

Village of Buchanan
Mayor & Board of Trustees
Village Board
Organizational Meeting
April 7, 2014

PRESENT:

Mayor Sean Murray

Trustees Richard A. Funchion, Trustee Knickerbocker, Nicholas Zachary and Duane M. Jackson

Village Administrator Kevin Hay

Village Attorney Stephanie V. Porteus

Village Board Secretary Susan F. Matthews

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Knickerbocker opened the meeting at 7:30 PM, welcomed everyone and informed them of the fire regulations. The Mayor requested all of the Veterans present to come to the front of the room to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Knickerbocker introduced Christine Yankou from Representative Nita Lowey's office. The Mayor thanked her for being with us this evening.

2. READ RESULTS OF THE MARCH 18, 2014 VILLAGE ELECTION:

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

Trustee Funchion had one correction. Brian Smith did not run as a Republican. He only ran as a Village Choice party candidate.

3. NEW TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT:

Mayor Knickerbocker introduced and appointed Cesare Pasquale to fill the unexpired term of Mayor Knickerbocker as Trustee (*copy attached*). As this is a mayoral appointment, no vote was necessary.

4. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Knickerbocker was administered the Oath of Office by her mother Mary.

Mayor Knickerbocker administered the Oath of Office to Trustees Richard Funchion, Nicholas Zachary and Cesare Pasquale (*copy attached*). Trustee Pasquale asked his brother to stand next to him when the Oath of Office was administered.

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

6. APPOINT DEPUTY MAYOR:

Mayor Knickerbocker appointed Trustee Richard Funchion (*copy attached*).

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

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

Upon a Roll Call vote, all were in favor of these appointments.

8. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES:

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

9. RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MEETING DATES, ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE AND OPEN MEETINGS LAW, SETTING DATES FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TENTATIVE 2014-2015 VILLAGE BUDGET, DESIGNATING VILLAGE DEPOSITORIES, DESIGNATING OFFICAL VILLAGE NEWSPAPER, ESTABLISHING THE MILEAGE ALLOWANCE RATE FOR REIMBURSEMENT, ADOPTING VILLAGE PROCUREMENT POLICY, AND AUTHORIZATION TO ATTEND CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS.

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

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

10. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS:

Trustee Jackson thanked all of our residents and guests who showed up to continue to see that democracy prevails in the Village of Buchanan. He commented that we have had a seamless transfer of power. That is a good thing. He commented that a lot of us take this for granted but in certain other parts of the world it is not so nice. But we have that here. He thanked former

Mayor Murray for his diligence and for keeping the ship afloat for the last four years. He will be missed but not forgotten.

Trustee Jackson announced that the Historical Society will be meeting on April 28. If you are not involved, they would love to have you come out and be involved. He commented that it is a great thing to be able to pass on the information we have in our beautiful Village to the younger generation and inform them of the great history that we have in the Village of Buchanan.

Trustee Jackson commented that as many know, the drug epidemic that has been hitting our area is a very serious topic. We are pursuing certain things with the Hendrick Hudson School District. There is another forum to be held in the Lakeland school system. It will be posted. The Village Administrator has the information. It will be on April 9 at Walter Panas High School from 7:00-8:30 PM. Trustee Jackson said if you did not attend the forum at Hendrick Hudson High School, it is incumbent on all of us, parents or not, to make sure that we know what is going on. Some of the information we got last time was tremendously valuable in terms of what is going on across the region. Trustee Jackson commented that we all have to get involved in this because if it is not one of our own children, we are all a community to help out our young people and to be involved. He advised that we will also be doing a follow up with the Hendrick Hudson school system to see some of the things we are going to do here. The Police Chief has talked about putting a prescription drop off box here at the Village Hall. You will be able to bring old prescriptions and drop them off so that you do not have to throw it in the trash or the toilet and they can be disposed of properly.

