

VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN

BOARD MEETINGS

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

and

Budget Public Hearing

Municipal Building

236 Tate Avenue

Buchanan, NY 10511

April 8, 2026

7:00 p.m. - 8:23 p.m.

April 8, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Theresa Knickerbocker, Mayor

Awilda Baez, Trustee

Anthony Capicotti, Trustee

Steve Laker, Trustee

Robert Wheeler, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT:

Marcus Serrano, Village Administrator

Cynthia Kempter, Village Clerk, Treasurer

Sharon Murphy, Deputy Clerk

Dominic Evangelista, Deputy Treasurer

ABSENT

Stephanie Porteus, Village Attorney

OTHERS

Darlene Garrett, 159 First Street

Sal Tavano, 167 Lindsey Avenue

Tania Drezek, 222 Travis Avenue

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

3 MS. THERESA KNICKERBOCKER: Hello.

4 Welcome to the April 8th Village of Buchanan
5 public hearing for our budget and also regular
6 board meeting. Please join me in the pledge of
7 allegiance.

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

13 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay, first we're
14 going to start with some business. I'm going to
15 make a motion to call for a public hearing on May
16 5th, regarding amending Chapter 211, Article 13,
17 entitled Communication Towers and Personal
18 Wireless Facilities. We have discussed this
19 before at a workshop, but right now we're just
20 calling for the public hearing on May 5th. Can I
21 have a second?

22 MR. STEVE LAKER: Second.

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: All in favor?

24 MULTIPLE: Aye.

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2 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay, the next is
3 I'm going to make a motion for the public
4 hearing, another public hearing on May 5th
5 regarding amending Chapter 195-22, entitled Cross
6 Connection Control Requirements. We have
7 discussed this at a workshop before and this is
8 something our engineer has recommended. And can I
9 have a second on that?

10 MR. ANTHONY CAPICOTTI: Second.

11 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: All in favor?

12 MULTIPLE: Aye.

13 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. And I'm going
14 to make a motion to open the public hearing on
15 the 2026-2027 tentative budget. Can I have a
16 second?

17 MS. AWILDA BAEZ: Second.

18 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: All in favor?

19 MULTIPLE: Aye.

20 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. So, here we
21 are back at the budget again. The budget has to
22 be passed every year. We do this, it has to be
23 passed by the end of April, before May 1st. Our
24 budget year starts on June 1st to May 31st. So we

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2 had a preliminary discussion, a presentation
3 Marcus gave us and what is the board's desire?
4 Would you like to go page by page or do you have
5 specific questions that you want to ask?

6 MS. BAEZ: Well, I sent Marcus a few
7 questions that I had. One of them was what is
8 the, and it wasn't totally on the budget, does
9 the budget for the fire department reflect what
10 they requested? He responded that they did. And I
11 asked him what was the update for the
12 postretirement benefits on the LOSAP, and he said
13 that currently they're finalizing anyone who
14 meets the requirement. When that is finally
15 determined, the village will be responsible for
16 payout of approximately 3,000 per individual per
17 year. And I also saw the questions everyone else
18 sent and I saw the responses, some of them.

19 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay.

20 MR. CAPICOTTI: I believe we should go
21 questions, answer questions that we --

22 MS. BAEZ: Sent.

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: That we have.

24 MR. CAPICOTTI: Yes, go ahead. We have,

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2 I know there was a there was a bunch of questions
3 emailed in that should be referred to and
4 answered and I'm good, I think the last
5 presentation you gave was pretty explanatory.

6 MS. BAEZ: Mm-hmm.

7 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I just have a few
8 questions. I see here a decrease in public
9 buildings, part-time of \$10,000. What --

10 MR. MARCUS SERRANO: That's, that's for
11 the part-time person, we have Timmy.

12 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay.

13 MR. SERRANO: Based on his historical,
14 he only works a couple hours cleaning the
15 buildings. So, I looked at the actual for the
16 last couple years. I was able to decrease that
17 and still provide the same services.

18 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. Good. And then
19 increase in adult recreation, adult programs of
20 20,500.

21 MR. SERRANO: That's for the seniors
22 trips. They are actually have been a lot more
23 active in the last year, but also with the
24 understanding they didn't want to impact the

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2 taxpayers. They actually are charging fees for
3 that as well. So it's no cost to the taxpayers.
4 The revenue received will pay for the trips as
5 well.

6 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay.

7 MR. LAKER: Yeah, and you budgeted the
8 20,000 on the revenue?

9 MR. SERRANO: Correct. Correct. So it's
10 gross revenue up by 21,000 and expenses up by
11 20,000. So it's a break even.

12 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: One thing I've
13 noticed animal control, there is nothing budgeted
14 for that. And I know there was a situation we
15 did, we didn't go to Bart, but the SPCA. And my
16 understanding is, I don't have accurate, I'm sure
17 accurate information, but the company or the
18 place we had decided to use is not accepting now.

19 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

20 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah, they had some
21 issues and now they're not --

22 MR. SERRANO: I can give you an update
23 on that as well.

24 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah.

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2 MR. SERRANO: I actually talked to the
3 manager last week and was going to update that in
4 the meetings anyway. Due to the situation where
5 the dogs were being delivered to, and the legal
6 issue that go on the village is actually having
7 their, one of their staff members trained, so
8 therefore they can house the dogs themselves
9 temporarily and then send them to wherever they
10 need to go after a certain number of days
11 according to the state requirements. So I didn't
12 budget anything but I haven't been charged
13 anything because we haven't been providing
14 anything. So I don't want to plug a number in not
15 knowing, again I don't know if it was proper to
16 attach, to put an amount in there.

17 MR. WHEELER: This is with the village
18 of Croton, correct?

19 MR. SERRANO: Village of Croton, yeah.
20 So they haven't billed us anything but we haven't
21 done any, that's was good. But when we talked
22 about SPCA we were going to pay for something
23 even if we didn't use it. So and I don't want to
24 budget for something and charge taxes we might

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2 not use it at the same time. And it's going to be
3 a minor number anyway, whenever that does happen.
4 So they're actually going to start doing
5 everything in-house. They're going to have a
6 storage area and their own DPW garage and then
7 we're going to renew the IMA with them as well.
8 We talked about that too. So that's the update.
9 So the plan is for them to house them, for one of
10 the employees to be totally trained, house the
11 animal so the dogs for a temporary amount of time
12 they're required and then take what it'll be
13 adopted or whatever has to happen to the animal
14 afterwards. That's the game plan.

15 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah. I think
16 that'll be seldom that that will happen because
17 most people when, if the dog is loose, you know.

18 MR. SERRANO: Yeah, they find them.

19 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Everybody's out
20 looking for the dog, so.

21 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

22 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: One of the things I
23 wanted to ask too, and I mentioned it, I think
24 last month, we used to have like a vehicle

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2 replacement line and you said that we didn't have
3 that anymore.

4 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

5 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I just, you know,
6 it's up for discussion, of course, but I think
7 going forward I think we should have some type of
8 a line whether it's for the police vehicle or,
9 you know, because we know every two, three years
10 we have to replace a vehicle.

11 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

12 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: What is the
13 approximate cost that we can just kind of put
14 that into a line so that we're not suddenly
15 looking for money for a police vehicle or bonding
16 it.

17 MR. SERRANO: Right. Right. And since we
18 have fund balance as well, if we, we're going to
19 discuss that later, a vehicle that's like \$60,000
20 we have the fund balance available too. So again,
21 I didn't -- again, it's a board decision, the
22 board budget. I didn't want to increase the
23 budget another 8, 15 or 20,000 or even \$10,000.

24 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah, I'm not

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2 looking to increase it, yeah.

3 MR. SERRANO: I didn't want to increase
4 the budget when we have fund balance to for those
5 day-to-day things that we need to buy. So we have
6 flexibility now, by having a fund balance to
7 offset some of those expenses and not increase
8 taxes. And then we can have to talk long term for
9 the big ticket items, that's a separate thing we
10 need to discuss.

