

VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN

BOARD MEETINGS

VILLAGE BOARD

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 2026

Municipal Building

236 Tate Avenue

Buchanan, NY 10511

April 7, 2026

7:00 p.m. - 7:37 p.m.

April 7, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Theresa Knickerbocker, Mayor

Awilda Baez, Trustee

Anthony Capicotti, Trustee

Steve Laker, Trustee

Robert Wheeler, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT:

Marcus Serrano, Village Administrator

Stephanie Porteus, Village Attorney

Cynthia Kempter, Village Clerk, Treasurer

Sharon Murphy, Deputy Clerk

Dominic Evangelista, Deputy Treasurer

OTHERS:

Joseph Ryan, 11 Lake Drive

Daniel O'Neill, 190 Catherine Street

Nick Zachary, 80 Tate Avenue

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2 (The board meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m.)

3 MS. THERESA KNICKERBOCKER: Welcome to
4 the Village of Buchanan April 7, 2026
5 organizational meeting. Please join me in the
6 pledge of allegiance. Oh, you know what? I think
7 is Dan O'Neal and Ed Mevec are here, our two new
8 judges? I'd like you gentlemen to lead us in the
9 pledge.

10 MULTIPLE: I pledge allegiance to the
11 flag of the United States of America and to the
12 republic for which it stands, one nation under
13 God, indivisible with liberty and justice for
14 all.

15 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. First, I'm
16 going to start with the results of the March 18,
17 2026 election. Theresa Knickerbocker, Residence
18 Party 298, Daniel Stewart, Buchanan Forward, 283.
19 For a trustee two-year term, Awilda Baez,
20 Buchanan Forward, 308; Robert Wheeler, Buchanan
21 Forward 309; Tania Dreszek, Residents Party, 267;
22 Jody Boyle-Chiappalone, Residents Party, 270. For
23 village justice, Daniel O'Neill, Buchanan
24 Forward, 370. And now for the newly elected

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2 officials, we are going to do the oath of office.
3 I've asked our village attorney Stephanie Porteus
4 to please do the oath for me and everyone we're
5 are going to do at the podium. I will stand in
6 front of the mic. I'll stand on this side of the
7 mic so people can see it. How's that sound?

8 MS. STEPHANIE PORTEUS: Raise your right
9 hand.

10 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Oh, my right hand.

11 MS. PORTEUS: Yes. I, state your name.

12 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I, Theresa
13 Knickerbocker --

14 MS. PORTEUS: do solemnly swear --

15 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: -- do solemnly swear
16 --

17 MS. PORTEUS: -- that I will support the
18 Constitution of the United States.

19 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: -- that I will
20 support the Constitution of the United States.

21 MS. PORTEUS: And the Constitution of
22 the State of New York.

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: And the Constitution
24 of the State of New York.

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2 MS. PORTEUS: And that I will faithfully
3 discharge the duties --

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: And I will
5 faithfully discharge the duties of mayor.

6 MS. PORTEUS: -- of the position of
7 mayor.

8 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay, I got ahead of
9 you. Sorry.

10 MS. PORTEUS: According to the best of
11 my ability.

12 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: According to the
13 best of my ability. So help me God.

14 MS. PORTEUS: There you go.
15 Congratulations.

16 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Thank you.
17 (Applause). Next is I believe is Awilda, and she
18 will be sworn in by her husband Nelson Baez.

19 MS. AWILDA BAEZ: I could do this. All
20 right. No, I think the face the audience. Okay.

21 MR. NELSON BAEZ: I, state your name.

22 MS. BAEZ: I, Awilda Baez --

23 MR. BAEZ: -- do solemnly swear --

24 MS. BAEZ: -- do solemnly swear --

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2 MR. BAEZ: -- that I will support the
3 Constitution of the United States.

4 MS. BAEZ: -- that I will support the
5 Constitution of the United States.

6 MR. BAEZ: And the Constitution of the
7 State of New York.

8 MS. BAEZ: And the Constitution of the
9 State of New York.

10 MR. BAEZ: And that I will faithfully
11 discharge the duties --

12 MS. BAEZ: And that I will faithfully
13 discharge the duties --

14 MR. BAEZ: -- of the position of trustee
15 --

16 MS. BAEZ: -- of the position of trustee
17 --

18 MR. BAEZ: -- according to the best of my
19 abilities.

20 MS. BAEZ: -- according to the best of
21 my abilities. Give me a hug. (Applause)

22 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: And next is Trustee
23 Bob Wheeler and he will be sworn in by Jack
24 Vanscoy.

