

Village of Buchanan
Mayor & Board of Trustees
Board Meeting
December 3, 2019

PRESENT:

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker
Trustees Richard A. Funchion, Duane Jackson and Nicolas Zachary
Interim Village Administrator Marcus Serrano
Village Attorney Stephanie V. Porteus
Village Board Secretary Susan F. Matthews
Village Clerk Cynthia Kempter
Highway Foreman Bobby Wheeler

ABSENT:

Trustee Cesare Pasquale (ill).

Mayor Knickerbocker announced that Trustee Pasquale is not with us this evening because he is ill at home.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and informed every one of the fire regulations.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mayor Knickerbocker called for a moment of silence in memory of Sal Botiglieri former Zoning Board Chairman and member who passed away just a few weeks ago.

2. PRESENTATION: Swearing in of New Police Officer

Police Chief Johansen swore in Police Officer David Regg. Officer Regg lives in Dutchess County and comes here from the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department. Chief Johansen is happy and excited to be working with him. Police Officer Regg commented that he looks forward to meeting all the residents and make this a better place to live and work. Mayor Knickerbocker welcomed him and told him that he is going to find out that this is a great community with very nice people and that he will enjoy his time here.

3. PRESENTATION: Landscape Architect

Mayor Knickerbocker called on Trustee Zachary who introduced Wendy Andringa, a landscape architect who deals with the reuse of industrial properties.

Ms. Andringa thanked the Board for the opportunity to be here tonight. She commented that she grew up in communities that were economically dependent on nuclear power plants. Her father worked for nuclear power plants. She described how the shutdown of a plant impacted the community where she and her family lived. It also resulted in nuclear waste being left on site. That ultimately led her to do research into that in combination with her profession as a landscaper. She commented that there is no national strategic plan for resolving these situations. She is offering her help and expertise to the Village.

Mayor Knickerbocker thanked her. Trustee Zachary commented that one of the things that most impressed him is that Ms. Andringa is exploring our whole area, not just Broadway where the plant is. He was impressed that she looks to obtain a good understanding of the entire community and a big picture.

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

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a. 19-48 RESOLUTION ENGAGING THE SERVICE OF K.W. BOND, LLC

Trustee Zachary read the Resolution (*copy attached*). So that the references would not be confused, he noted that this resolution deals with a bond and that the name of the bond specialist is also Bond.

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that this is in reference to a bond we have to make for a major repair of the Fourth Street pump station which is in dire need of repair. It will cost over \$800,000 to fix it.

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

b. 19-49 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL INTENT.

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

Interim Village Administrator Serrano explained the need for this Resolution. It allows us to look back at the expenses for the pump station to allow us to recoup the costs up to this point. IRS regulations allow us to go back 18 months and borrow that money and refinance it through the bond.

Mayor Knickerbocker noted that if anyone missed the last Village Board meeting, Mr. Serrano, our Interim Village Administrator, brings a lot of financial and municipal government experience and we are happy to have him.

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

c. 19-50 RESOLUTION AWARDING PAVILION ROOF REPAIR

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

Mayor Knickerbocker noted that we had gotten a grant for \$125,000 to do the repairs on the pavilion. We are awarding one phase of it and hope that the weather cooperates.

In reply to a question, Interim Village Administrator Serrano advised that there is no timetable to use the remainder of this grant money to do the work. The application is due this week.

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

d. 19-51 RESOLUTION SHARING ASSESSMENT SERVICES WITH THE TOWN OF CORTLANDT.

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

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that we were in need of an assessor's services. We are going to use the Town of Cortlandt's Assessor. The Village of Croton also uses him.

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

e. 19-52 RESOLUTION APPOINTING A PLANNING BOARD MEMBER.

Mayor Knickerbocker read the Resolution (*copy attached*).

She appointed Jeffrey Faiella to the position effective December 3, 2019 to fill the unexpired term of Mike Scott. No vote was necessary as it is a mayoral appointment. The Mayor thanked Mr. Faiella for joining our Planning Board.

6. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS:

a. Justice Court Report – October 2019

Received and filed. Mayor Knickerbocker announced that the reported amounts taken in were \$3,113.00 and \$4,874.00.

b. Police Reports – October 2019

Received and filed

c. Attorney's Report

Village Attorney Porteus has one matter for Executive Session.

d. Mayor's Report

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that the December Workshop has been rescheduled from December 24 to December 17. That Workshop will be televised if the Board agrees. We

will have Norma Drummond from the County Planning Department who wants to talk about the 2020 Census. There will also be a short presentation from Sustainable Westchester.

