESENT:

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

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. READ RESULTS OF THE MARCH 20, 2012 VILLAGE ELECTION:

Mayor Murray read the results of the March 20, 2012 Village Election (copy attached).

3. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Murray introduced his family. He was administered the Oath of Office by his wife Michelle Murray.

Mayor Murray administered the Oath of Office to Trustees Zachary and Funchion.

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

None.

5. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR:

Mayor Murray appointed Trustee Theresa Knickerbocker as Deputy Mayor (copy attached).

6. APPOINTMENTS TO ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD:

Mayor Murray made the appointments to the Assessment Review Board (copy attached).

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

7. MAYOR'S ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS (including Planning and Zoning Boards):

Mayor Murray made the appointments (copy attached).

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

8. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES:

Mayor Murray made the appointments to committees (copy attached). These are mayoral appointments which do not require a Motion.

9. 12-16 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MEETING DATES, ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE AND OPEN MEETINGS LAW, SETTING DATES FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TENTATIVE 2012-2013 VILLAGE BUDGET, DESIGNATING VILLAGE DEPOSITORIES, DESIGNATING OFFICAL VILLAGE NEWSPAPER, ESTABLISHING THE MILEAGE ALLOWANCE RATE FOR REIMBURSEMENT, ADOPTING VILLAGE PROCUREMENT POLICY, ADOPTING VILLAGE FEE SCHEDULE, AND AUTHORIZATION TO ATTEND CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS.

Mayor Murray read the Resolution (copy attached).

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

Trustee Zachary noted that the NYCOM (New York Conference of Mayors) annual Training Conference conflicts with our next Board Meeting on May 7. He commented that these conferences offer a lot of training seminars which he found very useful. He would like to attend and wanted to know if we could change the date of the Village Board meeting to May 8. Most of the seminars are on Monday and Tuesday. The conference starts on Sunday afternoon and Monday is a key day. Trustee Knickerbocker advised that she would be away on business returning on Wednesday night. The Mayor advised that the May Village Board meeting is to vote on the budget which has to be approved by May 1. Trustee Zachary proposed to therefore change the meeting date to May 1. The Board was in agreement and the Mayor announced that the next Village Board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 when they will be voting on the budget.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS:

Trustee Zachary thanked all the people who supported and voted for him and Trustee Funchion in the last election. He thanked all the residents who came out to vote. He likes to see people be part of the process no matter whom they vote for. Trustee Zachary said that he did not like campaigning because he finds a lot of it was based on people being misinformed. The Board has to try to go out there and set the record straight. Since he does not like to campaign, he said he will start to campaign right now. He commented that to him, at every meeting the Board does

what they feel is right and that should be their campaign. He urged everyone to come to at least one meeting a year, to watch meetings on t.v. and to try to keep up with what is going on. That way, lies cannot be told and the Board will not have to then go out of their way to set the record straight. If the Board does something that the residents do not like, they can let the Board know. He encouraged people's participation. It would alleviate campaigning.

Trustee Zachary commented that we will have some important issues coming up in the next two years. He is honored to have been re-elected to the Board because these issues will affect everybody. We do not know what the fate of Indian Point will be. We know how important the plant is to the Village. There is a lot of pressure out there. We do not know what is going to happen; whether it will be relicensed or not. We have to deal with the tax issue. He feels that Indian Point needs to be paying a significant part of our taxes until it may be decommissioned and turned back over to the community to be used in some other viable way. People know that it may not be in his or anyone here's life time. It is a long process. We need to work toward that.

Trustee Zachary noted that we will have our budget hearing next Tuesday. It is very important. We are now under the 2% tax cap. He commented that no one wants to pay any more tax than they have to but he finds the 2% tax cap to be a very convenient and very popular thing for the Governor. But, it is killing a lot of municipalities now because we have mandated expenses that increase our budget between 5%-10% every year. To stay within 2% means the Board will be slowly whittling away at the budget looking for ways try to minimize waste and work as efficiently as possible. Every item and department in the Village is subject to review. We need to keep it as trim as possible. Trustee Zachary urged everyone come to the budget hearing on Tuesday, April 10.