11 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah. It goes into
12 some type of a capital account.

13 MR. SERRANO: Correct. Yes.

14 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. Animal control
15 placement. You know, I wanted to ask something,
16 with all of our equipment and computers and
17 everything like that, what type of inventory do
18 we -- do we have some type of extensive inventory
19 control on our --

20 MR. SERRANO: Well what required on the
21 state, so Cindy does that for us and with
22 Dominic, so.

23 MS. CYNTHIA KEMPTER: We have a fixed
24 asset page that the auditors always look at every

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2 year and make sure we have everything on there.

3 MR. SERRANO: And then for computer
4 equipment, we have a hierarchy of all the
5 computer equipment and the servers and how
6 they're connected to each other. So, we have that
7 as well. So, we're required under the state
8 comptroller's office to keep an inventory and we,
9 that gets depreciated on an annual basis.

10 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay.

11 MR. SERRANO: So, that we need to do and
12 then the small ticket items, you know, we
13 actually keep a small inventory of that stuff,
14 too. Yeah. So, everything we have an inventory.

15 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I know the big
16 equipment is easy to do, like a garbage truck.
17 That's pretty simple to do.

18 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

19 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: But --

20 MR. SERRANO: Yes.

21 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: All right. I just
22 needed to refresh my mind on that.

23 MR. SERRANO: Absolutely.

24 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. Any other

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2 board members have any questions? No? Okay.

3 Because I know we had a resident, a couple
4 residents, had some questions.

5 MR. SERRANO: I think Steve was going to
6 say --

7 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Oh, sorry, I didn't.

8 MR. LAKER: No, no, no, no. I know that
9 there's a resident here and she had submitted
10 some questions. So, I have no problem going
11 through that and with Marcus's help as well. Some
12 of the questions I had, she brought out as well.
13 So, no problem going over that now.

14 MR. SERRANO: Yep.

15 Mr. LAKER: So, I don't know if she'd
16 like to come and speak now.

17 MS. DARLENE GARRETT: So, do we want to
18 go question? You all have the email, I assume.
19 So, much of this is for my education. I probably
20 ask questions.

21 MR. SERRANO: Pull your mic down a
22 little bit so the people can hear you better. You
23 don't have to lean over. Just bring it down.

24 MS. GARRETT: Are you saying I'm short?

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2 MR. LAKER: I'm sorry if you could just
3 state your name and address for the record.

4 MS. GARRETT: Oh, I'm sorry, Darlene
5 Garrett, 159 First Street. So, yes, I sent in
6 about four pages. Obviously, I copied and paste
7 just to try to make it easy, not to, you know,
8 for everybody. So, the first area was we have a
9 full-time code enforcer, we have a part-time code
10 enforcer. I saw also, again a part-time value in
11 there of like maybe 14,000 and now it's 10. I
12 can't remember exact numbers and then 30,000 for
13 a consultant which I know is for the AMS project
14 which I was under the impression AMS is paying
15 for.

16 MR. LAKER: Correct.

17 MS. GARRETT: And so let's first address
18 a village of our size, do we still need a full-
19 time and a part-time code enforcer?

20 MR. LAKER: Yeah, I think that the way
21 that the code enforcement officer was hired, I
22 think at the time there was a necessity to have
23 two different individuals. I believe for the
24 license requirements. I believe now the cost of

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2 both of those equate to the equivalency of one
3 officer full-time. The other additional part-time
4 expense that is on the budget, and Marcus again
5 correct anything if I'm wrong with anything, but
6 that's for the staff. It's an allocation of the
7 office staff doing work for the building
8 department. So, they budget it --

9 MS. GARRETT: Okay. So, in addition to
10 the other information I'm sorry, in addition to
11 the other salary seen in there, that's 14,000 on
12 top of --

13 MR. LAKER: Correct, correct. It was
14 14,000 previously. Now, it's dropped to 10,000.

15 MS. GARRETT: Ten I think.

16 MR. LAKER: Based on actual.

17 MR. SERRANO: So, what we're doing with
18 that is, just to give you an idea is, just to let
19 everybody know, we do have a full-time building
20 inspector. They're not code enforcement. Full-
21 time building inspector and a part-time building
22 inspector which includes building, fire
23 inspections and as well as code enforcement. So
24 the part-timer only works Mondays and Fridays,

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2 which allowed the building inspector to go out do
3 more inspections as well. So that's how that
4 allocated and that also gives time for office
5 work to review plans that comes in. So that's
6 what the part-timer does. And then the building
7 inspector goes out to do code enforcement,
8 building inspections and whatever has to happen.
9 By having two people, it allows them more work to
10 be done. If you look at the, if you ever talk to
11 or walk to the building department, you can see
12 how much work, how many inspections they have to
13 be done. If we didn't have them, that would delay
14 the process for people who put applications in.
15 So, we're trying to be as efficient as possible
16 to respond to people, especially since we do
17 before a sale, we have to do a re-inspection,
18 which takes a couple hours to do as well. So, if
19 we only have one full-time building inspector. is
20 going to delay that process. And I don't know if
21 you ever sold a house in the village, there are
22 people that call right away, when can we get the
23 inspection, when can we get the inspection
24 because my sale is pending on this inspection. So

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2 that's why the benefit of having one full-time
3 one part-timer so we try to schedule inspections
4 on Fridays and Mondays when I have somebody in
5 the office, to do all inspections. The part-timer
6 is, the part-time person we have in the finance
7 department that does multitasks. Cindy, Sharon
8 and Dominic help not only the building
9 department, the DPW department, the water
10 department, the newsletters. So that part-time is
11 just in digital staffing to help with the
12 computer program for the building department as
13 well as the office staff. So that's an allocation
14 of one part-time person that works, I wish it was
15 two or three days a week, three days a week.

16 MS. KEMTPER: Two and a half.

17 MR. SERRANO: Two and a half days. So
18 during that two and a half days, it actually then
19 allows the staff to do other work at the same
20 time. So again, as we all know, we try to respond
21 to our residents as quickly as possible and get
22 our work done at the same time. So that, and so
23 we try to fill those business with part-timers
24 versus full-timers, because then you won't you

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2 don't have to pay the benefits as well.

3 MS. GARRETT: Okay. So and then the
4 30,000, where is that showing in the -- because
5 you nicely in your presentation, Marcus you know
6 list out some of the top revenue, you know,
7 generators and I didn't see the 30,000 in that
8 top, you know, that slide.

9 MR. LAKER: Yeah that so that's covered
10 in the building permit fee from AMS, so that,
11 that's shown, the revenue is shown in the
12 billing, on the permit side and so that line item
13 that you're seeing is just the cost.

14 MR. SERRANO: Correct. And just to give
15 you some additional background for that, the
16 building permit fee, we received it last year.

17 MS. GARRETT: Mm-hmm.

18 MR. SERRANO: Okay. Then the
19 inspections, as you know, the building is still
20 being progressed, so that \$30,000 was covered
21 that we that we received, we received \$600,000
22 600 and almost \$50,000 in building permit fees.
23 So, we're paying the \$30,000 and additional fees
24 over time until the building is done, so overall,

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2 we're probably going to pay about \$150,000 in
3 inspections, but we received \$600,000 in building
4 permit fees. And the remainder goes to offset the
5 taxes.

6 MS. GARRETT: Okay, thank you. Okay. So,
7 that was answered. The adult recreation program,
8 so, I'm sorry, can you just --

9 MR. SERRANO: Sure.

10 MS. GARRETT: -- you talked about it a
11 minute ago, so I apologize. So, this is for
12 seniors because there's a separate section for
13 seniors, right? So, there's like the adult
14 programs and the senior section?

15 MR. SERRANO: Correct. Correct. So, yes,
16 this was the senior trips. They've been a lot
17 more active. We have a full, part-time person as
18 well that helps with the seniors. They've never
19 gone on that many, as many trips. They're much
20 more active, a lot more people are joining. So
21 they're, they're charging the whenever they go on
22 the trip, they charge a fee. That fee offsets. So
23 we have a revenue and expense and they wipe each
24 other off. So there's no increase to the taxes.