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2 MS. BAEZ: Oh, I forgot to give it to
3 you. I'm sorry.

4 MR. JACK VANSKOY: I, state your name.

5 MR. ROBERT WHEELER: I, Robert Wheeler,
6 do solemnly swear --

7 MR. WHEELER: -- do solemnly swear --

8 MR. VANSKOY: -- that I will support the
9 Constitution of the United States --

10 MR. WHEELER: -- that I will support the
11 Constitution of the United States --

12 MR. VANSKOY: -- and the Constitution of
13 the State of New York.

14 MR. WHEELER: -- and the Constitution of
15 the State of New York.

16 MR. VANSKOY: And that I will faithfully
17 discharge the duties --

18 MR. WHEELER: And I will faithfully
19 discharge the duties --

20 MR. VANSKOY: -- of the position of --

21 MR. WHEELER: -- of the position of
22 trustee --

23 MR. VANSKOY: -- according to the best
24 of my ability.

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2 MR. WHEELER: -- according to the best
3 of my ability. (Applause)

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay,
5 congratulations everyone. And the next Michele
6 O'Neill will swear in our new justice, Dan
7 O'Neill.

8 MS. MICHELE O'NEILL: I, state your
9 name.

10 MR. DANIEL O'NEILL: I, Daniel O'Neill -
11 -

12 MS. O'NEILL: Do solemnly swear --

13 MR. O'NEILL: -- do solemnly swear --

14 MS. O'NEILL: -- that I will support the
15 Constitution of the United States --

16 MR. O'NEILL: -- that I will support the
17 Constitution of the United States.

18 MS. O'NEILL: And the Constitution of
19 the State of New York.

20 MR. O'NEILL: And the Constitution of
21 the State of New York.

22 MS. O'NEILL: And that I will faithfully
23 discharge the duties --

24 MR. O'NEILL: -- and that I will

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2 faithfully discharge the duties --

3 MS. O'NEILL: -- of the office of
4 village justice of the village of Buchanan.

5 MR. O'NEILL: -- that I will faithfully
6 discharge the duties of the office of village
7 justice of the village of Buchanan --

8 MS. O'NEILL: -- according to the best
9 of my ability.

10 MR. O'NEILL: -- according to the best
11 of my ability. (Applause)

12 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: And next, Ben Mevec
13 is our associate village justice. I mean Ed
14 Mevec, I apologize. His son Ben Mevec will be --

15 MS. BAEZ: He's not, he's not ready for
16 that yet. So --

17 MR. ED MEVEC: We'll see.

18 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. Are you sure?
19 No. Okay. Do you want to bring him up also? It's
20 up to you, if you want him to come.

21 MR. ED MEVEC: That's our year old
22 grandson. He just turned a year. Yeah.

23 MALE: Congratulations.

24 MR. ED MEVEC: That is Liam Edward Vines

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2 Mevec. How you doing there?

3 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: You just have to
4 raise your right hand though.

5 MR. ED MEVEC: Okay. What else? I will
6 raise my right.

7 MR. BEN MEVEC: You ready?

8 MR. ED MEVEC: Yes, I am.

9 MR. BEN MEVEC: I, state your name.

10 MR. ED MEVEC: I, Edward R. Mevec --

11 MR. BEN MEVEC: -- do solemnly swear --

12 MR. ED MEVEC: -- do solemnly swear --

13 MR. BEN MEVEC: -- that I will support
14 the Constitution of the United States --

15 MR. ED MEVEC: that I will support the
16 Constitution of the United States --

17 MR. BEN MEVEC: -- and the Constitution
18 of the State of New York.

19 MR. ED MEVEC: -- and the Constitution of
20 the State of New York.

21 MR. BEN MEVEC: And I will faithfully
22 discharge the duties of the Office of Associate
23 Village Justice.

24 MR. ED MEVEC: That I will faithfully

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2 execute the, the duties of the office of the
3 office of associate village justice of the
4 village of Buchanan --

5 MR. BEN MEVEC: -- according to the best
6 of my ability.

7 MR. ED MEVEC: -- according to the best
8 of my ability, so help me God. Thank you.
9 (Applause) What a good boy.

10 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: A future village
11 justice. Okay. The next is Mayor Theresa
12 Knickerbocker hereby delegates trustee Steve
13 Laker as her deputy mayor for the following
14 official year 2026-2027. Congratulations, Steve.
15 (Applause)

