

**Village of Buchanan
Mayor & Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
February 4, 2025**

PRESENT: (This meeting was held live and via Zoom)

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker
Trustees Awilda Baez (via zoom), Anthony Capicotti,
Daniel Stewart, Robert Wheeler (via zoom)
Village Administrator Marcus Serrano
Village Attorney Stephanie Porteus
Village Engineer, George Pommer
Village Clerk, Treasurer Cynthia Kempter
Deputy Treasurer Dominic Evangelista

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Knickerbocker called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. She led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVE MINUTES:

December 3, 2024 Meeting and December 17, 2024 Workshop Meeting

A motion to approve these minutes as presented was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Stewart with all in favor.

3. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR (agenda items only): None

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consider a Motion to Hire Jordyn Macaluso-Stubblefield as a Laborer at an Annual Rate of \$45,000 as of February 18, 2025 Contingent on Passing All Hiring Requirements of the Village.

A motion to approve as presented was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Stewart, with all in favor.

- b. Consider a Motion to Open the Public Hearing Regarding Parking Restrictions on Intersections.

A motion to open the public hearing was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Capicotti, with all in favor.

Mayor Knickerbocker stated that this public hearing will not be closed tonight as there is more information that needs to be gathered. Originally, there were a list of streets that were looked at. At the last meeting, it was mentioned that all the intersections would be included. Trustee Stewart said that he doesn't feel that all the intersections need to be included. He feels that First Street and Fourth Street are issues because of the buses. Trustee Capicotti stated that his recommendation was to do it on every street and we put it into the code because of the emergency vehicles. The fire department recommended no parking 30 feet from an intersection. Village Attorney Porteus stated our code says that, except in an emergency no vehicle should be stopped or left standing or parked within 10 feet of any crosswalk or street crossing. Mayor Knickerbocker stated at the top of Third Street it is very dangerous to make a left hand turn because there is no sight distance. All the intersections need to be looked at and a list compiled.

Diane Tangen, 240 Catherine Street, made public comment about the sign. Trustee Capicotti responded that the sign will say "no parking here to corner".

Lori Pyrch, 3 Donahue Court, made public comment about having too many signs around the Village will be unsightly.

Patrick Quirke, 2 Woods Court, made public comment about the intersection of Tate Avenue and Kings Ferry Road being dangerous when cars are parked too close to the intersection.

Trustee Wheeler stated that everything they are talking about now leads up to the fact that we should probably be doing every intersection if that is what residents want. Everywhere you go there will be someone wanting restrictions on their corners. In his opinion, if we do every corner we are doing everything at once, not just appeasing people as we are going forward. Trustee Capicotti replied that he recommended this because the fire department recommended doing every corner. We want to do what is right for the citizens, but it is a safety issue. Mayor Knickerbocker and Trustee Stewart are concerned about having signs all over the Village. Trustee Wheeler also said he doesn't want all the signs around the Village, but down the road we will have a problem if we only do certain spots.

Eileen Absenger, 138 Tate Avenue, made public comment about the bottom of First Street, Centre Street, Ketchum Avenue and Westchester Avenue and how many cars are going to be able to fit 20 or 30 feet back and what will you do about company.

Theresa Knickerbocker, 191 Henry Street, made public comment as a resident, not the Mayor, concerning the small businesses in the Village. Without parking, we have no businesses. Trustee Capicotti stated that he is not looking to take any money out of our small businesses, he is looking to make it better and safer in our residential areas. Trustee Baez agrees with Trustee Capicotti in that we are not trying to hurt anyone, we are here because the entire conversation surfaced via safety concerns that Trustee Stewart brought to our attention. She is certain that with every voice being heard and the public speaking to us and putting our heads together we will do what is right for the Village and will not hurt the businesses in the process.

Diane Tangen, 240 Catherine Street, wondered if one side of the street parking would help any of these areas.

A motion to hold over the public hearing was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Stewart, with all in favor.

- c. Consider a Motion to Accept a Grant Award from PERMA for a 55" Television and Laptop for Safety Training Purposes Post the Village Administrator Position.

A Motion to approve this as presented was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Wheeler, with Trustee Baez, Trustee Capicotti and Trustee Stewart in favor and Mayor Knickerbocker not voting.

5. INFORMATION FROM OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS:

- a. Justice Reports – December 2024

Received and filed.

- b. Police Report – December 2024

Received and filed.

- c. Highway Report – December 2024

Received and filed.

- d. Wastewater Treatment Plant – December 2024

Received and filed.

- e. Building Department – December 2024.

Received and filed.

- f. Buchanan Engine Company – December 2024

Received and filed.

- g. Planning Board – October 24, 2024

Received and filed.

- h. Zoning Board – October 9, 2024

Received and filed.

- i. Prosecutor's Report – None

- j. Attorney's Report

Village Attorney Porteus stated there is one matter for executive session.

- k. Administrator's Report

Village Administrator Serrano stated that the salt shed cover was damaged by the delivery driver. The insurance company has claimed responsibility and the check has been released so we will be ordering a new salt shed cover. A list of all the options for the Crest Grant was sent to the Board. Senator Harckham's office said the stormwater system repairs would qualify for the grant. A generator or a vehicle also qualifies.

Village Engineer Pommer stated that just paving Church Street would be around \$276,000.00. If you add curbs and sidewalks that would add about \$100,000.00 each. To do all that is way over the \$300,000.00 we have for paving this year. Third Street would be about \$80,000.00 and as an alternate Fourth Street would be \$113,000.00. That would leave money for the crack sealing we do every year and would leave additional money in next year's budget. The Board discussed making Centre Street a way one road.

- l. Mayor's Report

Mayor Knickerbocker stated that she attended the NYCOM 2025 legislative meeting in Albany.

m. Trustee's Report

Trustee Wheeler welcomed Jordyn Macaluso-Stubblefield to the highway department.

Trustee Baez had nothing to report.

Trustee Capicotti said please come out to the next meeting and give us your input on what you need and your safety issues in your neighborhood regarding the parking so we don't have any issues going further.

Trustee Stewart asked about the status of the employee handbook. Village Administrator Serrano said we should have a draft soon. Trustee Stewart thanked the Beautification Committee and the Highway Department for making the circle look nice for Valentine's Day. The St. Patrick's Day Parade is scheduled for March 16th at 2:00 P.M. The Grand Marshals will be John Horton and Scott Horton. The aides will be Holly Eichler, Beth Keenan, Bob Stein, Sr. and Bob Mitchell.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR: None

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:18 P.M. a Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss negotiations was made by Mayor Knickerbocker, seconded by Trustee Stewart with all in favor.

8. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:45 P.M. a Motion to exit executive session was made by Trustee Baez, seconded by Trustee Capicotti with all in favor.

At 9:454 P.M. a Motion to adjourn this meeting was made by Trustee Stewart, seconded by Trustee Wheeler with all in favor. No monies were expended.