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2 MR. LAKER: If you actually look at line
3 1972, that'll show the revenue.

4 MS. GARRETT: Thank you. I was just
5 going to ask the question, yes.

6 MR. LAKER: So it offsets.

7 MS. GARRETT: Okay. Okay. Medical
8 insurance and I you know there's nothing we can
9 do, right.

10 MR. SERRANO: Right.

11 MS. GARRETT: It increases every year as
12 we know, but you know has, when's the last time
13 an analysis was done to potentially change
14 providers.

15 MR. LAKER: Yeah. The problem with the
16 municipality is almost 99 percent of the
17 employees are covered by a union, yeah, a union
18 contract. So there really isn't much that could
19 be done.

20 MR. SERRANO: Yeah.

21 MR. LAKER: Unless we're in negotiations
22 with one of those unions.

23 MR. SERRANO: So let me give some
24 additional background with that. On the

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2 municipalities, NYSHIP, which is the New York
3 state plan, okay which is throughout the entire
4 state of New York, including state employees
5 county employees, that has about a million
6 participants. Okay, so they're able to negotiate,
7 even though the fees go up they're able to
8 negotiate fees with hospitals and docs and so on
9 and so forth. So that's a separate negotiation.
10 And all union contracts throughout Westchester
11 County I've seen, if you want to change
12 insurance, insurance carriers, the union has to
13 agree to it. So it has to be negotiated. And
14 also, in the contract has to be the same as or
15 better that's being offered currently. So to give
16 you some back from my experience, I worked in
17 other municipalities and when I was back working
18 in Dobbs Ferry, there was an alternative called
19 Mepco, or POMCO. And some people went into that
20 program. The problem was that's a pool kind of
21 program and what happens is based on your, even
22 though it's a pool, they based on individual
23 experience. So the Dobbs Ferry, over two years
24 had really bad experience. So we paid the

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2 premium. At the end of the year, they review your
3 claims and for two years in a row we had to pay
4 additional million dollars based on the exposure
5 that we had. So Dobbs Ferry left POMCO and went
6 back to the Empire plan because just a straight
7 dollar amount you pay, even though your premium
8 goes up there's no surprises at the end of the
9 year. So that's the only alternative. So if you
10 look throughout Westchester County the only
11 people who really have any alternative is POMCO
12 and that I wouldn't even recommend because you
13 don't know what your experience is going to be.
14 If you have real good experience, your rate is
15 fine. But you have one issue, a heart attack or,
16 or something cancer, then you're going to be
17 increased substantially and is a payout now over
18 time. So, to give you some examples.

19 MS. GARRETT: It's like the village
20 being self-insured.

21 MR. SERRANO: Exactly. Exactly, right.

22 MS. GARRETT: Yeah. The, I think it's
23 like 180, Anthony, you mentioned it one meeting
24 to me, but where is that shown in the revenue?

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2 The, oh, oh my god, rec fees from AMS?

3 MR. SERRANO: Oh, the rec fees go into a
4 account called Trusted Agency and that's like a
5 what they call a trust in issue, but money
6 holding in trust and that money goes in there.
7 And then the village board has authority and the
8 mayor always asks every couple months how much do
9 we have in there? So when the money goes in
10 there, then the village board has authority to
11 expend that money, so that's the entrusted
12 agency.

13 MR. CAPICOTTI: But we haven't received
14 that money yet, right?

15 MR. SERRANO: We haven't received the
16 AMS --

17 MS. GARRETT: Right, right, right but
18 it's due this year, right, this budget year?

19 MR. SERRANO: It's due at the time of
20 CO. So they're planning to open sometime in May.
21 So before they, the building department can issue
22 a CO, they have to give us the money.

23 MS. GARRETT: And, again I apologize
24 because I'm not an accountant, but this trust and

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2 agency was this somewhere in the budget?

3 MR. SERRANO: No.

4 MS. GARRETT: No? Separate?

5 MR. SERRANO: Right. It's a separate
6 fund, because the general fund is only based on
7 your taxes and the trust and agency for example
8 is an account that like, I don't want to get --
9 we can always sit down and talk it.

10 MS. GARRETT: Yes.

11 MR. SERRANO: But for accounting
12 purposes, the trust and agency holds like when
13 people pay, when you pay payroll taxes that goes
14 into trust. You don't see that in general fund.
15 You see the gross amount but the money goes to
16 the trust and agency. And then we would pay the
17 federal tax, the state tax, any voluntary. So the
18 trusting agency is like a holding account that
19 then transfers the monies where they have to go.

20 MS. GARRETT: Okay.

21 MR. LAKER: And there's been money
22 sitting in there for years.

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: It's about 225,000.

24 MR. SERRANO: For years, yes.

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2 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: So after the AMS fee
3 --

4 MS. GARRETT: That's what I was trying
5 to ask, what's in there?

6 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: -- it'll be about
7 400,000.

8 MS. GARRETT: Okay. That's what I was
9 curious about.

10 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: That can be used for
11 recreation.

12 MR. SERRANO: Correct. And then the
13 Village Square project we talked about, when that
14 happens, that'll be additional money going into
15 that as well.

16 MS. GARRETT: Okay. Capital projects,
17 maybe I can sum up my thought process here was
18 because I know I asked it when I first started
19 coming to meetings. You know, these things should
20 be budgeted at the beginning of the year and, you
21 know, everybody we're sitting here for meetings
22 upon, you know, about the pavilion, about the
23 pool, which are all really important and safety
24 wise as I mentioned in here. There's \$350,000

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2 being you know transferred which is the normal --

3 MR. SERRANO: That for paving, all for
4 paving. It's all paving.

5 MS. GARRETT: For the paving?

6 MR. SERRANO: Yes, correct.

7 MS. GARRETT: So where, and maybe that's
8 a board thing because you mention it in here --

9 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

10 MS. GARRETT: -- Marcus and, you know,
11 what does the board feel is a priority. My whole
12 point is how can a budget be passed until you
13 have that priority --

14 MR. SERRANO: That'll give you, yes.

15 MS. GARRETT: -- to put in to the
16 capital expenditures?

17 MR. SERRANO: Correct. Steve, do you
18 want to address that, or you want me to address
19 it?

20 MR. LAKER: I mean just with a onetime
21 cost, I mean 1.4 million, I don't think it's it
22 would be fair for the taxpayers if we increased
23 our budget number by \$1.4 million. I mean that
24 would be a what a 30, 40 thousand or percent

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2 increase.

3 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

4 MR. LAKER: So I mean there has to be
5 other means to take care of that.

6 MR. SERRANO: So to give you some
7 examples and experience I've done in other
8 municipalities. You could talk to anybody else.
9 Though like we talked about the police department
10 or some of that small ticket items, a police car
11 something like that, normally you would budget
12 for that because it's a one-time expense and the
13 useful life for those items is very short, five
14 years. But if you're talking about the pool the
15 pavilion and you're talking about millions of
16 dollars and I know people don't like the word
17 bonding, but that's a long time investment for
18 like, let's say we do the pool. Let's say the
19 pool is a million dollars. Okay. Some people have
20 different ways of thinking. It's a board
21 decision, not mine. I'm just thinking financially
22 that it's somewhat unfair to tax people now for a
23 benefit that is going to be for future
24 generations. For example, if I started taxing

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2 everybody another \$20,000 for a pool that's going
3 to be a million dollars in the future. So you, so
4 maybe your parents paid for it over the last 20
5 years and then we and then we fix the pool and
6 then it's going to help for next 20 years on top
7 of that. And so to me, it's more of what's fair
8 and unfair for the current taxpayers? So what if
9 you want to sell your house and you've been
10 paying, you never have the benefit of the pool.
11 The other thing is as municipalities, you might
12 know, we got very good interest rates when you do
13 a bond, if we want to do a bond. And you do a
14 onetime increase, it covers the bond, number two
15 and number three, our investments that we got in
16 the money fund balance were earning a pretty
17 good, three or three-and-a-half percent interest
18 that actually offset the taxes. If we borrow
19 something might be three percent as well and that
20 effect is zero to the taxpayers at the same time.
21 So, and then you then you stretch out those
22 payments over years, you're not taking money in
23 your savings account for real emergencies and you
24 plan for it. And there's different funding

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2 sources. You can do a BAN and we can talk, I
3 don't know if you know what a BAN is.