Trustee Zachary announced that the next meeting of the Buchanan Day Committee will be on Thursday, April 19 at 7:00 PM at the Highway Department building. They will be planning for next September's Buchanan Day.

Trustee Funchion thanked all the people in Buchanan who gave him the privilege and honor of serving on the Board. He noted that Buchanan has a very high voting rate compared to the rest of the country. We should all be very proud. He commented that he agrees with Trustee Zachary about campaigning. The Board tries to do the right thing by the tax payers. They try to listen to everyone and to have an open mind. At the budget hearing, they would like to hear people's opinions. He wants to communicate and get out the facts to show that there are certain things which the Board has no control over. It is very important. He does not think this Village should get lost in this whole discussion about Entergy and whether it should or should not be there. He feels that the Board has to make sure, whether it is the Federal, State or County government, that the tax payers and the things that we hold dear to us in Buchanan - our property, our houses and our taxes – are not forgotten by other people because we are a small village.

Trustee Funchion said that he feels very privileged and honored to serve the Village. He enjoys walking around the Village and meeting everyone whom he has not met before. He looks forward to serving the Village for the next two years and to working with the mayor. He commented that Mayor Murray is one of the hardest working people that he has ever worked with.

Trustee Knickerbocker is glad the election is over so they can move forward again. She commented on how proud she was of our Village on Election Day. As they do each year, the Ladies Auxiliary was selling tickets for a drawing for a food basket. This year Trustee Knickerbocker was so deeply touched because at the end of the night the ladies told her that people were handing them \$20 and instead of putting their own names on the tickets, they were putting them in the name of the Veterans Food Pantry. The three winners left the food baskets for the Veterans Food Pantry. Trustee Knickerbocker is so proud of our community. When she brought them to the VA, she was told how much they really appreciate and really need that. Trustee Knickerbocker commented that the veterans helped us. Now we can help them.

Trustee Knickerbocker commented that this an appropriate time to give credit where she feels credit is due. She has served on the Village Board previously to this. For the last couple of years, she has worked with the present Board members. They have gotten so much done in the last couple of years. She said it has been a privilege and honor for her to work with this Board. She said that sometimes as she sits here a little smile crosses her face as she listens to the way these Board members talk about our Village, the things they want to do and how they want to improve our community. It prompts her to think about what a great Board this is and how they really have the Village's best interest at heart. There is nothing political in what they do to help the residents. It is about what they can do to make this community better. They are respectful to the residents. There are no attacks. They are here to serve the public. There is respect on the Board itself between the members. It is not that they always agree with one another. She commented that 99% of the things they plan and the problems they work out are done at the Workshops. They hash things out there. She commented that we may see the Board meetings on t.v. and think they are dull, but that 99% of the work is done at the Workshops. They talk about what they want to do. It has been a huge honor and privilege for her to work with this team. Trustee Knickerbocker spoke about Mayor Murray's commitment to the community and his energy. She can really say that he is a multi-tasker. He gets a lot done. He has respect for the Board and asks for their ideas and opinions. This is a group that works together well and is here to serve the residents. She has had a great experience working with them and serving the residents.