16 MR. STEVE LAKER: Thank you mayor.

17 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Board appointments,
18 the following appointment of officials to be made
19 by Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker except where
20 otherwise indicated subject to the approval by a
21 majority of the board of trustees pursuant to
22 section 4400, 4402, 77112 and 77718 of village
23 law and section 523 of the real property tax law.
24 All appointments are for one year except, one-

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2 year term except where otherwise noted. Village
3 Clerk Treasurer, Cynthia Kempter; Village Deputy
4 Clerk, Sharon Murphy; Village Deputy Treasurer,
5 Dominic Evangelista, who is a new daddy.
6 Congratulations. (Applause) Building inspectors
7 Peter and Brian Cook; court clerk, Mary Mailler;
8 recreation supervisor part-time is Jacqueline
9 Pasquale; village attorney, Stephanie Porteus;
10 Associate Village Judge, Edward Mevec, Village
11 Engineer, James J. Han Engineering; Village
12 Planner, Planning and Development Advisors,
13 Special Village Special Counselor, and this is I
14 can never pronounce this name. Marcus, do you
15 have a hold on this name?

16 MR. MARCUS SERRANO: Stephanie, I think
17 you can do better.

18 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I'm going to take a
19 stab at it and let, if you can't.

20 MR. SERRANO: Stephanie's better.

21 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay.

22 MS. PORTEUS: Stephanie's not better. I
23 really don't know to pronounce his name.

24 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. I'm going to

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2 try. Pisanori [phonetic] and Kanekov [phonetic]?

3 MS. PORTEUS: Pisanori sounds right.

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. Good. Thanks.

5 Village prosecutor Ingrid O'Sullivan, planning

6 board chairman Nicholas Zachary, planning board

7 member to 2031, it's a five year appointment.

8 It's Nicholas Zachary. Zoning Board of Appeals

9 Chairman, Gary Bell, Zoning Board of Appeals

10 member up until 2031, Marco Pinque. It's another

11 five year appointment and his term was up, as was

12 Nick Zachary's. Can I have a I'd like to make a

13 motion to approve these people. Can I have a

14 second?

15 MS. BAEZ: Second.

16 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: All in favor?

17 MULTIPLE: Aye.

18 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. Is do we have

19 three votes? We're good.

20 MS. BAEZ: I second.

21 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. Thank you. The

22 following are mayor appointments and these are

23 what we call liaisons to the different

24 departments we have here. And a liaison is

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2 basically a go-between between the board and the
3 different departments. So for example, business
4 development, Steve Laker; education, Anthony
5 Capicotti; highway, Steve Laker; historian,
6 George Boyle; infrastructure, Bob Wheeler;
7 legislative, legislative is entire board, liaison
8 to Buchanan Engine Company number one Awilda
9 Baez; local waterfront revitalization plan,
10 Nicholas Zachary, he has the most knowledge on
11 that, that's been going on for years so Nick,
12 thank you. New York State Indian point
13 decommissioning oversight board, that would be
14 myself; parks and recreation, that would be
15 myself; planning and zoning would be Awilda,
16 public safety, Steve Laker; representative for
17 the seniors advisory council, Sue Giuliano;
18 representative to the Historic Hudson River Towns
19 is Anthony, and veterans would also be myself.
20 There's no vote necessary on that.

21 So the following resolution establish
22 meeting dates, special meeting procedures, and
23 adoption of the rules of procedure in the open
24 meetings law. Regular meetings pursuant to

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2 section 4-412 of the village law, the regular
3 meetings of the board of trustees to be held on
4 the first Tuesday of each month commencing at
5 7:00 p.m. Where holidays shall fall on the day of
6 a meeting, the meetings will be held the next day
7 following the holiday. The meeting shall take
8 place at the municipal building and on, and/or on
9 Zoom. The board of Trustees workshop is to be
10 held on the fourth Tuesday of each month
11 commencing at 7:00 p.m. and will also take place
12 at the municipal building and/or on Zoom. So, I
13 apologize. This meeting tonight is a lot of
14 information that gets read into the minutes. So,
15 I will try to go through this as quickly as I
16 can.

