

## **VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION**

### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION REGARDING A MULTI-LAYERED COMPLAINT AGAINST A VILLAGE TRUSTEE FOR CONDUCT AND CONTRACTUAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FILED BY A RESIDENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Buchanan Code of Ethics, established under Chapter 7 of the Village Code, mandates that all village officers maintain a high standard of professional and ethical conduct, and give their undivided allegiance to the public trust as outlined in **Section 7-2 (Declaration of Policy)**; and

**WHEREAS**, a formal complaint has been filed with the Village Clerk detailing several alleged ethical violations committed by a sitting Village Trustee during public meetings regarding ongoing municipal projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the complaint alleges hostile public conduct; and

**WHEREAS**, the complaint further details statutory conflicts of interest; and

**WHEREAS**, the complaint additionally alleges that this sequence of events presents an appearance of impropriety and a direct violation of Section 7-5(E) of the Buchanan Code, which mandates that public office and employment is not used for personal gain, and that officials must avoid conflicts when an immediate family member has a financial interest; and

**WHEREAS**, because the complaint targets a voting member of the legislative branch regarding both code of conduct violations and financial self-dealing, any internal review or peer adjudication by the Village Board presents an unresolvable conflict of interest; and

**WHEREAS**, New York General Municipal Law Article 18, Section 808 authorizes a county board of ethics to render independent advisory opinions to local governing bodies to resolve municipal code conflicts and protect public integrity;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The remaining unconflicted members of the Village Board of Trustees hereby declare that the subject Trustee is completely recused from all deliberations, executive sessions, votes, and administrative oversight regarding this ethics complaint.

**SECTION 2.** The remaining unconflicted members of the Village Board hereby order that the subject Trustee be immediately recused from participating in any future discussions, executive sessions, or votes regarding the AMS project or associated road contracts, pending a final Advisory Opinion from the County.

**SECTION 3.** The Village Board of Trustees officially requests that the Westchester County Board of Ethics review the attached complaint packet and render a formal written Advisory Opinion determining whether the Trustee's post-approval contractual ties, corporate associations, and public conduct constitute a violation of local ethics standards under Chapter 7 or New York State General Municipal Law Article 18.

**SECTION 4.** The Village Clerk is directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution, along with the complete complaint packet to the Westchester County Board of Ethics, located at 148 Martine Avenue, 6th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601, within five (5) business days.

**SECTION 5.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker | _____ |
| Trustee Awilda Baez         | _____ |
| Trustee Anthony Capicotti   | _____ |
| Trustee Steve Laker         | _____ |
| Trustee Robert Wheeler      | _____ |

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote of \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ .

STATE OF NEW YORK                    )  
                                                      )SS.:  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER        )

I, Cynthia Kempter, Village Clerk of the Village of Buchanan, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a Resolution adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Buchanan at a meeting of said Board held August 4, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
CYNTHIA KEMPTER, VILLAGE CLERK