

Mayor & Board of Trustees
Village Board Organizational Meeting
April 2, 2019

PRESENT:

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker
Trustees Richard A. Funchion, Duane Jackson, Cesare Pasquale and Nicolas Zachary
Village Administrator Kevin Hay
Village Attorney Stephanie V. Porteus
Village Board Secretary Susan F. Matthews

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. She led the Pledge of Allegiance and informed every one of the fire regulations.

2. AMEND THE AGENDA:

A MOTION to amend the agenda to remove item 10(a) under New Business was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.

3. READ RESULTS OF THE MARCH 19, 2019 VILLAGE ELECTION:

Mayor Knickerbocker read the results of the March 19, 2019 Village Election (*copy attached*). She noted that both Trustees ran unopposed.

4. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Trustee Duane Jackson was sworn in by his wife Linda. Trustee Cesare Pasquale was sworn in by his wife Jackie.

Trustee Jackson thanked everyone in the Village who came out and voted. He commented that although the turnout was not large, the support was great. He sees it every day around the Village as a volunteer Fire Department member. He was covering an incident recently and people came by waving and giving support. He commented that what we have here is small town America. As we move forward under Mayor Knickerbocker's leadership, and our involvement with Indian Point which is the 800 pound gorilla in the room, Buchanan's proximity to New York City and the services in the Village – recreation, highway, fire department and ambulance - are great selling points. As a Board we will continue to make those services first class at every level. All those things in unison keep the Village in top shape. Trustee Jackson looks forward to the next 2 years. He commented that the Board does everything in the best interest of the citizens of the Village of Buchanan. He thanked everyone for their support.

Trustee Pasquale thanked everyone and said it was a pleasure and honor to serve the community for another 2 years. It is a pleasure to work with Mayor Knickerbocker, the rest of the Board, the

Village Administrator and Village Attorney. There will be a lot of work over the next 2 years and there will be some trying times. He believes that with this Board and the support of the community that we will come through it and stand taller than we ever have. We will work together going through the challenging times. It is going to take a lot of work and due diligence on the Board's part. Trustee Pasquale is ready for the fight. He thanked all the voters who supported them. He commented that it is nice to know that 85 people came out to support him. Buchanan is a wonderful village. He has been here for 20 years. His story is that 20 years ago he wound up buying his twin brother's house. His brother was moving to Cortlandt Manor and Trustee Pasquale told him that if he needed anybody to help him move, he would help. Within a week Trustee Pasquale's wife asked if they could buy the house. He commented that he was a city boy his whole life but one of the best decisions they ever made was to move here to Buchanan. Trustee Pasquale said, "God Bless all of you and the Village of Buchanan".

Mayor Knickerbocker and Trustee Funchion each welcomed them both back. Trustee Zachary commented that he thinks it is great that they both ran again. He has a hard time saying congratulations since they ran unopposed. He thanked them both. He commented that if they had been opposed, there would have been 4 times as many people showing up and they still would have won. There is a lot of work and commitment to this and not too many people want to do it. He said they are experienced Trustees and are doing a great job.

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

None.

6. **APPOINT DEPUTY MAYOR:**

Mayor Knickerbocker appointed Richard A. Funchion to serve as Deputy Mayor.

This is a mayoral appointment with no vote needed.

7. **APPOINTMENTS TO THE ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD:**

Mayor Knickerbocker appointed Danine Skelly to the Assessment Review Board until 2022.

A MOTION to approve this appointment was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Zachary with all in favor.

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

Mayor Knickerbocker announced her annual appointments *(copy attached)*.

The Mayor noted that we have an open position for Senior Citizen Director due to the retirement of Gabe DiRubbo. There are people who are interested. It is a Civil Service position with certain requirements. We will also be looking for a caretaker for the Village Hall. We were notified this evening that our part-time caretaker is retiring. There is also an opening for a representative to the Senior Citizens Advisory Council.

A MOTION to approve these appointments was made by Trustee Jackson, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

Mayor Knickerbocker announced her committee appointments for the Official Year 2019-2020: *(copy attached)*

These are the Mayor's committee appointments and no vote is necessary.