17 Special meetings will be held when
18 matters of business warrant and shall be called
19 by either the mayor or two of the trustees of the
20 village of Buchanan acting together. In the event
21 of a special meeting being called, the mayor,
22 every member of the board of trustees shall be
23 informed by phone by the village clerk or another
24 member of the board of trustees of the date,

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2 time, location, and subject of the special
3 meeting. And unless the meeting is called to
4 respond to an emergency concerning the safety and
5 welfare of the village, notice of the meeting
6 shall be given to the trustees and newspapers and
7 posted on the village notice boards at least 72
8 hours in advance of the meeting and otherwise in
9 conformance with the public officers law. A
10 quorum shall be required to conduct business. A
11 quorum of the five member board members shall be
12 three. In the absence of a quorum, a lesser
13 number may adjourn and compel the attendance of
14 absent members.

15 Executive sessions shall be held in
16 accordance with New York State Public Officers
17 Law Section 105. All executive sessions shall be
18 commenced at a public meeting.

19 Voting pursuant to village law, each
20 member of the board shall have one vote. The
21 mayor may vote on any matter, but must vote in
22 case of a tie. A majority of the totally
23 authorized voting power is necessary to pass the
24 matter unless otherwise specified by state law.

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2 An abstention, silence, or absence shall be
3 considered a negative vote for the purpose of
4 determining the final vote on a matter. So, this
5 is, this is important. Everyone has one vote.
6 The mayor does not have to vote all the time, but
7 she must vote if there's a tie.

8 Guidelines for public comment. The
9 public shall be allowed to speak only during the
10 public comment period of the meeting or at such
11 other time as the presiding officer shall allow.
12 Speakers must step to the front of the room and
13 speak in the microphone. Speakers must give their
14 name, address, and organization represented, if
15 any. Speakers must be recognized by the presiding
16 officer. Speakers must limit their remarks to
17 three minutes on a given topic and may be
18 recognized again by the presiding officer after
19 other speakers have had an opportunity to speak.
20 Speakers may not yield any remaining time they
21 have to another speaker. Board members may, with
22 the permission of the mayor, interrupt a speaker
23 during the remarks but only for the purpose of
24 clarification or information. All remarks shall

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2 be addressed to the presiding officer. Speaker
3 shall observe the commonly accepted rules of
4 courtesy, decorum, dignity, and good taste, which
5 include refraining from offensive, insulting, and
6 threatening speech directed toward any person
7 present or not present.

8 Interested parties or the
9 representatives may address the board with
10 written communications. Written communication
11 shall be delivered to the village administrator
12 or the village clerk.

13 The open meetings law, pursuant to the
14 public officers law, the board of trustees hereby
15 adopts the requirements of the open meeting law
16 and hereby adopts the notice requirements of the
17 public officers law as the official procedure of
18 the board of trustees. The next organization
19 meeting will be held on April 6, 2027. So, please
20 mark your calendars.

21 So pursuant to section 5508 of the
22 village law, the public hearing on the tentative
23 budget will be the first Wednesday following the
24 organizational meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Village

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2 Hall and/or on Zoom. So, tomorrow night is our
3 public hearing for our village budget.

4 Designating village depositories
5 pursuant to section 4-412 of the village law that
6 the Orange Bank and Trust Company, 2141 Crompond
7 Road Cortlandt, New York, the Beacon Bank, 2651
8 Strang Boulevard, Yorktown Heights, and New York
9 Class and Metropolitan Commercial Bank be
10 designated as the depository of the village of
11 Buchanan, New York, and that funds of the village
12 be deposited in said bank and be subject to the
13 withdrawals upon checks, notes, drafts, bills of
14 exchange, acceptances, undertakings, or other
15 orders for the payment of money when signed on
16 behalf of this village by any of the following
17 officers. The mayor, the deputy mayor, village
18 administrator, and village treasurer.

19 The official, whereas the official
20 newspaper is -- it's kind of hard anymore with
21 the newspapers. We don't have what we used to
22 have in the way of newspapers. We really don't
23 have much local. So whereas in the opinion of the
24 board of trustees of the aforesaid village, the

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2 village, the Journal News newspapers is hereby
3 designated as the official newspaper of the
4 village of Buchanan.

5 Establishing a mileage allowance for
6 reimburse, whereas the board of trustees has
7 determined to pay a fixed rate for mileage as
8 reimbursement to village officers and employees
9 who use their personal automobiles while
10 performing their official village duties. Now
11 therefore it be resolved that the board of
12 trustees will approve reimbursement to such
13 officers and employees at the rate established by
14 IRS regulations.

15 Of appointing the village procurement
16 policy, whereas the mayor and board of trustees
17 of the village Buchanan are required to adopt or
18 formulate certain policies and procedures
19 regarding procurements by the village and whereas
20 the village has previously adopted a procurement
21 policy in conformance with all New York state
22 laws and in conformance with the office of the
23 state comptroller and the board desires that the
24 policy to remain in effect, the procurement

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2 policy now in effect is once again adopted as the
3 procurement policy of the village of Buchanan.