4 MS. GARRETT: I saw that in the budget.

5 MR. SERRANO: It's a bond anticipation
6 note, that's good for one year, you get your
7 projects all together and then you do one bond
8 and you get a better interest rate and then you
9 spread that over the next 15, 20 years and then
10 the people who are paying for it are the ones
11 benefiting from that, from that project. So we
12 need to determine what are the small items or the
13 bigger items. And then that's a public discussion
14 that has to be discussed and what the taxpayers,
15 how they want to do it.

16 MS. GARRETT: So that's not something
17 then that has to be decided prior to adopting
18 this budget?

19 MR. SERRANO: No.

20 MR. LAKER: No, actually a BAN is what
21 we did was it two or three years ago?

22 MR. SERRANO: Yes, we did. Yep.

23 MR. LAKER: Yeah. When we purchased the,
24 it was the, I think the fire truck.

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2 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: The fire truck.

3 MR. SERRANO: The fire truck, yeah.

4 MR. LAKER: And a couple police vehicles
5 I think.

6 MR. SERRANO: Yeah. And my experience
7 has always been, if you look at other
8 municipalities, capital budgets are discussed
9 separately because, like I said, either you're
10 going to borrow the money over time, you use some
11 of your fund balance, we talk about the fund
12 balance. So you can, just like we did with the
13 fire department. We have a, we also have a
14 reserve for the fire department equipment. So we
15 said we use some of that money from the fire
16 department equipment that we put away like in
17 trust and agent for the fire department. We
18 borrow some money and we balance everything out.
19 And we had a public discussion and then the board
20 asked me, well, how much will the bond be,
21 principal and interest over time, just like you
22 do a mortgage? Do you want to reduce the bond,
23 okay, more cash and that's the public discussion
24 that the board will have with the public. So, so

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2 we just want to give the board different tools
3 that they can use to balance things out and think
4 about long term. So, because I think about budget
5 not one year, I want to see it for next four or
6 five years, how it's going to affect your taxes.

7 MS. GARRETT: Right. Right.

8 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: And Darlene, the
9 fund balance right now is four million. So the
10 1.4 technically could come out of the fund
11 balance. And that's a question I want to ask with
12 the auditor too, or you Marcus. There's a certain
13 amount that a municipality should have.

14 MR. SERRANO: Yes. So the fund balance -

15 -

16 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I forget what ours,
17 ours used to be like the 1.5.

18 MR. SERRANO: Oh, 1.5, based on right
19 now, it should be \$1.5 million.

20 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. Correct. All
21 right.

22 MR. SERRANO: So we actually can use 2.4
23 million.

24 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Right. So there's,

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2 if the board wanted to expend some of that money
3 for the sewer treatment plant or the pool, that's
4 an option also instead of bonding.

5 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

6 MS. GARRETT: Okay.

7 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: So it's up, it's up
8 to the board.

9 MR. SERRANO: Correct. And one other
10 point I want to make is we have estimates, like
11 the, with the 1.4 million for the wastewater
12 treatment plant. That's the estimate from the
13 engineer. We haven't gone out to bid. So we don't
14 know maybe it might be one million. So again, I
15 think it would be, I don't want to use the word
16 irresponsible, but I want to start putting \$1.4
17 million away when we only even need a million
18 dollars.

19 MS. GARRETT: Yeah, that's, that's kind
20 of my point. Where is the thought of where that
21 money is, because that's a given that we have to
22 make up what it was \$11 million of the grant and
23 Yeah.

24 MSRS Correct. So the idea for the board

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2 we did discuss, when we actually go out to bid
3 and the engineer tells us, okay, these are the
4 final bids and let's say it's 1 million, rather
5 than 1.4, do you want to take out of fund
6 balance, do you want to take a BAN and the BAN
7 was good, but the BAN is only good for one year
8 and you can skip the first year payment and just
9 pay a little bit of interest. So it gives you
10 time to plan accordingly and then we see where
11 the pavilion stands, where the pool stands and
12 we, as we have discussion, what are the majority
13 what is the priorities of the budget of the
14 board, how much we need for it, now we have
15 actual numbers and now how are we going to fund
16 those? So capital, like I said, capital tends to
17 be a little different because since you can
18 borrow money and not pay principal and interest
19 for another year, you can plan for another year
20 and that's when it's going to affect your budget
21 in the future.

22 MS. GARRETT: Well I understand that's
23 you know a good thing with, just like your credit
24 card though, right, you know. Like --

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2 MR. CAPICOTTI: But we're also getting
3 three percent on that fund balance as well.

4 MR. SERRANO: Yeah. So with that --

5 MR. CAPICOTTI: So we're making money
6 with it. As long as it stays in there, we're
7 making money on it. So it's good for us in that.

8 MS. GARRETT: Right. Like you say, it's
9 evening it out at this point.

10 MR. SERRANO: Correct. Yep.

11 MS. GARRETT: The water fund, same kind
12 of concept, right? When I looked at it and you
13 mentioned, you know, to start putting that money
14 aside, I see there is a decent amount in, you
15 know, so is this going to, if it's decided, is
16 that going to be taken out as a separate bucket
17 of money over the next four years?

18 MR. SERRANO: Yeah. So if you if you
19 look at in the budget, at the last line of
20 transfer, transfer to other funds 550,000. That's
21 to cover what, it's the same thing as we do with
22 the fire department.

23 MR. LAKER: It's the same, allocated,
24 yeah.

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2 MR. SERRANO: Same thing. So we use it
3 for if there's a major water main break and let's
4 say, the water fund is a separate fund. As you
5 know, you pay separate water bill. So if anything
6 happens really bad and we have to take an
7 emergency, we have the money set aside. It could
8 be used for meters. it could be used for water
9 main breaks. It could be used for valve
10 replacement. So, we're actually now we have the
11 capability of putting money aside for emergencies
12 that we never had before.

13 MS. GARRETT: Do we have an estimation
14 of what this is going to cost in four years?

15 MR. SERRANO: Oh, I got, I can get you
16 the number, but I got it from Randy, yes.

17 MS. GARRETT: Okay.

18 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: You know, it seems
19 like we just did those meters, like yesterday.

20 MR. SERRANO: Eight years ago.

21 MR. BOB WHEELER: That was eight years
22 ago.

23 MR. SERRANO: Eight years ago.

24 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: And they have a

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2 lifespan of --

3 MR. SERRANO: Ten.

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: -- 10 years. Wow.

5 MS. GARRETT: Transportation, street
6 administration, there was an 18,000 --

7 MR. SERRANO: Yes

8 MS. GARRETT: Out of class, I just
9 assume that meant out of title?

10 MR. SERRANO: Yeah. So I'll give you an
11 example of that. So that's one specifically that
12 happens. Like, for example, the general foreman,
13 which is Randy, if he's away on vacation or he's
14 not, he's sick or something like that. So
15 somebody fills in for him and then he fills up to
16 general foreman. So he gets out of title pay. So
17 he gets he gets the difference between his rate
18 and Randy's rate.

19 MS. GARRETT: Right. Right. Yeah. I
20 understand out of title, I didn't know what the
21 function was.

22 MR. SERRANO: Correct. That's
23 specifically for Randy. And just to let you know,
24 all the departments have had that happen. Snow

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2 removal, a laborer might work as the MEO because
3 you have the CDL. So, but that's covered in
4 overtime lines. So, a lot of other laborers might
5 work out of title if they have the right
6 experience to work out of title. But that's the
7 one that stands out a little bit more, because
8 there's only one person in that department.