9. 10-19 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MEETING DATES, ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE AND OPEN MEETINGS LAW, SETTING DATES FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TENTATIVE 2019-2020 VILLAGE BUDGET, DESIGNATING OFFICIAL 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 presented was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Pasquale with all in favor.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS:

Trustee Funchion thanked Mayor Knickerbocker for her confidence in him as Deputy Mayor. It is a pleasure to work with her. He thinks that there was never anybody more hardworking than her. She constantly goes to meetings and puts the Village before herself. He thanked her for that. Trustee Funchion thanked the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee. They set up the parade and party and the party for the Seniors who were the Grand Marshals of the parade. Everybody enjoyed it. Trustee Funchion said it was a pleasure working with everyone on the Board, Village Administrator Hay and Village Attorney Porteus. It is a very productive group. He commented that they are always going to do the right thing for the Village and put the people of this Village first. He wished everyone a Happy Easter and Passover.

Trustee Zachary commented that he already said what he wanted to say.

Mayor Knickerbocker thanked the whole Board. She commented that they do not always agree but they do not have to because every person on the Board does not have an agenda to do anything other than what is in the best interest of the Village. She thinks this is a great Board. They know there are challenges ahead and for a while there will be a bumpy road. But it will smooth out eventually. She commented that this Board comes from different backgrounds and experiences. Any decisions they make is whatever is in the best interest of the Village. The Mayor feels lucky to work with a Board like that.

The Mayor thanked Trustee Zachary for meeting with the NYS DOT last week about some issues. Some have been put in the Newsletter. The Mayor wants to emphasize, because she thinks that people do not understand, that the Albany Post Road is not the Village's road. It is a New York State road. She knows that it is in terrible shape. They told us that some time in the middle of June that road will be completely repaved starting from Welcher Avenue through Buchanan. It has been budgeted for and marked to do. She thanked the State for doing that. She thinks it is going to be beautiful when it is done.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Knickerbocker announced:

- Buchanan Engine Company's Remembrance Day is on April 28 at 2 PM. It will be a ceremony to honor their members who have passed away.
- The Public Hearing on the budget will be April 9 at 7:30 PM.
- The Easter Egg Scramble will be April 6 at 11 AM at the Pavilion. The Easter Bunny will be there.
- State of the Village: Mayor Knickerbocker said that normally she does the State of the Village at this time. There is still information coming in. There will be a special meeting on Thursday, May 2 at 7:30 PM at Village Hall. She would like as many people as possible to attend. They can ask her questions. She will be going over projections, thoughts and ideas for other ways to save money. The Mayor wants to know what the Village residents are thinking. She has no problem answering questions and comments from the floor unless they are being discussed under Executive Session.

CITIZENS ADVISORY PANEL:

Mayor Knickerbocker commented on something that was covered on News 12 and FIOS 1. Last Thursday she had a press conference announcing that she was forming a Citizens Advisory Panel for the decommissioning of Indian Point. She will be the Chairperson. Town Supervisor Linda Puglisi will be the Vice Chairperson. The reason they are doing it is that when it was announced that Indian Point would be closed, we were not in on the process. The Mayor noted that she found out, as did the employees and union at the plant, through an article in the New York Times. She feels strongly that going forward with the decommissioning process, which is lengthy, that she wants our community to be updated and involved and not be a second thought. When the closing was announced, we were not thought about. We were not in the room. She is determined that we will not be left out this time. She noted that it will be in an advisory capacity only. They will play no role in directing the decommissioning work at Indian Point. They can make recommendations to Entergy and the NRC. The most important thing to know is that the NRC is in control of the decommissioning process. This committee will be the eyes, ears and voice of the community. The Mayor has modeled this after two other communities who have gone through the decommissioning process. Others on the panel will include Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, State Senator Pete Harckham, our Westchester County Legislator and County Executive, representatives from Rockland and Putnam, a representative from the Governor's office, representatives from the local unions, fire district, residents of Buchanan and the Town of Cortlandt and two individuals with environmental or scientific expertise appointed by the Mayor and the Town Supervisor.