4 Authorizing officers, employees of the
5 village to attend conferences and seminars,
6 whereas general municipal law 77-B authorizes
7 municipal officials and employees to attend
8 schools, conferences, seminars, etc. conducted
9 for the benefit of the local government with
10 prior approval of the board of trustees and the
11 mayor and the board of trustees of the village of
12 Buchanan, have determined that is in the best
13 interest of the village and its residents that
14 officers employees of the village from time to
15 time attend conferences and seminars of public
16 employees and officials for educational and
17 training and other similar purposes. It is
18 therefore resolved that the officers and
19 employees are hereby authorized to attend the
20 following schools conferences and seminars.
21 NYCOM, New York Conference of Mayors annual
22 meeting and training school, NYCOM's fall
23 training school for fiscal officers and municipal
24 clerks, NYCOM's election seminar, New York State

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2 Comptrollers Advanced Accounting Course, New York
3 State City County Management Association Annual
4 Conference and fall training seminar, Westchester
5 Municipal Planning Federation Seminars,
6 Westchester County Firearms and Deadly Physical
7 Force Training, Westchester County Police Academy
8 basic in-service training, Police Chief's
9 Association regional and national conferences,
10 New York State Government Finance Officers
11 Association, regional and national conferences
12 and classes and webinars. Public Employee, Risk
13 Management Association, PERMA, regional and
14 national Conferences, Westchester County
15 Municipal Clerk and Treasures Association
16 meetings, Municipal Administrators Association of
17 Metropolitan New York meetings, International
18 City Management Associated Meetings, conference
19 and seminars. You're still with me, right? Okay,
20 good. I know, this is just this is just
21 fascinating. I know. So, I would like to make a
22 motion to approve these. Can I have a second?

23 MR. LAKER: Second.

24 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: All in favor?

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2 MULTIPLE: Aye.

3 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. Thank you.
4 That wasn't too bad. Okay. So, Bob, would you
5 like to start first? Do you have anything you'd
6 like to say?

7 MR. WHEELER: Okay. Well, you surprised
8 you being first there, but that's okay.

9 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: That's okay. We're
10 going to change things up here, Bob.

11 MR. WHEELER: I'd like to, first I'd
12 like to just thank everyone for being here
13 tonight. It's good to see a full house here. I'd
14 like to see that like every week, or every month
15 I should say. And I'd like to congratulate
16 everyone that ran in the election and won. I'd
17 like to put a special word out for Dan Stewart
18 who was here for five or six years, whatever it
19 was. He did a great job. He had his heart and
20 soul into this. So I'd like to thank Dan for his
21 hard work and his commitment to the village. And
22 that's all I really have right now.

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: All right. Thanks
24 Bob.

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2 MS. BAEZ: So ditto to what Bob said.

3 I'd also like to thank everyone who came out to
4 vote, everyone who's here tonight. I took an oath
5 and I promised to serve and to be transparent as
6 I said I would when I ran on Buchanan Forward.
7 I'd like to also thank my husband and my family
8 for putting up with me for weeks and weeks of
9 campaigning, but I promise you it'll be worth it.
10 Thank you.

11 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. And I will
12 I'll start with the people that ran first and
13 then I'll ask Steve and Anthony. So what I'd like
14 to say it has been my great, great honor to be
15 mayor of the village of Buchanan since 2014. I am
16 humbled once again to be reelected. I have been
17 mayor during good times and I've been mayor
18 during the most difficult time the village has
19 faced. And I always say there are two historical
20 events that happened here that were very big in
21 the village. One was when Indian Point, Con
22 Edison came here in the early '60s. That was
23 life-changing for this village, what that bought
24 to the village, the infrastructure that was

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2 bought here, our sewer treatment plant that was
3 done. So that was a very big time for us and
4 that's how we grew to where we are because of
5 that. And then also uh the other historical,
6 biggest historical event was the closure of
7 Indian Point, which was, you know, we all lived
8 through it. So it was it was some difficult
9 times. We're still, you know, facing some of the
10 challenges but I would say we have fared well
11 better than other communities. One of them I will
12 mention is Zion, Illinois that is still very much
13 struggling, so thank God we are still here. One
14 of the board members at the time, Nick Zachary,
15 could tell stories of what we went through and
16 the challenges and so thank God we're still here.
17 We're moving forward. I thank everyone who has
18 supported me over the years and really kept the
19 faith in that I was doing the right thing for the
20 village and I had it, everything in the village's
21 best interest always. And I still will continue
22 to do that. I'd like to thank Judge Jen Mchale,
23 who has been our judge for many, many years. She
24 has decided not to run, so we have we have a new

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2 judge, Dan O'Neill. Congratulations, Dan. Best
3 wishes, I know you'll do a great job. And we have
4 Ed Mevec, who is our associate judge now. And Ed,
5 I have the utmost confidence in both of you that
6 you will do a great job for us.