Trustee Knickerbocker commented that it is an honor and privilege being the Deputy Mayor and being able to represent our great village at different events and meetings. She loves doing that. She did not know Trustees Zachary and Funchion before they became members of the Board. During the last two years in which she's gotten to know them, they put the time and commitment in. She commented that they tease Trustee Zachary about not being a man of few words. She

knows that one of the things that got controversial during the election campaign was the 1% utility tax. Trustee Zachary thought of that and brought it to the Board's attention. They were looking for ways to increase monies coming into the Village. Trustee Knickerbocker commented that it might not have been the politically correct thing to do, but this Board was open enough to look at it and research it to see if it would work and be a good fit for our village. In today's changing economy, with the budgets they will have to look at in the next two years, you have to look outside of the box, so the Board looked at this at the beginning of the year. We had several Public Hearings about the tax where people came and gave their input. The Board decided that right now, it is not a good fit for the Village. It was done at the beginning of the year. The Board voted on it and said that they were not going to go further with it at this time because it was not something that was right for us. Trustee Knickerbocker commented that it has been a great experience working with the people on this Board. Their heart is with the Village. It is not political. It is what we can do to help the people. It is what she too is here for. This is her community. This is where she grew up. She wants to see this community prosper and continue to flourish.

Trustee Knickerbocker commented that it has been a pleasure to work with Village Attorney Porteus and Village Administrator Hay. She said she is thinking about adopting them as "Buchanan-ites" because they have become part of the Village. They come to our events. They do not just work here. They are a part of our community. She thanked them and said that their hearts are in the Village and how to make it better. Trustee Knickerbocker commented that she would be remiss if she did not mention the Village Board Secretary who always does a great job for the Board.

Mayor Murray thanked the voters. He commented that we have a good voter turnout; 40% of the eligible voters, which is better than a lot of other surrounding municipalities. It is great that the people come out and have a voice in our government and equally important, come to the meetings. The Board does a lot of work at the Workshop meetings. Sometimes they are over three hours. It is not necessary to stay for the whole meeting but he encouraged people to come out to the Workshops. Sometimes they only have two people attend. It is a little discouraging. He encouraged people to come out to the Workshops and Village Board meetings and express their opinions. This is how the Board makes its decisions.

The Mayor thanked Trustees Zachary and Funchion for seeking to remain on the Board. It is sometimes difficult being a public official. They put themselves out to public scrutiny. They are very much trying to do what is best for the Village. He appreciates their having decided to give another two years of their lives to the Village. He thanked Trustee Knickerbocker. Mayor Murray agreed that this Board does work together. He commented that the Board comes from different parts of the community, different age groups and with different friends. But they come together with ideas to try to work something out for the betterment of everyone involved. The Mayor urged residents to come to the budget hearings. As everyone knows, we have a very tight budget this year. The Board has come up with some ways to save money that they will be

announcing at the budget hearing next week. April 10 is the budget hearing and May 1 is when we are going to be adopting the budget. All of this is important to see how the Village works, where the money will be spent and how the Board is trying to save money.

Mayor Murray wished everyone a Happy Easter and Happy Passover. He joked that this time, he was the only one who remembered the holiday wishes. He thanked the public and the Village Board for working together

11. **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Diane Tangen, Catherine Street, congratulated the Board. It is an endorsement of the hard work that they have done in the past two years. She looks forward to their working just as hard as they go forward. She thanked them very much.

Eileen Absenger, Tate Avenue, congratulated the Board. She commented that she and Don Zern regularly attend the Workshops and encouraged other residents to come to them. It is important to go to the meetings. The Board does a lot of work. There is a lot of back and forth and a lot of out of the box thinking. They take questions from anybody who does come to the Workshops. She feels that it is important that the public come to these meetings. It is more relaxed but you get to see more action other than just a Resolution. She offered her congratulations to the Board and to keep up the good work.

Mayor Murray commented that the Workshops are informal. They are not televised. There are open discussions. We keep minutes. We do not pass Resolutions at the Workshop meetings. The only business is to discuss issues that are before the Village. It is where they hash out what will become Resolutions and Public Hearings for the regular meetings. There is no need to come up to the microphone. People discuss issues right from the audience. It is informal although they do keep some decorum in order to move it along.

Mayor Murray invited everyone to join the Board for refreshments downstairs after tonight's meeting.

12. **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:06 PM a MOTION to adjourn this meeting was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Knickerbocker with all in favor.