Mayor Knickerbocker reported that on Thursday of this week she, our Village Attorney and Interim Village Administrator will be taking a road trip to Vermont to see one of the power plants that have closed and is in the process of decommissioning. They will talk to people in the community who are involved in the decommissioning process and learn what their experience has been. At 6 PM that night the Mayor and our representatives will attend their Citizens Advisory Panel to see how things are progressing for them.

Mayor Knickerbocker reported that the cement work in the Circle has been repaired. They did a great job.

Mayor Knickerbocker wished everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy and healthy New Year and a happy holiday as you may observe. She hopes that whatever we each may celebrate that it will be a happy festival. She hopes we find peace in our country next year.

Mayor Knickerbocker commented that next year will be the first phase of the closing down of Indian Point 2. It is scheduled to close in April of 2020. She commented that next year will be quite a challenge. We are working on a lot of things. The budget will be a challenge. The process will be quite different from anything we have done before. The Mayor commented that we have a good team and we will work through this.

e. Trustee's Reports

Trustee Zachary reminded that the Christmas tree lighting will be on December 8 at 6:00 PM at the Circle. There will be a get together after that at the Village Hall.

Trustee Zachary reported on an e-mail he received and advised residents to get rid of it if received. It is promoting a web site called "Nextdoor.com". They set up in localities and localities can post things and share information. One thing is warning about police events and crime and safety updates. There are a lot of complaints about them on the Better Business Bureau web site. Among them are violations of privacy. Without authorizing it, they have gotten people's Contacts lists and used that to e-mail everyone in your list. Trustee Zachary advised that if you get this e-mail, do not log onto their web site. Mayor Knickerbocker asked what we as the Village could do about this beyond just telling people not to get involved. Trustee Zachary advised to put it in our Newsletter. Village Attorney Porteus advised to also put it on the Buchanan Channel screen. Tell your neighbors and friends. Diane Tangen commented that they mentioned this at the Seniors' luncheon today and were advised to stay away from it.

Trustee Zachary reported that at the last Workshop we discussed a vendor who wanted to go door to door offering a service including at night when people are home. The Board was unanimously against vendors going door to door, especially at night. We respect people's privacy in their homes.

Trustee Zachary thanked the Beautification Committee. They do a lot of good work in our Village. At the last Workshop, they pitched a proposal for an Earth Day Park Clean Up Day on April 18. They will return with more details. He thanked them for their efforts. He reported that single use plastic bags are going to be banned in New York State. He commented that it is well worth it if people save more plastic and use reusable bags. Save the planet for our children and grandchildren.

Trustee Funchion reminded people about the December 7 Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance. This year it will be in the Village of Croton at 1 PM. He commented that even though it was a long time ago, something to think about is that we thought that we would never have a Pearl Harbor in our life time but 9/11 was like Pearl Harbor. One difference was that after 9/11 people knew fairly soon what the conditions were and who did and did not survive the attack. After Pearl Harbor, they did not know for weeks if their family members were alive or dead.

Trustee Funchion commented that it is nice to get out and see our Christmas Tree Lighting. The weather forecast is that it should be a nice evening.

Trustee Funchion commented that he missed Sal Bottiglieri. When Trustee Funchion would go around when he was running for office, Sal and his wife Millie were always there to give him advice. On the Zoning Board, he was very good in helping people out. He will be missed. Trustee Funchion's sympathy goes out to Millie.

Trustee Funchion gave safety advice about Christmas lights. A Christmas tree can catch fire because you did not water the tree. He reminded everyone to turn off the Christmas tree lights when you go out. Also from his previous job he knows that when you see the UL tag on lights that come from China, it is counterfeit.

Trustee Funchion commented that when we enter the Christmas season, we have to count our blessings. From his perspective, we hit a home run in Buchanan with Police Chief Johansen and Interim Village Administrator Serrano. He thinks that we not only got great replacements with a lot of experience, they are great people to work with. We hope they both continue with us. He thanked them.

Trustee Funchion wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. He hopes that next year will be better than this one and the next one better than that.

