

Mayor & Board of Trustees

Village Board Meeting

August 7, 2018

PRESENT:

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker
Trustees Richard A. Funchion, Duane M. Jackson, Cesare Pasquale and Nicolas Zachary,
Village Administrator Kevin Hay
Village Attorney Stephanie V. Porteus
Village Board Secretary Susan F. Matthews
Police Chief Brian Tubbs
Highway Foreman Bobby Wheeler

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION (6 PM):

An Executive Session was held at 6:00 PM to interview candidates for the Police Department.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM. The Mayor informed everyone of the fire regulations. Jerry Andrews led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVE MINUTES:

April 24, 2018 Workshop Meeting: A MOTION to adopt these minutes as read was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.

June 13, 2018 Village Board Meeting: Trustee Zachary wanted an update on getting a sticker for trailers. Village Administrator Hay advised that we have a sticker. There will be something about it in the Newsletter. A MOTION to adopt these minutes as read was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.

July 3, 2018 Village Board Meeting: A MOTION to adopt these minutes as read was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.

4. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO JERRY ANDREWS

Mayor Knickerbocker announced that Jerry Andrews has been one of our employees in our Highway Department for 20 years and is now retiring. She presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation. The Mayor noted that he started on the back of the garbage truck and over the years did different things and was with the Water Department for 6 years where he did a really good job. She told him, "Don't be a stranger" and that he will be welcome to join our other retirees at the annual Christmas party.

Jerry Andrews commented that in his personal Book of Life the Village of Buchanan is going to be a positive experience. It has been a good experience with every job and a very memorable 20 years here.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR: (*agenda items only*)

None

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 163-4 ENTITLED “PLACEMENT FOR COLLECTION; STORAGE; REFUSE CONTAINERS” OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN.

At 7:37 PM a MOTION to open the Public Hearing was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

Mayor Knickerbocker explained that this Public Hearing is about considering the elimination of plastic garbage bags being left at the curb for pick up. Garbage bags that are left out are being ripped up by rats, racoons, birds, etc. It is becoming a health hazard. You can put the bag in a garbage can with a cover. She advised that in fairness to the public the Board will discuss it this evening and then keep the Public Hearing open for another month for people who will view this on t.v. and Facebook. The Mayor commented this seems to be when people do not have room in the garbage can or do not have a can. She commented that we do not want to hurt anybody but this is a health hazard when animals get into the garbage and it gets all over.

Trustee Jackson commented that in the Board’s earlier discussion on this the idea was that food items were prohibited from being left out in plastic bags but if you had other non-food items that would be okay. He wanted to confirm that would still be in the language in the Code.

Trustee Zachary agreed. He noted that it is not in the language as written here. He does not want to see the complete elimination of bags. This change would be to stop people putting out food garbage in plastic bags. He commented that he has observed that a lot of his neighbors put out their garbage the morning of the pickup and that some put out small bags that are not in a can. Other people have more and people may have more at certain times of the year like holidays. He does not want to see food garbage put out in plastic bags not in a container. He thinks that if they do and animals get into it and leave it all over that the Highway Department should not pick it up. The person should be given a summons if they do not clean it up within a certain number of hours. It is just like you have to clear the snow from your sidewalk within a certain time. He thinks that the whole section of the Code needs to be rewritten. He noted for example that we do not pick up ashes but there is specific language in the current Code concerning that. In response to Trustee Zachary’s question the Highway Foreman advised that they do not inspect the garbage when they pick it up so they do not know what is in it.

Mayor Knickerbocker does not think that we should vote on this tonight. The Board should discuss this further in the Workshop and bring it forward. She directed that this Public Hearing will be kept open. She read the Code defining the containers for garbage to be collected from the

curb. She reiterated that the Board is looking to eliminate plastic bags not in a container. They will also include language for non-food garbage and ashes.

Trustee Zachary commented that the garbage cans must have lids otherwise it is the same as if you did not have a garbage can. Trustee Pasquale commented that it seems to him that these animals or vermin are attracted to white bags. Trustee Jackson commented that if there is any food in it, they are going for it.

At 8:06 PM a Motion to table the Public Hearing and keep it open was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.

b. RESOLUTION ADOPTING A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 163 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN

This Resolution will be held over until the next meeting

c. 18-37 RESOLUTION AWARDDING A ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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

Trustee Zachary noted that we got 7 bids. Mayor Knickerbocker commented that this was a really good bid and price. This is for upper Fourth Street for this year. She will also be going out to look at other projects with Village Administrator Hay and the Village Engineer, including patching and possibly crack sealing. We are really interested in doing the catch basins. Some of them are quite old and starting to crumble. We have about \$265,000 in the budget. Next month we will report on any other work we will be doing.

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

d. 18-38 RESOLUTION RELEASING A PERFORMANCE BOND.