Trustee Jackson congratulated Mayor Knickerbocker and looks forward to working with her over the next two years as we work to make Buchanan the best village in Westchester.

Trustee Funchion thanked our new mayor. He thanked everybody in the Village for the overwhelming vote that showed the confidence in this Board, that we have been trying for the last six years. He commented that he cannot say enough about how happy he is to be on the Board representing everybody in Buchanan. He said that he will work tirelessly and as hard as he can to make sure that everybody in Buchanan is considered when he makes any decision or vote, and that he will do that every day that he is in office. He commented that we will be doing things here to maintain the Village services. We will also maintain the infrastructure which over many years before was let to go down. We will negotiate the economic hurdles over the next two years. Trustee Funchion commented that as we all know, we are facing some large economic hurdles.

Trustee Funchion congratulated Mayor Knickerbocker. He has worked with her for four years since he has been on the Board. He called her a tireless worker and said that he cannot be more pleased that she is our new mayor. He congratulated our “old” Trustee, Trustee Zachary, and our

new one, Trustee Cesare Pasquale. He thanked the Mayor for appointing him as Deputy Mayor. It is an honor and he said that he will work tirelessly to get her goals accomplished. He thanked everyone, especially those who supported them in their campaign. He saw them at the old school house. He commented that they have always been there to give them a pat on the back and be behind them. He commented that he cannot say enough how much that means because sometimes the work is not very rewarding but when he speaks to each one of you, it becomes very rewarding. He thanked those who, as they walked through the Village, opened their doors to them and discussed the issues, whether we agreed or disagreed. Trustee Funchion thanked former Mayor Murray very much. He commented that it was a privilege working with him and that he did great things for the Village. He got this Village on a new road of integrity and progress. Trustee Funchion commented that turning this Village around is like a big locomotive. Mayor Murray had a very difficult job when he came in here. Trustee Funchion commented that we were many years backward in many different ways of getting things done. Mayor Murray slowly turned this locomotive around and got it in the right direction.

Trustee Funchion commented on something that he described as not a happy event. Unfortunately we had to cancel our Earth Day/Clean Up Day because the local union and its members would not agree to have it open to all volunteers. They wanted to restrict it to a very small group of volunteers and they wanted to have paid people there to assist in the Earth Day. Trustee Funchion commented that the whole purpose of Earth Day/Clean Up Day, which would have been at Lent's Cove, is to promote community and volunteering, and that that takes the good out of it. He was down there last year. You were working alongside people who were getting paid and everyone else was a volunteer. The whole purpose is not to take work away from any union members in the Village. The whole purpose was to promote volunteering, to clean up their own community. He commented that it is sad that the union had to object to this. It is not good for the Village that they did.

Trustee Funchion congratulated all the members of the Saint Patrick's Day Committee who sponsored the parade and party. They were both huge successes. He knows that all the women on that committee did a yeoman's amount of work that people do not see. It takes a lot of work to put on a parade and party like that. They are there and do a very good job.

Trustee Zachary congratulated Mayor Knickerbocker. He is confident that she is going to do a great job. He commented that the Mayor and the Board are here to look out for the Village. He commented that the word "trustee" implies that. That is the attitude he has always found with these Board members. He is looking forward to working with everybody again. He welcomed Trustee Pasquale to the Board. He commented that he congratulates former Mayor Murray as he begins, not a life of leisure because he is a hard working guy even without the work that he did here. Trustee Zachary noted that former Mayor Murray is a very active member of the

community aside from his job and family. He is a volunteer fireman. He will still be serving this community even though he is not the mayor.

Trustee Zachary noted that 500 people came out to vote out in a village of about 2200 people. He thinks that is very good because most people these days are apathetic. He is really pleased to see that turn out. He commented that when it is not the Election Day, we have our Board meetings here every month. If you come, you can express an opinion or ask a question. This is a place where you can actually have an impact. He commented that he is not saying that you can come here and say something and it will become a law. But you can have input here very easily. The Board is open to input. He commented that people that want to be involved can sit out there and can actually have an influence on how things go in the Village. It is a small place. He encourages the 500 of you that can get out here and are interested to come to meetings and express your opinion, or just sit there. He loves to see the participation. Trustee Zachary thanked everybody who did come out.