9 MS. GARRETT: Okay. So, this 18 was
10 specifically for Randy's fill-in?

11 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

12 MS. GARRETT: Okay.

13 MR. LAKER: Right.

14 MS. GARRETT: Street lighting and again
15 I have questions and we -- thank you for giving
16 me so much time.

17 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: We're giving you
18 time because you're not speaking the whole three
19 minutes, you know, it's kind of like everybody
20 else is joining in. So, it's fine, Darlene.
21 You're asking good questions.

22 MS. GARRETT: I mean, other expenditures
23 in general that that I see, right? So --

24 MR. LAKER: Yeah, just going back to the

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2 street lights. So, that is repairs and
3 maintenance on the street lights primarily.

4 MR. SERRANO: Throughout the, so that's
5 the antique looking lights and those are the
6 Cobra headlights. So, one of those antique
7 lights, for example, we, if a car accident
8 happened, which happened, we don't know who did
9 it. It's \$6,000 just to replace one of those
10 lights, light poles for example. So that's to
11 cover and again, it's just estimate, just in case
12 something happens, that's where. The cobra heads
13 are good but they also LEDs and sometimes LEDs go
14 out and you have to replace them. And it also
15 cover the electrical cost for electrician to come
16 in if something happens.

17 MS. GARRETT: That's what I was going to
18 ask. So like the work is done by our DPW, but if
19 it's something that they can't --

20 MR. SERRANO: Electrician, yes, because
21 we don't have electrician.

22 MS. GARRETT: So you, we actually hire
23 an electrician each time.

24 MR. SERRANO: Yes, correct. And that's

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2 required to do that. Yes.

3 MS. GARRETT: Right. So some of this may
4 have been answered now in the allocations of
5 salaries, you know this part-time treasurer,
6 right, of 18,000, but I assume that's an
7 allocation?

8 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

9 MS. GARRETT: Out. Okay. There's a
10 uniform section, not a lot of money, but I don't
11 know what uniforms that area needs.

12 MR. LAKER: That's also contractually
13 obligated through the union. Yeah, that's in the
14 union contract.

15 MS. GARRETT: Okay. And then a little
16 bit was talked about and certainly fixed assets,
17 right, all computers and such are a fixed asset,
18 five-year depreciation, I assume?

19 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

20 MS. GARRETT: So last year there was
21 \$40,000 spent. This or I'm sorry. Yes. Last year
22 was 40, this year is 35,000 being requested.

23 MR. SERRANO: Mm-hmm.

24 MS. GARRETT: How many computers are we

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2 -- what, what?

3 MR. SERRANO: That includes --

4 MR. LAKER: The services and software.

5 MKRSR That includes cyber security,
6 disaster recovery. That's not just for computer,
7 if it was computer equipment, it will be in the
8 200 line. In the 400 lines, that's cyber security
9 software maintenance for the, for all the
10 financial applications, for the building
11 department applications. So that's overcoming for
12 all the cyber security, we actually have a
13 outside service to house our data outside. So
14 that's include all IT applications.

15 MR. LAKER: Our email and --

16 MR. SERRANO: Yeah.

17 MS. GARRETT: I mean, I do see there's
18 \$10,000 though. You mentioned the, I'm sorry,
19 code enforcer?

20 MR. SERRANO: Yes.

21 MS. GARRETT: I don't mean to, their
22 area was 10,000?

23 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

24 MS. GARRETT: Computers.

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2 MR. SERRANO: Yeah, because they have a
3 separate, they have a separate software
4 application.

5 MS. GARRETT: I know he's got this
6 program, the software, new application.

7 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

8 MS. GARRETT: So other expenditures
9 under you know law of \$70,000.

10 MR. SERRANO: Yeah, that's for special
11 counsel, if we need special counsel. We
12 definitely have one right now. That one we
13 approved the other day, Pitchenelli [phonetic],
14 right? So remember the board needs to hire a
15 special counsel because our village attorney is a
16 cash off for everything, but if we need a special
17 counsel regarding a certain item, the board has
18 the authority to hire special counsel. So we have
19 one special counsel regarding a code enforcement
20 issue that the board felt it was better to
21 contract that because it's going to take a lot of
22 time to do it. So that's what that's for.

23 MS. GARRETT: Okay.

24 MR. SERRANO: And also we have a lawsuit

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2 going on. I can say it. There was a lawsuit that
3 happened from back to the '80s, that we have to
4 defend ourselves, because we have no insurance.
5 So that's to pay for that special counsel for --

6 MS. GARRETT: 1980s?

7 MR. SERRANO: 1980s, yep. Yep.

8 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: It just, it
9 resurrected itself a few years ago.

10 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

11 MS. GARRETT: We have no statute of
12 limitation? Okay.

13 MR. SERRANO: No they, there was statute
14 of limitation, but the state rescinded that and
15 that opened the door again for people to file
16 more lawsuits.

17 MS. GARRETT: Love New York, love New
18 York. Storm sewers, consultants for \$10,000
19 previous year and this year's budget, tentative
20 budget is 20,000.

21 MR. SERRANO: Yeah, that's what --

22 MS. GARRETT: What are consultants?

23 MR. SERRANO: Remember one of your last
24 emails regarding the storm water? so that's for

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2 the village engineer to meet all MS4
3 requirements. He has to file the documentations.
4 That's mostly, that's all engineering. That's to
5 cover all the required reporting and anything he
6 needs to do for storm water.

7 MR. LAKER: And there were some
8 different requirements and reporting that
9 occurred last year as opposed to this year.

10 MR. SERRANO: Yes.

11 MR. LAKER: So now he's caught up to --

12 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah, that was
13 mentioned a couple of meetings ago. The DEC
14 requires some more.

15 MR. SERRANO: The DEC requires a whole
16 bunch of new reporting that has to take place,
17 eys.

18 MS. GARRETT: So that 20, and again this
19 is accounting, I get it. But that 20,000 is
20 separate from and, because the other one of my
21 questions, the 135,000 that is being allocated --

22 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

23 MS. GARRETT: For the engineer?

24 MR. SERRANO: Correct. Yeah. The 135 is

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2 specific, for general engineering, for anything
3 in the village that has to happen and that's
4 based on hourly rate. There's no contract, to
5 answer your question about that one.

6 MS. GARRETT: Okay. That was my other
7 question.

8 MR. SERRANO: Yeah, So, whatever the
9 board wants him to do, that's what and again it's
10 a budgeted number. It might be more, it might be
11 less, depending on what happens. And that I know
12 specifically is just for the storm water.

13 MS. GARRETT: Okay. Okay, so that's
14 answered and I think, you know, and again this is
15 nothing personal for anybody in the room, of
16 course, but the way that I read in the budget,
17 salaries it's just a little strange to me because
18 I'm not sure that's really some salaries and I'm
19 sure it's just the view of what I'm looking at. I
20 put in a FOIL request maybe for a different view
21 that I may need. Because I'm not sure that --

22 MR. SERRANO: Oh, if you want people's
23 salaries, it's FOILable, yeah, you just ask for
24 salaries.

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2 MS. GARRETT: But what's strange to me
3 is why isn't the budget like, I don't want to say
4 clearer, because maybe that's the way the budget
5 needs to be, but --

6 MR. LAKER: Well in particular, this one
7 line item, I know what you're referring to in the
8 administrator's --

9 MR. SERRANO: Right.

10 MR. LAKER: -- bucket.

11 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

12 MR. LAKER: It it's only allocating the
13 portion of the administrator's salary that's
14 allocated to administration of the village. So
15 other portions of his salary is allocated towards
16 other things. He wears many hats and covers many
17 departments.