7 I'd like to also thank Dan Stewart. He
8 was with us for two terms. I'd like to thank uh
9 him also for his service to the village of
10 Buchanan. I'd like to also thank my running
11 mates. It is not an easy thing to run for public
12 office and I always joke around with the other
13 public officials. I say you never realize what a
14 horrible, miserable, disgusting person you are
15 until you run for public office. So, I, you know,
16 it it's, you know, these two people had the best
17 interest of the village at heart just like
18 everyone else and they wanted to help their
19 community and they wanted to look at things
20 differently and so I respect that. I appreciate
21 that they ran and I just hope going forward, we
22 have a lot of talent here in the village and I
23 just hope new people do come forward to run and
24 to serve our community. At the end of January,

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2 I'm going to I'm going to tell you guys a little,
3 little something. At the end of January, I
4 thought I had decided not to run again. And I had
5 spoken to a lot of the residents. I run into the
6 residents all over, usually at the post office.
7 My mom used to say to me, Teresa, you just went
8 to the post office to get the mail. It's what?
9 Who do you run into now? So I thought I had
10 decided not to run and I was asked to run by many
11 of the residents. They told me it was, not for me
12 to go yet. There was still a lot to do and that
13 was my decision. They said it's not time yet and
14 we still need you. So that's why I ran again, for
15 those people wondering why I ran again.

16 So I'm just hoping starting today that
17 the board can work together. We have a lot of
18 work to do. We have infrastructure work and I put
19 Bob on that committee. So, we have infrastructure
20 work like the pool and the kiddie pool, possibly
21 the pavilion. We possibly have some issues with
22 that that we have to work through. The cell
23 tower, we've been working on the cell tower,
24 which I think everyone once that cell tower goes

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2 in is going to be very happy because our cell
3 service here in the village seems to be getting
4 worse and worse. We had gotten a grant for a
5 sidewalk on Westchester Avenue. So, for the
6 walkers by the school there, for the walkers,
7 it's a dangerous area. So, that will be a
8 wonderful thing. It'll be a safety issue for not
9 only the children but also the walkers that go
10 around the lake. I'd also, you know, it was
11 mentioned about a new playground. I'd like to see
12 us start working on a new playground to see if we
13 can find some funding. Marcus, I did speak to
14 somebody from the county last week and, I think
15 we're going to be setting up a meeting and we'll
16 see if one board member wants to go with us.
17 There's possibly money available there, but we'll
18 see.

19 Also, as I mentioned before Congressman
20 Lawler had introduced the Stranded Act, which is
21 a different name now, Economic Recovery for
22 Nuclear Power Plants Communities. So that's
23 something you know we'll be working on. That's
24 very important for us and also the Cessation Fund

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2 extension. I think that ends in '27 or '28. So
3 each year, this year, the next two years, it's
4 116,000. After that there's quite a bit of a
5 drop, so hopefully we can work with the school
6 and the town to see if we can get that extended
7 at least a few more years.

8 I'm not a politician as I have been
9 called, I'm a public servant. My heart and soul
10 is here in the village. I want whatever is the
11 best interest of the village. I serve at the
12 pleasure of the residents and I thank you. I
13 thank you from the bottom of my heart. I
14 appreciate this opportunity to serve the village
15 again. (Applause) Steve, what do you have for us?
16 Oh, sure. Absolutely.

17 MR. WHEELER: I want to go home tonight.

18 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay, we can do
19 that.

20 MR. WHEELER: I'd like to I'd like to
21 just thank my wife and family who really kind of
22 egged me on to run again this year, after I bowed
23 out last, didn't run two years ago because if it
24 wasn't for them, I wouldn't be doing this because

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2 they support me in everything I do. And they know
3 I'm a busy person doing other things, too. So, so
4 thank you, Jill, and Lauren and Jack coming from
5 Florida just to swear me in.

6 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: That was nice.