Trustee Zachary announced that there will be a Budget Workshop this Thursday. He commented that the budget is a big challenge for us these days. He advised that before we do a single thing, our expenses go up about 10%-15% per year because of mandated payments to New York State for medical and pensions. So a 0% budget increase means that we have to cut the budget about 10%. He commented that the budget is big challenge. They are getting harder and harder every year because we have been trimming them. We will have a Workshop this Thursday for the new budget that is coming up. The budget meeting is April 15. Anybody who is interested should come out. Trustee Zachary commented that Workshops are the place to go even more so than the meetings because that is where there is more open discussion and ideas are formed and tossed about.

Trustee Zachary announced that the kick off planning for Buchanan Day in September will be on April 17 at 7 PM at the Highway Department building. On April 17, they will pick a date for Buchanan Day. Anybody who would like to be involved is invited.

Trustee Zachary thanked Trustee Funchion for his comments about Earth Day Clean Up. That is something that Trustee Zachary proposed last year and it went very well. Mothers came out with their kids. The volunteerism was a lesson for the kids. The Fire Department Explorers came out and helped. They were a great help. He commented that community spirit and volunteerism is what that day is all about. He was disappointed that the union for the Highway Department felt the need to restrict that day and make it difficult. He is sorry that it happened that way. We need to find a solution to this issue.

Trustee Zachary thanked everybody involved in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade. He was very impressed. It was not a very comfortable day. It was cold but a lot of people came out. It was a

lot of community spirit and community involvement. He thanked the people who came out and the people who worked hard to make that event happen.

Trustee Pasquale thanked Mayor Knickerbocker for appointing him Trustee. He thanked everyone and said that it is an honor and privilege to serve with this wonderful group. He is looking forward to getting to know everybody in the community a lot better and for them to get to know him a lot better.

Trustee Pasquale wanted to give some background on himself. He worked as a psychologist serving the emotionally disturbed and mentally disabled for about 8 years. He was then appointed to the NYPD where he served as a police officer for 20 years. Following his retirement about 4 years ago, he became the primary care taker for his neighbor for about 3 years. He was entrusted by that man's family with his care so that he did not have to go to a nursing home. He passed away early last year.

Trustee Pasquale commented that he has experience taking the best interests of people to heart. He has been a people person his whole life, as a psychologist, a cop and caretaker for the elderly. He commented that he continues to feel that way about all you people. He said that he will do the best he can for this wonderful Village of Buchanan.

Mayor Knickerbocker thanked everyone for coming out. She thanked everyone for their support. She was asked during the election how it felt to be Mayor. She said that it was hard for her to describe. It is a very proud moment for her. She is a life-long Village resident. She noted that one of her mother's sisters, Mayor Knickerbocker's godmother, was present. The Mayor's mother and her family were all born in the house across the street from where Mayor Knickerbocker lives. In the 1960s, her parents built a house across the street from the homestead. That got the Mayor to thinking about what a great Village this is. She has chosen to stay and live here and she probably will be here the rest of her life. She commented that she started thinking about the Village in the past. She was talking earlier to Shirley Rousch. They had gone to school in this building, the Village Hall, when it was a school. Mayor Knickerbocker started kindergarten here. Her classroom was where the Village Administrator's office is today. The school went up to the Fourth Grade. She noted that you were not allowed on the third floor (where the Board meetings are now held). Just the first and second floors were used for the school. She commented that some of the more curious among her school mates came up to the third floor. She has many good memories of this building. Hers was the last Fourth Grade class here. Eventually the building was bought by the Village. When she first came back to it, she remembered her early childhood years. The Mayor commented that the Village has changed over the years. When she was a little girl, the Con Edison plant, now Entergy, was just being built. There was a lot of construction. There was a lot of open land and subdivisions that had not yet been developed. She goes back to an earlier time when we did not

have our wastewater treatment plant. It was more country; more rural. There were outhouses. The Village has come a long way.