Trustee Jackson echoes what Trustee Funchion said about our two additions to our community. They both bring a wealth of experience and their professionalism is outstanding. He commented that timing is everything. There is the right time and place to go forward. Trustee Jackson commented that the reasons we have a new police officer are that we want the force to be fully manned and it cuts down on the wear and tear on the officers already on the job and makes the rotation easier. We are now fully staffed.

Trustee Jackson commented on Pearl Harbor Day. Both his parents were in the service. His mother was in the Women's Army Corps (WACS) and his father was in the Navy. They were a part of the "Greatest Generation" to fight for our freedom and so many things

that went into effect after World War II. Trustee Jackson is also a veteran. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Boston University which is something he never could have done without the G.I. Bill. This year's Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance will be held in Croton. Last year it was held here in the Village. He commented that the Mayor has noted that each year we are losing more of our WWII veterans. Trustee Jackson's neighbor Paul left us a little more than a year ago and was a part of that generation. Trustee Jackson reported that on December 7 at Noon, he will be part of a special program at Peekskill Middle School to talk about Pearl Harbor and a man named Dorian Miller. He commented if you have seen any of the Pearl Harbor movies that came out in the past couple of years, there was a mess cook, a black man, who came up on deck during the attack. He had never fired a machine gun but he grabbed one off the deck and fired it at the Japanese planes. He also carried his badly wounded Captain and a couple of other sailors to safety. He was later awarded the Navy Cross. It was the first time that a black American had been awarded it. Trustee Jackson commented that a part of his story is our shared history and there is an effort underway to get him the Congressional Medal of Honor. Trustee Jackson commented that as he has said before, freedom is never free. That is in our American DNA.

Trustee Jackson wished everyone a great holiday.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Reed Outhouse, 241 Westchester Avenue, welcomed the Interim Village Administrator and our new police officer.

Mr. Outhouse is concerned with future planning and zoning after Indian Point closes. He went on the Village web site to see what is going on with that. The only minutes available there for Planning and Zoning are from 2009. He wants to see the minutes from the last year or two made available there so that we can see what has been coming before those boards. He assumes that as we go forward with the decommissioning that there will be things coming before the Planning and Zoning Boards. He would like to see the Village think about televising those meetings so we can see what is going on. He commented that minutes of those meetings are not transcriptions and televising the meetings will allow us to see everything that is going on. He understands that it is a cost. He remembers it having been discussed in the past and that it was an issue of money. Mayor Knickerbocker would like to see more people coming to the Planning and Zoning Board meetings. She commented that there will be a definite uptick in the future.

Mr. Outhouse commented that there are some undeveloped parcels in the Village such as the one by the hardware store. He thinks we should look at the parcel across from St. Christopher's Church. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that has been sold. Mr. Outhouse commented on the need for us to get ahead of these things and look for companies or businesses to develop the parcels into something that we want. Mayor Knickerbocker noted that Mr. Outhouse is on the Citizens Advisory Panel.

Trustee Zachary commented that there will be more coming up on Planning and Zoning. Up to this point, there has been more discussion at the Village Board Workshops. There has not been much involving the Entergy or Con Edison properties. Village Attorney Porteus noted that is because they are not ours and not available. Trustee Zachary commented that he has pitched some zoning changes. One is for the redevelopment of the Route 9A corridor. One is for the wooded parcel on the north end of Entergy. Another concerns older homes on sub-standard lots in the Village. He commented that they are difficult. There are questions and legalities. The Board gets busy with other matters and they do not get discussed further for two or three months. He would like to bring these back into discussion if the Board agrees. He feels that we sometimes let things die in the water. Mayor Knickerbocker commented that it is not that they are not being addressed. She noted that Trustee Zachary had mentioned possibly holding an extra meeting each month.

Mr. Outhouse commented that he has been to Workshops over the years and a lot of pertinent information is discussed there that does not come up at the [regular] Board meeting. He thinks that is a further reason for televising the Workshops. He noted that some surrounding communities do televise those types of meetings. The Mayor commented that in some communities they would have those meetings before and then go to the full meeting. Mr. Outhouse suggested that might also save on the expense of televising it because both meetings would be on the same night. The Mayor advised that it currently costs \$300 to tape a meeting.

Mayor Knickerbocker advised that at the last Workshop we had a company come in. We are one of the only places on the Hudson River that a windmill company could go. They would manufacture them here. There would be no windmills operating on the property. It has to be worked out between the Village and the Town of Cortlandt and we have not given a complete okay yet. We were interested in exploring it more. We also had someone come in to discuss developing the property across from Entergy for high end housing. It is just a discussion.