7 MR. WHEELER: And Sandy too.

8 MS. BAEZ: You missed somebody.

9 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: And Bob, it's only
10 7:30, so we're doing good. Okay, Steve, what do
11 you have for us?

12 MR. LAKER: I just want to say
13 congratulations to everybody that was sworn in
14 tonight. It is a thankless job, but it is
15 critical to see this village succeed and move
16 forward. I also want to thank Dan Stewart for his
17 service to the village. He was critical in
18 helping a lot of residents out throughout his
19 term here and look forward to seeing Dan in the
20 future. Thank you mayor for the appointment of
21 the deputy mayor position and that's all I have.

22 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay, Anthony, what
23 do you have for us?

24 MR. CAPICOTTI: Congratulations.

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2 AUTOMATED VOICE: Recording in progress.

3 MR. SERRANO: We lost her for a minute.

4 MS. BAEZ: Do it again.

5 MR. SERRANO: Oh, we have we have it
6 recorded on [unintelligible] [28:19] anyway.

7 MS. BAEZ: All right. Okay.

8 MR. SERRANO: We have the backup, so
9 we're good.

10 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: All right. Good.

11 MR. SERRANO: Go ahead, Anthony.

12 MR. CAPICOTTI: Congratulations to
13 everybody that was sworn in tonight. It was quite
14 the campaign. I'm not going to get into that, but
15 I want to thank Dan Stewart for his time that was
16 spent here. He was, he's a good friend of mine.
17 He's a great community resident. He's a long,
18 life resident. He did well when he was here. He
19 participated in a lot of things. He started, you
20 know, he helped Steve with the St. Patty's Day
21 parade, which was great. He jumped in and took
22 over that. The centennial celebration, I believe
23 he started, and I think we're going to need help
24 with that moving forward. And everybody who was

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2 involved with anything to do with the election
3 process, thank you for your support and coming
4 out to vote especially. It's very important. I'm
5 looking forward to moving productively with this
6 new board and hopefully transparency and a lot of
7 production. That's all I'm looking for and I
8 think we all agree on that.

9 MS. BAEZ: I agree.

10 MR. CAPICOTTI: That's all.

11 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Any comments from
12 the floor? Oh wow, look at those hands go right
13 up. Okay, whoever gets to the podium first. No
14 fighting. And then and please your name and --

15 MR. JOSEPH J. RYAN: Yes. My name is
16 Joseph J. Ryan. I'm the president of the Living
17 History Education Foundation and I spent my
18 teaching career in the school district. A little
19 sidebar. It is the 250th anniversary of the
20 American Revolution. Now --

21 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Joe, speak into the
22 microphone.

23 MR. RYAN: I got to be --

24 MR. KESSLER: You're not in class now,

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2 so.

3 MR. RYAN: I know. Battalion.

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Ot-oh.

5 MR. RYAN: And your husband was in the
6 regiment also. The point being George Washington
7 realized that officers got great medals. I mean
8 the French army came here, man order St. Louis
9 gleaming on people. Oh man, it was wonderful. But
10 the average grunt didn't get anything. So, I
11 would like to award our mayor, who was in the
12 living history program, a copy that we're allowed
13 to create at the foundation of the order of
14 merit. It was given to sergeants and privates who
15 actually did a damn good job. Okay. So, Madame
16 Mayor, I would like to -- this is the ancestor of
17 the Purple Heart, except you don't have to bleed
18 for it.

19 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Oh, good.

20 MR. RYAN: Okay. But I would like to
21 give you the order of merit from the Continental
22 Army in my role as a acclaimed universal
23 commander of the living history program, you are
24 hereby given an order of merit. Now ladies and

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2 gentlemen, in the Continental Army there is a
3 cheer. Can you say the word huzzah?

4 MULTIPLE: Huzzah.

5 MR. RYAN: Can you say huzzah? Come on,
6 Wheeler, you can do it, right. Okay. Three
7 cheers, hip hip.

8 MULTIPLE: Huzzah.

9 MR. RYAN: I can't hear you. Hip hip.

10 MULTIPLE: Huzzah.

11 MR. RYAN: I still can't hear you. Hip
12 hip.

13 MULTIPLE: Huzzah.

14 MR. RYAN: Carry on.

15 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Thank you. I just. I
16 just, thank you, Joe. Appreciate it. (Applause)

17 MR. RYAN: I'm done. I'm done.

18 MR. KESSLER: I just want to know, am I
19 a sergeant or am I a private?

20 MR. RYAN: You're an NCO.

21 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Oh, okay. Thank you.
22 Appreciate it.