Mayor Knickerbocker said that as she has been out, it has been really good speaking to everyone. She has gotten to know a lot more people. She has heard concerns and listened to comments. We will be talking about a lot of things. She commented that as Trustee Jackson said, one of the biggest concerns was for the young parents concerning drugs and heroin problems. We will be talking more about that. The Mayor commented that it is great to go to those forums so that we are educated and know what the problem is. We are a small village but the drug problem is all over. It does not skip over different areas. We will try to really be aware of what is going on. We have to take care of the children. They are the future of our Village and our country.

Mayor Knickerbocker is very proud to be the mayor. She commented that she has always been proud to be on this Board. It is an unbelievable honor. She will work very hard. She wants to see the Village continue as it was when she was a little girl. The Mayor commented that still to this day, it is a safe place to live. It is a good place for young families to raise their families. It is a great place for our Seniors and a safe place for them. We have to make sure we continue to go down that road. She commented that sometimes she just gets speechless. She is so touched by all the support. The Mayor noted that when her mother swore her in, she had a bible that belonged to Mayor Knickerbocker's grandfather. Her grandparents, Anna and Harry Malles, lived across the street. She wanted to bring his bible here this evening as part of the ceremony of her taking office.

Mayor Knickerbocker commented that she works with a great Board. She knows each Trustee personally. She has had the great honor of working with each and every one of them. They have always had the best interest of the Village at heart and she knows that they will continue to do so. She said that one of the things Trustee Pasquale asked her when she when she asked him to join the Board was what does he have to do. Mayor Knickerbocker said that one thing is that there are certain meetings you have to go to, but the one thing she was really going to ask of him is that however he votes that he find out the information to really educate himself on the subject and to always vote for what he thinks is in the best interest of the Village. The Mayor commented that each and every one on the Board has their heart in the right place. They will continue to make the Village the best village it can possibly be. We need to keep it affordable at the same time. The Mayor commented that she knows she has a great crew with her. They are good people.

Mayor Knickerbocker commented that among the things she has before her was a very large document she just received today from NYCOM, which she showed to the audience. She commented that there is a lot of work ahead, a lot of challenges. It is not an easy time. It is going to be a tough budget. Over the years the Board has gone through the budget line by line

and trimmed every possible thing we can while still providing the services, which we will continue to do.

Mayor Knickerbocker said that everyone saw that informational meeting we had here about the Spectra Algonquin Gas line. It is a 42 inch gas line they are proposing to put through the Village. It would come in to Verplanck and come in through the Village behind our high towers. We have that which we have to fight. We also have a proposed electric line coming from upstate New York that would come down the center of the Village and also come into the Village. That is one of the biggest challenges. The Mayor emphasized that we will work to get the best deal from Entergy when the PILOT program is up. We have a lot of infrastructure work to do. There are a lot of roads that the Mayor would like to do. There are a lot of different things she would like to do for the Village. Mayor Knickerbocker commented that you are hearing it from her first. The Board is definitely not going to take it lightly. We are going to get the best deal for the Village.

Mayor Knickerbocker announced that tomorrow night at the Town of Cortlandt Town Hall there will be an informational meeting on the West Point Partners proposed electric line, also the proposed Spectra Algonquin gas line. The Town of Cortlandt has a task force that is very much on top of this and is working very closely with the Town Supervisor. Anyone who wants to be on or involved with this task force should contact Mayor Knickerbocker. We are going to need a lot of people to do this. We will be working very closely with the Town on this.