Trustee Funchion suggested that instead of having an added Workshop meeting that the meetings be started earlier. Trustee Zachary works in New York City and would not be in favor of starting at 6 PM instead of 7 PM. Trustee Jackson would be in favor of 6:30 PM.

Diane Tangen, 240 Catherine Street, commented that her biggest concern is what is going to happen to the nuclear waste at Indian Point since we do not have a Federal depository that we know about. She wanted to know if Holtec are building casks. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that Holtec is one of the two companies that build the casks. They built the ones currently on the property. They are looking to get approval from the NRC for a site in eastern New Mexico but there are a lot of issues. They want to purchase the property. They would then ship the nuclear waste there from Indian Point and elsewhere and store it until the Federal government comes up with a permanent repository. According to one report the waste would be shipped by placing it in another canister and be transported by barge down the Hudson, beneath the Tappan Zee Bridge, to Newark, New Jersey; then

by rail to New Mexico. Ms. Tangen believes that the casks only have a 100 year life span. The Mayor commented that unfortunately the waste will remain at Indian Point until they come up with a place for it to go.

Trustee Funchion commented that Riverkeeper's solution is to keep the fuel on the site. We want it removed because the property is useless with it there. Ms. Tangen is concerned that if it is going to stay on the property it must be kept more securely. The Mayor advised that one of the things they are talking about is to put the spent fuel into canisters and storing it down in the sub-surface because they feel it is safer. It could be retrieved. Some of the environmentalists want to "entomb" it as is done in Germany. That would mean that it would be on-site permanently. The Mayor advised that the Citizens Advisory Panel will address this in the coming year with experts discussing it with them. She commented that the NRC has gotten less stringent with letting parcels go following decommissioning. The Post Shutdown Decommissioning Activities report is expected to be out within the next few weeks. That will be Holtec's road map.

Ms. Tangen wanted to know if the NRC was working on finding a permanent repository. The Mayor advised that is the responsibility of the Department of Energy, not the NRC. She recalled that when she was on the Village Board in the 1990s, they talked about Yucca Mountain. There was a forum on that held by our then Congresswoman. The Mayor noted that was 30 years ago and it is still not resolved. Even if a site is found, there is the question of how it will be transported. We want it off the property but if we are stuck with it, if we are serving as a storage facility, then the Village should be compensated. The Mayor commented that our current Representative Nita Lowey has been on the forefront of that. New legislation was introduced about that just last week. We will be pushing for that because we should not be a de facto storage facility. It is the Department of Energy. They need to fulfill their obligation.

Eileen Absenger, 138 Tate Avenue, wanted to know the difference in cost of spreading brine on the road versus using salt. Mayor Knickerbocker believes that the brine is more expensive because of the equipment and storage requirements. Highway Foreman Wheeler advised that you have to prepare it before. There are different types of brine. Our biggest issue is the storage. He advised that brine is just used in the initial phase of the storm to keep the snow and ice from sticking to the road. After that you are still using salt. Ms. Absenger commented that the brine does a horrible job on your car. It is like rain water and gets up onto brake lines and other parts underneath the car. She asked if other communities in our area were using it. Interim Village Administrator Serrano advised that the Peekskill City Engineer said that they looked into it but decided that it was a waste of money. The State uses it. Trustee Zachary thinks that salt can have the same damaging effect on your car.

Ms. Absenger commented about the deer being in season and to watch out for them, especially at dawn and dusk. If you see one, there are probably more.

Interim Village Administrator Serrano reported that we were looking to replace the boiler at Village Hall with an oil burner. He would like to consider using gas instead. He believes it is more efficient. Con Edison can connect the Village Hall. He wants the approval of the Village Board to go that way. Trustee Jackson feels that the cost analysis should decide it either way.

The Interim Administrator reported that the latest report shows our Sewage Treatment Plant working at 98% efficiency. A great job is being done by our Engineer, consultant and staff at the plant.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:31 PM a MOTION to enter into Executive Session to discuss contractual and personnel matters was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor and Trustee Pasquale absent.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:15 PM a MOTION to exit Executive Session and adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Zachary, seconded by Trustee Funchion with all in favor and Trustee Pasquale absent.