18 MR. SERRANO: And that's the same for
19 that's for the office staff, like I said. But
20 like I said we have a separate fund, for example,
21 water. So my salary, Sharon's salary, Dominic's
22 salary Cindy's salary, they, we're doing water
23 bills, so we have apportioned peoples' salary. It
24 wouldn't be fair the taxpayer to cover 100

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2 percent of an expense, when people paying water
3 bills are actually providing a service as well.
4 And it's true in all budgets, so definitely if
5 you want, we have, I have a spreadsheet, if you
6 want everybody's individual salaries, no problem,
7 I'll give it to you anytime you want. That's
8 public information.

9 MS. GARRETT: Okay. No. Yeah, I put in a
10 FOIL request, but you know, it was just because
11 of how I'm viewing it.

12 MR. SERRANO: Absolutely.

13 MS. GARRETT: A little strange. Did I
14 have others or did I do it? Nope, that was it. I
15 think that was it.

16 MR. SERRANO: All right. Thank you.
17 Thanks for your questions.

18 MS. GARRETT: Thank you.

19 MS. BAEZ: Darlene, thank you, your
20 questions were very insightful.

21 MS. GARRETT: Thank you.

22 MR. LAKER: Yes, thank you.

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Anyone else with any
24 questions on the budget? I'm hoping not to close

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2 it this evening in case other residents have
3 questions. We do have to pass it by, like I said,
4 by May 1st, but we do have a another workshop
5 coming up this month. And that's usually what we
6 do. We usually leave it open and have it closed
7 at the, at the workshop the end of the month.

8 MS. KEMPTER: Another question.

9 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Oh, yes, sir.

10 MR. SAL TAVANO: I have a question.

11 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Sure.

12 MR. TAVANO: Hello everyone.

13 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Hi.

14 MR. TAVANO: I'm Sal Tavano. What else
15 do I say, where I live?

16 MR. SERRANO: Yes.

17 MR. TAVANO: Sure. 167 Lindsay Avenue,
18 since I was six months old. That's when I moved
19 there. Well, I had help. My parents helped me,
20 but, that's when I moved. Quick question on the,
21 the website, I found some difficulty locating the
22 proposed budget. And I found it on, it's
23 buchananny.gov where I found the budget
24 information, but maybe it's me, but I had

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2 difficulty just going to the Buchanan website. I,
3 you know, when I look at the departments and so
4 forth. And I don't know, maybe I could you know
5 get pointed in the right direction at some time
6 or maybe there you know could be some clarity in
7 the future on where to find that information when
8 it first comes out.

9 MR. SERRANO: Sure. You could always
10 call the office. We'll be more than willing to
11 help you whenever you need something.

12 MR. TAVANO: Yeah. But I was just
13 thinking in terms of the, you know, the
14 constituents to have it, you know, readily
15 available on the website that people might go
16 directly to. You know when I went to
17 buchananny.gov, I was able to see different
18 documents there that came up. But if you look at
19 the website you know with the various departments
20 and the information, the calendars I couldn't
21 find it. So, I just thought for clarity it might
22 help or will help me anyway. I did find out that
23 the elevation of Buchanan is 39 feet, So, it's
24 pretty high up there. Anyway, that's all I had

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2 tonight. Thank you.

3 MS. BAEZ: You learned something from
4 it. So, can it be put on the website?

5 MR. SERRANO: Yeah. What I can do in the
6 future, I can make sure they put it on the
7 homepage, but right now you have to go to
8 documents and find it there.

9 MS. BAEZ: I, yeah, it seems that he
10 needs something that's user friendly.

11 MR. SERRANO: We can put it on the home
12 page.

13 MS. BAEZ: All right.

14 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: All right. So, I --
15 does any other board members have any questions
16 on the budget or --

17 MR. LAKER: No, I think I think Marcus,
18 I think you did a a fantastic job. I'm going to
19 wait for them --

20 MS. BAEZ: Sharon.

21 MR. LAKER: -- to finish.

22 MS. BAEZ: Sharon.

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: What?

24 MR. LAKER: So, yeah, I think you did a

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2 --

3 MR. SERRANO: Okay, no problem, thank
4 you.

5 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay, we're good.

6 MR. LAKER: -- fantastic job. Not only
7 the way you presented it, but everything you
8 accounted for. I think, you know, a one percent
9 increase or 1.2, that's the best, you know, that
10 we've done in 11 years.

11 MR. WHEELER: Many years.

12 MR. LAKER: Yes. I don't see anything
13 else that that really needs to be discussed. I'd
14 be comfortable with moving forward with it.

15 MS. BAEZ: I agree. So, would I.

16 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I know Darlene has
17 some questions that haven't been answered. But
18 Marcus, I do want to ask you something. So it's
19 up to the board. I'm, you know, it's up to the
20 board. I --

21 MS. BAEZ: I think it was very
22 comprehensive with her questions.

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah. But she's
24 asking for some more information.

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2 MS. BAEZ: She didn't say that. You said
3 that.

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: No, she has some
5 FOIL information in. So she --

6 MS. BAEZ: Oh, that's different. That's
7 about salaries. Yeah.

8 MR. CAPICOTTI: That's not going to
9 change the budget.

10 MS. BAEZ: Yeah.

11 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: So, I do have a
12 question, and maybe I missed something, but with
13 reference to the kitchen in the office.

14 MR. SERRANO: Yeah.

15 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I don't remember the
16 board having a discussion on doing the kitchen
17 over. Did I miss something or did was there a
18 discussion about doing the kitchen?

19 MR. SERRANO: Thee, it been discussed
20 for many, many years that, you know, talking to
21 the staff here, it's been discussed for many,
22 many years. And --

23 MR. CAPICOTTI: Well, I believe you
24 found mold in the kitchen, correct?

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2 MR. SERRANO: And yeah, we discovered
3 it.

4 MR. CAPICOTTI: And you wanted to
5 mitigate the mold. I do remember that discussion.

6 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I remember hearing
7 about mold, but the mold was found after the
8 kitchen was taken apart or before?

9 MR. SERRANO: Oh, no. There was, in the
10 corners, it was disgusting.

11 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: So, my question to
12 you is, this, this I think going forward in the
13 future any expenditures like that the board is
14 responsible for. I think the discussion has to
15 come to the board about what what's being done,
16 what it's going to cost. I understand, you know,
17 it's, the size was doubled, the kitchen is
18 beautiful. I'm not I'm not disputing that, but
19 it's an expenditure that, you know, the village
20 is taking on and I think the board, you know,
21 need to be a little more informed.

22 MR. SERRANO: Sure.

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: So my other question
24 is where, where did that money come from? Like

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2 what line was used there? I don't remember, I
3 would have to pull it out.

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. Because I
5 would like to know.

6 MR. SERRANO: I don't remember. Yeah.

7 MS. KEMPTER: I'll pull it up. I'll let
8 you know.

9 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. Because, this
10 is one thing I'd like to ask. I'd like to see
11 where that line is and going forward, we're going
12 to bring all projects in front of the board or
13 any big expenditures, I know this was not an
14 emergency situation. So, but the board is solely
15 responsible for the expending of the money here.
16 That's important where that came from, whether
17 it's contingency or a separate line. But going
18 forward, I personally would like to know what's
19 being expended before it comes out on a voucher.
20 So, any TVs, any big ticket items, I would like
21 to have a discussion with the board to see the
22 necessity.

23 MR. SERRANO: For what amount? What
24 amount?

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2 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I don't know. I
3 don't know, anything over 5,000 perhaps? Anything
4 over 2,000? I mean, you know, this is about
5 accountability, because if something happens, the
6 board has to answer to it. And I'm not --

7 MR. SERRANO: But that's what the budget
8 is for.

9 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: But I'm not, yeah,
10 but Marcus, you can't put a budget line in of
11 \$100,000 and then be able to spend what you want
12 on it. Do you see what I'm saying? There has to
13 be some type of a control on the expenditures.
14 And I'm not saying anything against you, but what
15 I'm saying is, you know, we're responsible. And
16 we're responsible for taxpayer dollars. So, I
17 just --

18 MR. SERRANO: Well --

19 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah, I understand
20 that, Marcus.