Mayor Knickerbocker reminded that as announced, this Thursday is the Budget Workshop. The Public Hearing is April 15. The Mayor advised that she is doing something a little different. On April 22, she will be having a "Coffee With The Mayor". She invites everyone to come out with their thoughts on how we could make this a better village. She heard some ideas when they were out campaigning. The Mayor commented that she likes election time because she gets to talk to people right at their door steps and get whatever their thoughts are and whatever is bothering them.

Mayor Knickerbocker wanted to especially thank the Saint Patrick's Day committee. It is another great event that we have in the Village. It brings the residents together. Buchanan Day brings the residents together. She commented that we have so many old-timers like herself who have lived here all their lives, as well as a lot of new people. It is a great opportunity to get to meet one another and get to know one another. The Mayor thanked former Mayor Murray for his leadership. He has done a great job. It was really good working with him. Mayor Knickerbocker knows he is going to serve the Village in a different way. He will be around for questions and support. He did a great job and she appreciated everything he has done serving the Village.

11. NEW BUSINESS.

a) 14-14 RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW 3 OF 2014 AMENDING CHAPTER 211 OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN CODE.

Mayor Knickerbocker commented that normally we do not do this at our Organizational Meeting but this resolution is establishing a Public Hearing.

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

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

The Mayor advised that this will be discussed more at the Public Hearing.

12. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Shirley Rousch, 170 Lindsey Avenue, approached Mayor Knickerbocker and presented her with a lovely bouquet of flowers saying they were for “Madam Mayor”. The Mayor thanked her.

Former Mayor Dan O’Neill, 190 Catherine Street, congratulated Mayor Knickerbocker and Trustees Funchion and Zachary. He knows that they and our new Trustee Pasquale will work very hard to do good for the Village. He conveyed congratulations from State Senator George Latimer and Judge Walter Rivera from the Town of Greenburgh. He thanked former Mayor Murray for doing a great job and for working tirelessly. Former Mayor O’Neill commented that he knows that a lot of issues that former Mayor Murray worked on were behind the scenes but he also knows that it will improve the Village of Buchanan for many years to come.

Former Mayor Sean Murray thanked everybody for their kind comments. He said it was not only him. It was the support of all the other elected officials. Nobody can do anything by themselves. He commented that the honest and straightforwardness that this Board presented and their help in every aspect made a big difference. Former Mayor Murray said that he knows that a lot of accolades have been given to him but it really goes to show that the people in the front of this room really worked hard too. He congratulated them on their overwhelming victory in this last election. He commented that it goes to show that the residents saw that honesty goes a long way. Hard work goes a long way. That is important and he knows it is going to be continued in that way. Former Mayor Murray looks forward to Trustee Pasquale participating in the community. He commented that over the years, no matter whether the Village was going good or the Village was going bad, it is very difficult to get people from any segment of society to put their time forward, to be put up to public scrutiny and just to spend the time away from

their families. He noted that everyone on the Board has taken time away from their families. His wife Michelle supported him for the entire six years that he was elected. It really made a difference. He thanked everybody and said that he will always be available to counsel for anything. He commented that a lot of things that were worked on this in the Village takes a lot of communication with many different people. A lot of times it is not recorded in the minutes. It is always discussing things. There are a lot of ins and outs; a lot of things you have to navigate. He commented that sometimes you find that certain people have ulterior motives for wanting to do certain things. Former Mayor Murray told the Board that if they ever feel that they are being led down a path that does not seem as rosy as it is being portrayed, there is a reason for it. If they want to give him a call, he can give the Board background. He said that Village Administrator Hay and Village Attorney Porteus did a great job and always supported him in whatever he needed. He commented that the amount of research and time the two have put in for the Village is astronomical. Former Mayor Murray expressed his thanks and that he appreciated all the kind words.

13. BOARD MEMBER REBUTTALS:

There were none.

14. ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:35 PM a MOTION to adjourn this Organizational Meeting was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.