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

Village Administrator Hay explained that Con Edison reached out to us about a performance bond. It was a project from 2002, the PST building. It was taken from the Planning Board resolution. It was \$345,000 to be held for one year in case the contractor did not finish the project. The project was finished a long time ago. Con Edison is catching up with their paperwork. They reached out to us and advised that it was only supposed to be held for one year. This resolution is to release the bond.

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

e. 18-39 RESOLUTION APPOINTING HIGHWAY PERSONNEL:

Mayor Knickerbocker noted that Jerry Andrews has just retired. Randy Hesselgrave was working with him through the transition. He will now replace Jerry Andrews in our Water Department.

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

7. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS:

- a) Justice Court Report - June 2018

Received and filed. Mayor Knickerbocker noted that \$1,203.00 was reported.

- b) Fire Inspector's Report - June-July 2018

Received and filed.

- c) Planning Board Minutes - May 2018

Received and filed.

- d) Attorney's Report

Village Attorney Porteus reported that when we did the resolution for the road work, the lowest bid was from Peter J. Landi, Inc. for a total of \$171,040.

Village Attorney Porteus requested that at the next Workshop we discuss the upcoming Cancer For Firefighters bill. She has information on that. She recommended that the Board meet with the responsible officers at Buchanan Engine Company.

The Village Attorney advised that she has a matter for the Executive Session.

- e) Administrator's Report:

Village Administrator Hay reported on the Water Meter project. Residents will receive a letter on Village letterhead giving the options on how to make an appointment for the change. It can be made on-line or by phone. Each change will take 15-20 minutes. They ask that you get the area clear to allow easy access. The project will take about 3 months to complete. They will do this from September working up through Thanksgiving depending on how well everybody signs up for appointments.

The Administrator reported on the paving project. He does not think that he has ever seen 7 bids for one project before. We are going to have a pre-construction meeting to discuss other work they might do. We have over 30 catch basins in need of work. We will be asking them for a rebuild price for catch basins.

The Administrator reported on the wastewater system. Working with our consultants we have seen significant reductions in the sludge removal over the last 2 months. They have the system working well because we are using both sides of the treatment plant. We are going to start to examine the collection system by pulling manholes. We believe that we are getting a lot of water infiltration into the system. We know of a couple of spots where they think that we are getting 10,000 gallons per day. He noted that if you find 4 or 5 of those that can amount to one fifth, or

20%, of your total daily flow. They will look at the areas to save money and improve the system as well.

f) Mayor's Reports

Mayor Knickerbocker commented on an article in the Journal News today: "Could Indian Point Be Next up for Sale?" What she wants to say to everyone is that Entergy has not contacted us on the direction the property is going to go. They are waiting to do a Post-Shut Down Decommissioning Activities Report [PSDAR]. This news article is saying that the current trend is to close nuclear power plants. So you are seeing more and more companies appear that are going to be doing the decommissioning. The Mayor commented that in Vermont they are still in discussion with Northstar. They are a company that not only does decommissioning but taking structures apart. Holtec is a company that potentially could be involved here. They supply the big canisters for the spent nuclear waste. They have been in the nuclear industry for many years. The Mayor knows that the newspaper is questioning whether Indian Point would do this or not. In her opinion they would and she hopes that it does happen. It will be a quicker decommissioning process which will allow the property to become available much quicker. We do not want the spent fuel to go into a safe storage which could be up to 60 years. They are saying that with some plants the decommissioning may be done as soon as 8 years. We do not yet have any information from Indian Point. They still have to do some reports and they have not yet come out with any directions on this plant. The Mayor will get that information out to everyone when we receive it. We will continue working with the other communities that are losing their nuclear power plants.

g. Trustees' Reports:

Trustee Zachary commented that the Village is making the newspaper a lot. There was an article in the Journal News a month ago about our local barber, Mark Young, a fun and interesting character. Trustee Zachary thinks that it is nice to see support for our local businesses and he hopes we can attract some more.

Trustee Zachary reported that the new segment of his Trustee's report is his dining segment. He noted that he has mentioned the Little Cabin Sandwich Shop on Route 202. He had a really nice meal at Yuka, a Mexican fusion restaurant on Route 9A and Furnace Dock Road.

Trustee Zachary commented on plastic use and littering. He commented that no individual rain drop ever considers itself responsible for the flood. A flood occurs because lots and lots of rain drops have an effect together. He commented that we have all seen stories in the news about the increasing amount of plastic floating in the oceans. He cited a prediction that it may outnumber the fish within just a few decades. Plastic does not decompose. It breaks up into tiny pieces that are consumed by fish so, he commented, when you consume the fish you are consuming the plastic that is inside them. He asked everyone to do what you can do to minimize your plastic use. He offered his recommendations. Trustee Zachary sees people here in the Village throwing stuff into the street that ends up in the storm drains. Cigarette butts are the largest component of the plastic waste that winds up in the oceans. He commented that when they do clean ups 1/5 of

the garbage is cigarette butts. Do not throw your cigarette butt out the car window. They end up in the storm drains and wind up in the oceans.