21 MR. SERRANO: You're not responsible. I
22 am responsible.

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: But no, no, I
24 understand that. But to do --

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2 MR. SERRANO: So what --

3 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: -- but to do a
4 kitchen --

5 MR. SERRANO: -- what else --

6 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: without the board's
7 knowledge --

8 MR. SERRANO: We're going around in
9 circles. What amount?

10 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: -- without --

11 MR. SERRANO: What amount?

12 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: That's up to the
13 board.

14 MR. SERRANO: Okay.

15 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I would be, I would
16 be, you know, that it's not an emergency
17 situation. I would have, I would have --

18 MS. BAEZ: With mold?

19 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: -- appreciated --

20 MR. SERRANO: What amount? I would have
21 appreciated --

22 MR. SERRANO: What amount?

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: -- if you came to
24 the board and said, hey, look, we're

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2 doing a new kitchen. I found out when I went into
3 the office.

4 MR. SERRANO: Okay.

5 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I was, I was
6 surprised. I was like, what are we doing here
7 today? So, it's, it's --

8 MR. SERRANO: What amount? That's what I
9 need to know.

10 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I'm fine with 2,000.
11 But I definitely want to know what that that line
12 was.

13 MR. SERRANO: Okay, that's fine.

14 MR. WHEELER: You know, I understand
15 what you're saying, mayor, but at the same time,
16 there are budgets put together here for jobs that
17 need to get done. And if we're going to get, if
18 we're asking for reports or permission from the
19 board to do everything that's done around here,
20 Randy and Todd, they're all going to be coming to
21 us every week, looking to do jobs. You know, I
22 understand you want to know what it is. I
23 understand, you know, Marcus's side of it also,
24 because he's got a job to do. It's in his budget

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2 somewhere to get this done. I just think that
3 this can be dealt with different than what what's
4 going on right now. I think this is part of the
5 issue we have with the board in the past, is
6 we're this is the way we're operating. I don't
7 think we have to operate this way and we can have
8 this conversation civilly.

9 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: oh, absolutely.

10 MR. WHEELER: And not be --

11 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I'm not -- am I
12 being uncivil?

13 MR. WHEELER: You're not being
14 [unintelligible] [00:42:09]

15 MR. CAPICOTTI: Well, this kitchen
16 project has been going on for months and you're
17 bringing it up now.

18 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Well, because we're
19 talking about the budget.

20 MR. CAPICOTTI: Yeah. Well, you could
21 talked about it two months ago when you saw that
22 they mitigated the mold from the kitchen.

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I didn't know there
24 was mold. I didn't know.

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2 MR. CAPICOTTI: I did. It was said at a
3 board meeting.

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I'm just saying that
5 I think we are the sole authorization of the
6 budget.

7 MR. CAPICOTTI: I don't expect them to
8 sit in an office full of mold though.

9 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I think we would
10 need, I think, well Cindy had a leak in the roof
11 of her of her office there. There must be mold
12 there too.

13 MR. CAPICOTTI: I don't expect her to
14 sit in that either.

15 MR. SERRANO: And we spent, we spent
16 money to fix it.

17 MR. CAPICOTTI: And that was repaired.

18 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: One thing
19 [unintelligible] [00:42:43].

20 MR. CAPICOTTI: And you never said a
21 word about that repair.

22 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Correct. So, but
23 what I'm saying is, you know, what I had a
24 discussion with NYCOM and I think what would

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2 really help the board is to understand what our
3 roles and responsibilities are and they are more
4 than happy to come down and have a meeting so
5 that we can all understand what, what our roles
6 are here.

7 MR. SERRANO: So --

8 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Because I'm, I'm
9 thinking there's --

10 MR. SERRANO: -- I just want to make
11 sure I get this right.

12 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Mm-hmm.

13 MR. SERRANO: So when we buy chemicals
14 for the pool, when we buy chemicals for the waist
15 we spend more than \$2,000 to buy the chemicals.

16 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: See Marcus, but that
17 that is a continuing thing, the pool.

18 MR. SERRANO: Okay.

19 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: This was a separate
20 project. This was a new project.

21 MR. SERRANO: Okay. Okay.

22 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: This was something
23 different. This was above and beyond.

24 MR. SERRANO: Okay. I just didn't

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2 [unintelligible] [00:43:22] that's fine.

3 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah. Yeah. No. So,
4 that's what I'm saying. Like, so now you also
5 talked about the fence in the back here.

6 MR. SERRANO: Okay.

7 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I looked at it. I'm
8 not a fencer, but I did not see that it was in
9 severely bad shape. So, I'm just saying like to
10 get a little more control on our fences, and I
11 know I know you want things to look nice. I know
12 the board wants things to look nice too. But I
13 think when we start to do new projects, I think
14 it's important that the board has a handle on it
15 and just a little conversation, just, you know,
16 with the board.

17 MR. SERRANO: No [unintelligible]
18 [00:43:55] whatsoever.

19 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Thank you. I
20 appreciate that.

21 MR. WHEELER: I just think that we just
22 have to find a line where we're not
23 micromanaging. We have these people, we have our
24 managers, we have our foremen, we have all these

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2 people that does their job to do specific things
3 in the village. Some things could be repairs. Do
4 we need as a board to micromanage every little
5 thing they do?

6 MR. LAKER: That's exactly what the
7 budget is for, absolutely.

8 MR. WHEELER: That's what I'm saying.
9 There's a budget put together put this stuff and
10 it's not exactly for this, this, this and this.
11 There's things that, unexpected things come up.

12 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: That's right and
13 we're not --

14 MR. LAKER: If there's a budgeted item
15 that went over --

16 MR. WHEELER: There are things that we
17 would like to do, that get done and the guys,
18 most of that work I believe was done by our in-
19 house.

20 MR. SERRANO: That's correct.

21 MR. WHEELER: So --

22 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: But I'm not saying
23 repairs. I'm not saying emergencies. This was a
24 special project that was done and I don't even

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2 know I don't even know what it cost.

3 MR. WHEELER: I don't think --

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: But I understand
5 what you're saying. There's operations --

6 MR. WHEELER: -- our budget needs to
7 have a repair. It can be something that they,
8 that needs to get done. They want to make it look
9 nice and they do. It's within the budget.

10 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah.

11 MR. WHEELER: It's, in the line that
12 they're working on. I don't see a problem with
13 it. I mean, I understand there's got to be --

14 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: So, what's the
15 dollar amount for that?

16 MR. WHEELER: There's got to be an area.
17 We have a procurement policy that probably --

18 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: We do have a
19 procurement. That doesn't cover this.

20 MR. WHEELER: Okay. So, that doesn't
21 cover that. But we can have a certain line. We
22 can say here's what we want. We can have that
23 discussion I think a little bit more --

24 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay I'm good with

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2 that.

3 MR. WHEELER: -- politely, I guess is
4 the word I'm looking for.

5 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I'm not being
6 unpolite, impolite. I just, I just want to make
7 us a point that going forward, any additional
8 projects, anything like that that you know is if
9 it's not an emergency, we all understand if it's
10 an emergency, it's got to happen. Because I
11 looked at that and I said you know that's nice,
12 but we have the highway department windows that
13 are actually rotting out. The wood is completely
14 rotting out. So, it's like, you know, it's up to
15 the board, like what is the priority? I'm not
16 trying to micromanage. I'm just saying that this
17 is taxpayer dollars and maybe there's other nice
18 things that would like to be done, but I think
19 the board needs to be included in the
20 conversation, because we're the ones that
21 authorize it in the end. We're responsible for
22 the money. So, I'm not being impolite. I'm just
23 trying to bring up a point going forward. I think
24 that that could have been handled differently and

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2 projects like that. For example, we talked one
3 time about doing the rugs here. I would imagine
4 that the board would like to have input into it.
5 I know you all love the orange rug, but maybe at
6 some point the rug would be replaced and maybe
7 you'd want to have some input into it. That's
8 all.