The Mayor said that at the meeting when they were announcing it, the anti-nuclear people were here. They were not happy with the formation of this panel because they felt that they should be the ones setting up a citizens' oversight board. The Mayor commented that we felt that since what had transacted with the plant closing with us not having a say or being involved, that we felt that we were not going to be represented. She commented that the meeting got ugly; not on

our part. There were comments that came from the floor. The Mayor commented that we are affected and our neighbors are affected so it is important that the Village is in the forefront of this decommissioning process. Things are going to be said and unfortunately she is disappointed in that. She commented that she was cornered in the hallway and interrogated. It was not a pleasant experience but she is an elected official. She represents our community. The people who wanted to form this are not residents. Some do not even live in this area. She commented that one of the biggest jobs of this Board is to protect our community. We are not going to allow these attacks. Going forward it is going to be a bumpy road. We have a lot of work to do. The Mayor commented that this Board will always do its best in the interest of the Village and will protect the Village going forward.

Their first meeting will be some time in the beginning of June. It will be local. The local union on McKinley Street [in Peekskill] has offered to have the meetings there. They will be taped and recorded. Our office staff will have the meeting minutes. She felt it was in our best interest that we are involved. The Mayor commented that nobody is worried about us and our neighbors but ourselves. She feels that a good group has been put together. We will keep everyone informed of different things involved. Whatever money is in the Decommissioning Fund, we will let everyone know because if it is not enough they cannot start the decommissioning. The Mayor's understanding is that by the end of this year Entergy will be ready to announce that they will be selling to a decommissioning company after Unit 2 is closed in 2021.

Trustee Zachary reported that he and Village Administrator Hay walked with 2 people from the NYS DOT to look at the parking situation on Route 9A and propose what the Village wants to do. The DOT gave us some good advice. There are some decisions to be made. Trustee Zachary thinks that in order to be familiar with this at the next Workshop it would be best to walk that site. Anyone on the Board can go over there with him and he will show them the area, what they are proposing and some of the suggestions from the DOT. They have to go one at a time to avoid unintentionally forming an illegal quorum. Mayor Knickerbocker thanked him for following up with this.

NEW BUSINESS: resolution was omitted.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Eileen Absenger, 138 Tate Avenue, asked about what they would do if they do not get the 2,000 kilowatts needed to replace what Indian Point is producing. She asked if Entergy does not want to keep it open, can they be made to. Mayor Knickerbocker advised that there is an agreement with the State. She noted that the big problem is that the fuel must be ordered at least one year in advance. The license is extended to 2024 in case of war and in the case that there was no replacement power. There is an agreement that they would stay open if those things happen. She advised that if it was the case, to remember that it takes over a year to order the new fuel. Next year the first one goes, so they would have to order the fuel now. The Mayor does not know the status of that. Ms. Absenger commented that the plants that are projected to pick it up are not ready, nor do they have permits. The Mayor replied that we have been assured by the

NYS Public Service Commission that there would be enough power. Some of the environmentalists said that the way to reach these goals is through conservation. Ms. Absenger thinks that this has to be another piece of the advisory board. The Mayor advised that the advisory board is more focused on the decommissioning process. We are very supportive of having local union people to do the decommissioning instead of bringing outside people in. She commented that they are the people who have worked on and built it, and who knows it better than them?

John Mattis, Tate Avenue, congratulated Trustees Jackson and Pasquale on their reelection. He commented that he was out of town and watched the whole advisory board announcement meeting on Facebook. He noted that it was an anti-nuclear group. They can be looked up under "SENRG". Mr. Mattis was very disturbed at the end. The meeting was conducted very nicely. Then a woman asked to comment. She made derogatory remarks about the whole commission, that [her group] should be doing it and the politicians should not be involved. Mr. Mattis commented that the politicians are the elected representatives so they should be the ones involved. Another person who commented from the audience is an anti-nuclear advocate whom Mr. Mattis remembers from years gone by. He commented that she got very antagonistic. He thinks that Mayor Knickerbocker and Supervisor Puglisi handled it very professionally. Mr. Mattis commented that this person responded with some antagonistic remarks. He noted that she ran for the County Legislature in 2001. He commented that shortly after 9/11 she was quoted saying that the way we treat the Middle East, we got what we deserve. Mr. Mattis feels that someone like that has no place being on this committee. Mayor Knickerbocker commented that that she looks at herself as a public servant, not a politician. This is not Washington DC.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Knickerbocker congratulated Trustees Jackson and Pasquale again. She thanked everyone for coming and to have a great Buchanan day.

At 8:13 PM a MOTION to adjourn this meeting was made by Trustee Funchion, seconded by Trustee Jackson with all in favor.