Trustee Pasquale commented that you cannot buy a car with an ashtray any more. He commented that the summer is almost over and by the next Board meeting the kids will be in school again. He commented that because of the horrible humidity this summer we should be cognizant of our neighbors, especially the elderly and young children, and check on them. .

Trustee Pasquale thanked the Police Chief for going over the monthly Police Report with him. Trustee Pasquale reported some of the highlights:

July 14: Officer Palmietto made a stop for traffic violations and determined that the 19 year old driver was under the influence of drugs and was arrested. July 17: Officer Loertsher stopped a vehicle on Broadway that had passed another car by crossing the double yellow line and committed several other violations. The driver was found to have a suspended license and was arrested and issued multiple summonses. July 29: Detective Farrell persuaded a suicidal subject to go by ambulance to the hospital for assistance and evaluation.

Trustee Jackson wanted to follow up on Trustee Zachary's comments. He has stopped and picked up plastic containers along Tate Avenue. A lot of our drains are on Tate Avenue. It seems to him to be a dumping ground. He said to be aware of not throwing your trash there. As for curbing your dog, he noted that at the Veteran's Plaza in Verplanck they have an apparatus where there is a plastic bag container to pick up the dog poop and a receptacle to put it in. He suggested maybe costing this out and putting a couple around on Tate Avenue and other places in the Village.

Trustee Jackson reported that former mayor Sean Murray did a public service announcement for the Disabled American Veterans. It was filmed this morning at the park in Verplanck. A little piece of it is going to be shown on News 12 starting today. The project is sponsored by the DAV with a commitment from ABC Television who will show it on Good Morning America on the Jumbo Tron on the Disney store in Times Square. A couple of Verplanck residents were there along with Trustee Jackson. They showed two disabled veterans holding the flag then raising it. It was a very patriotic piece and Trustee Jackson was happy to be a part of it.

Trustee Jackson reported that they will be having the Time Capsule meeting on September 18 at 6 PM at the Village Hall. Look for that in the September Newsletter.

Trustee Funchion reported that everybody should also look out for the announcement for Buchanan Day in the September Newsletter. It will be held on September 22 from 11 AM to 4 PM. He hopes that everybody will come out. It is always a good time. This year there will be more vendors and more things for adults to be looking at. There will be some new entertainment there. Come out and enjoy and gather with your family and fellow Buchanan residents.

Trustee Funchion wanted to give a reminder to all of those who like to drive around making noise. This is a residential area. Have consideration for your neighbors when revving up motorcycles and trucks. It is tough for people sitting outside to enjoy their summer.

Trustee Funchion said to enjoy the rest of the summer. There are still a few weeks left despite the humidity. He wished everybody a Happy Labor Day. Remember the ones who labored because they are the ones who built this country. He said to think about that at this time of year. Trustee Funchion thanked Jerry Andrews for his service to the Village. He said, "As we who are retired say, every night is Friday and every day is Saturday".

Mayor Knickerbocker announced that County Executive George Latimer will be at our September 4 Village Board meeting. We will also have our new historical consultant, George Boyle, here. She wants people to meet him.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Eileen Absenger, 138 Tate Avenue, wanted to know if your water meter is on the outside of the house what do they need to get to for the new meter installation? The Administrator advised that the meter will be inside your house. Jerry Andrews advised that outside is a remote. There is another meter inside the house. Ms. Absenger asked where it would be. Trustee Zachary advised that it would likely be somewhere in the basement. You have a place where you can shut off all the water. The water meter should be somewhere close to it. Jerry Andrews advised that the water meter is right by the pressure reducer along with a shut off a foot away from that.

Ms. Absenger noted that the Mayor had mentioned Whole Tech. They are doing a project in New Jersey. Decommissioning of that plant could be completed in 8 years. The Mayor is not sure which company Entergy may be considering. She commented that this is the first run of this. As time goes on the technology gets better.

Ms. Absenger advised that Sal [on the] the Buchanan 2021 Committee is going to request figures from the Mayor which they feel that they need in order to come up with any ideas. She commented that since Entergy is not proposing selling anything she thinks the figures are imperative. She will contact Sal. The committee will be meeting again in September.

Ms. Absenger commented that the litter is going on her lawn. She has a large free standing lawn without any grass and fences and she gets a lot of garbage thrown there. Trustee Pasquale thinks that littering has gotten worse. Ms. Absenger commented that it is kids walking. They just throw things about and there are adults out there who do not know enough to carry their garbage with them until they get to a can.

Trustee Funchion commented that he had observed a truck that goes down Tate Avenue with pool water every day. It is a huge truck like a tanker truck. It comes from the direction of Verplanck and turns down Tate Avenue. He does not know why it uses Tate Avenue and who in the Village would need that much pool water every day.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:39 PM a MOTION to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and possible litigation was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor

10. ADJOURNMENT:

At 10:05 PM a MOTION to exit Executive Session and adjourn this meeting was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.