23 MR. RYAN: You guys are the workers of
24 the regiment. Okay.

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2 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Thank you.

3 MR. RYAN: The backbone of it. No great
4 medals. Just --

5 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Much appreciated.
6 Good. Thank you.

7 MR. RYAN: Yeah. Well, I came here. I
8 was, you know, in '69. They brought me out of my
9 shell.

10 MR. DAN O'NEILL: Dan O'Neill, 190
11 Catherine Street. It's going to be hard to follow
12 Joe, that's for sure.

13 MR. RYAN: That's all right, your honor.

14 MR. O'NEILL: I just want to thank a few
15 people with regard to my election. Of course, to
16 the voters who cast their ballots for me, but
17 also to everyone who voted, a special thank you
18 to all of you and others who got involved in the
19 electoral process. I think we all agree public
20 participation in democracy is as important as
21 ever and you up there and others who got involved
22 show that. as did the voters coming out. I also
23 want to thank Jennifer Daly-Mchale, our outgoing
24 village justice for her assistance and guidance

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2 when I became the associate village justice ten
3 years ago. Her help was fantastic and she gave me
4 a good example of what it was to be like to be a
5 local judge. I've appeared before thousands of
6 judges but this was very help very helpful.

7 Excuse me. Also I believe that Judge Daly was the
8 first woman justice in Buchanan and maybe the
9 first woman judge in the entire town of

10 Cortlandt. She was also one of the longest
11 serving judges in Buchanan and she deserves a lot
12 of our thanks and appreciation for that. I also
13 want to thank Mayor Knickerbocker, who appointed
14 me ten years ago as the associate village justice
15 and reappointed me every year and to the village
16 trustees who confirmed that appointment over the
17 years. It was greatly appreciated. I also want to
18 thank our court clerk and actually the court
19 clerks I've worked with over the last ten years
20 and in particular Mary Mailler, our current court
21 clerk, who was in the audience a few minutes ago
22 but went back to work. She has done so much to
23 help our court system and quite frankly I could
24 not do this job effectively without her. I also

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2 want to thank the Buchanan police who, maybe you
3 don't know but they serve as our court officers
4 when court is in session. They are very
5 professional and allow us to operate the court in
6 safety, something needed. I also want to thank my
7 parents, Pat and Hugh O'Neill, for instilling in
8 me a sense of duty and service to our community
9 and to our country and lastly, but not least, but
10 to my wife, Michele, who swore me in tonight, as
11 well as our children, Peter and Leslie, for their
12 ongoing love and support. Thank you all.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Thank you, Dan. And
15 I think at the next meeting, I think we need to
16 prepare a proclamation for Judge Mchale. Thank
17 you Nick Zachary. Yes sir.

18 MR. NICK ZACHARY: So, I want to
19 congratulate those of you that won in the
20 election and thank everybody that participates in
21 this process. Having been on different boards for
22 years, I realize how hard it is to get people
23 that are willing to commit. So, anybody that's
24 willing to commit and has the village's interest

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2 at heart deserves everybody's thanks. So, thank
3 you. And one thing I want to share, like when I
4 was on the village board, I used to find that
5 when all of us agreed all the time, it was a
6 little perturbing, like how do we always agree so
7 often? I kind of liked it when there was a little
8 disagreement. And so maybe that's just something
9 to keep in mind. You guys don't all always have
10 to agree, but you have to respect each other. And
11 that's why there's a board of five people. If
12 everybody always agreed, you'd only need one
13 person up there. So you, part of what you're
14 doing as a board is sharing your opinions and
15 then the majority wins and as long as you all
16 have the village's best interest at heart, things
17 will get done in the way we need to get them
18 done. Thanks. (Applause)

19 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Thank you, Nick.
20 Would anyone else like to come up? No. Okay,
21 everyone else is shy. Okay. So, I am going to
22 make a motion to close the meeting. Thank you all
23 for coming this evening. Hopefully we'll see you
24 again at future meetings and thank everyone for

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2 their support. And can I have a second to close?

3 MS. BAEZ: Second.

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: All in favor?

5 MULTIPLE: Aye.

6 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Thank you and have a
7 great Buchanan day. Thank you.

8 MS. BAEZ: Thank you. (Applause)

9 (The public board meeting concluded at 7:37 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY

I, Juliana Castano, certify that the foregoing transcript of the Board meeting of the Village of Buchanan on April 7, 2026 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By

Juliana Castano

Date: April 24, 2026

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