9 MR. WHEELER: And I understand, that's a
10 major project, recarpeting here is a major
11 project. I think the little project that happened
12 in the, in the office downstairs isn't that big
13 an issue to become what it became just now.

14 MR. CAPICOTTI: And didn't the DPW do
15 most of the work in-house?

16 MR. SERRANO: Yes.

17 MS. BAEZ: So you play paid for the
18 appliances and --

19 MR. SERRANO: Yes.

20 MS. BAEZ: Okay, and the cabinets and
21 the counter?

22 MR. SERRANO: Yes.

23 MS. BAEZ: Okay.

24 MR. CAPICOTTI: Just like the DPW would

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2 be changing the windows in their garage?

3 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I don't know. That's
5 kind of a --

6 MR. STEWART: That's something that --

7 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: -- that you'd have
8 to have a glass company to come in, because
9 they're, that's in tough shape. That's they're
10 just rotting.

11 MR. SERRANO: Yes.

12 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: And I apologize if
13 it looked like I was micromanaging or being nasty
14 or anything. I'm just trying to bring up a point
15 going forward. I think with the big projects, I
16 just think it's taxpayer dollars and I think we
17 just need to have a conversation about that.

18 MR. CAPICOTTI: We're used it.

19 MR. WHEELER: I'm just, I'll go back to,
20 I don't want to get into a lot of it right now.

21 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay.

22 MR. WHEELER: But when we had it, we
23 just had a campaign, everyone's talking about
24 unity. Let's be unity, let's unify ourselves here

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2 and treat each other a little bit better. When we
3 have an issue, we don't have to come at it, at
4 someone aggressively. We can talk to them on the
5 side. We can talk to them when we have to talk to
6 them. Call on the phone, say, Marcus, what are
7 you doing? Can you just let us know what's going
8 on?

9 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Mm-hmm.

10 MR. WHEELER: Not surprising him at a
11 meeting to do it.

12 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Well, I don't think
13 I'm being aggressive. And I've had residents ask
14 me about the kitchen.

15 MS. BAEZ: So --

16 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: We're having, we're
17 having conversation.

18 MR. CAPICOTTI: That's the price of
19 leadership.

20 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: We're having a
21 conversation about it that the public should also
22 know. That's all. I'm not being aggressive. I'm
23 just bringing a point out. That's --

24 MR. WHEELER: I understand.

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2 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay, that's, that's
3 all.

4 MR. WHEELER: That's my main point I
5 bring is it could have been, it could have been
6 dealt with differently a long time ago when it
7 first happened. Not --

8 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Two months ago.

9 MR. WHEELER: -- not, well two months
10 ago, it could have, you had two months to
11 approach him and ask about it instead of
12 surprising him at a meeting.

13 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Well, I just figured
14 we'd ask the question and then everyone would
15 have the answer. Yes, ma'am. You can come back
16 up. Yes.

17 MS. GARRETT: Because this ties into I
18 think what I was trying to say before on the -- a
19 kitchen is a capital project. It just is. You go
20 to sell your house and you redid your kitchen,
21 you're going to save your receipts because it's a
22 capital improvement to your home, right. So I
23 just want to say that this kind of ties into my
24 questions of the board kind of saying, I know we

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2 have this pool of money, 350 is for the roads,
3 but what other capital projects is the board
4 looking at for this year, so that yes, and these
5 things may, you know, come up and in my humble
6 taxpayer opinion, it should be brought to the
7 board because it's not a maintenance of chemicals
8 for the pool, that's, you know, ridiculous. So
9 maybe the dollar value is not, suggestion, is not
10 the key here. It's more of is it categorized as a
11 capital improvement? And if so maybe it has to be
12 discussed because I don't see anything in the
13 budget that says it's this capital, is, you know,
14 this improvement, this improvement, this
15 improvement, this improvement, right. It's kind
16 of left, I'm not saying wrongly willy-nilly a
17 little bit, on what those improvements are going
18 to be. Just kind of like a suggestion. And one
19 other thing I forgot to mention before and you
20 put in the budget Marcus, that one of your
21 concerns for you know going forward is that
22 people are going to really start to, and we,
23 we've had, you've seen an increase in fighting
24 their tax assessments.

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2 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

3 MS. GARRETT: You know, it was one of
4 the concerns that you wrote in this in this
5 budget. Again, I'll reiterate, I just don't know
6 this stuff, but if that's the case, are we, and I
7 understand it's only a one percent increase and
8 you know, thank God. But are we overvalued? If
9 there's so many people doing this? I mean I did
10 it a couple years ago.

11 MR. SERRANO: Right.

12 MS. GARRETT: But --

13 MR. SERRANO: No, the concern isn't
14 individual homeowners. It is the commercial
15 properties, because that's the biggest one. A
16 couple homes, we had a couple last year. It
17 wasn't a big number. But my concern is the tax
18 certioraris that I tried to explain at the last
19 meeting. We have four or five properties, that if
20 they get the reduction, it will be a substantial
21 decrease that will affect everybody's taxes. So
22 it's, and that we have no control over. Or that's
23 based, I won't get into as much detail but that's
24 based on equalization rate that drops every year.

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2 Without doing a reevaluation, the equalization
3 rate drops, so therefore the property value
4 increases, I call it artificially, and then these
5 commercial properties can come in and say now
6 we've got to reduce my taxes even though
7 everything's status quo.

8 MS. GARRETT: Okay. And --

9 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah, we're looking
10 at a big hit.

11 MS. GARRETT: -- Bob I agree with you. I
12 I'm hoping and I said it before, you know,
13 whoever won the election that could start acting
14 like a board and like I didn't see anything, you
15 know, bad this board meeting. Thank God. But you
16 should be able to just have discussions. And like
17 you say, maybe certain things need to be said
18 behind closed doors before you get in front of
19 the public. And somehow, you all need to figure
20 out how to work together to do that. To go
21 through another year like last year, that's,
22 that's just not good. It's not good for the
23 residents and you were elected.

24 MS. BAEZ: It's not good for us. And

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2 it's not good for us.

3 MS. GARRETT: It's not good for your own
4 health, of course, you know. But it's, it's not
5 good for the residents. I mean, the residents
6 chose who should be on the board. You're here. I
7 don't know how you guys can find a path forward,
8 but I didn't find anything tonight argumentative,
9 honestly. So, somehow.

10 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: All right, thank
11 you, Darlene.

12 MR. WHEELER: Can I ask you a question?

13 MS. GARRETT: Yeah.

14 MR. WHEELER: I know you said you're
15 looking for some stuff on the, from the FOIL.

16 MS. GARRETT: Yes.

17 MR. WHEELER: Regarding the budget. Are
18 they contractual things you're looking for or are
19 there other things that you're looking for?

20 MS. GARRETT: Oh, so yeah, I have no
21 problem telling you. So, one is I want the
22 agreements with Cook. I'd like to understand
23 what, you know, the contracts are with Cook. I
24 know he does the sewers, the street cleaning as

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2 we talked about, or emailed about. What else did
3 I FOIL? I FOILED for the kitchen costs, because
4 there's a lot of discussion going around the
5 village about this kitchen that I'm, you know, so
6 I just wanted to kind of know, as you said, you
7 know it's cabinetry, you know employees did the
8 work itself and I have to say if there's mold,
9 have we had a company, just side note, have we
10 had a company come in, in general in the building
11 and look at this?

12 MR. CAPICOTTI: How much are we allowed
13 to spend?

14 MS. GARRETT: I don't know, Anthony
15 you're on the board, tell me. I'm just saying
16 that I'm concerned for people working in the
17 building, right.

18 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Do be ridiculous
19 about it. I'm just, I think we, what we have to
20 learn as a board --

21 MR. CAPICOTTI: Just saying --

22 MS. KEMPTER: And let's let her finish.

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I think what we have
24 to learn as a board that we're going to have

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2 different opinions.

3 MR. CAPICOTTI: Okay.

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. And we are
5 going to have to be respectful. If the opinion is
6 different, we have to be respectful of one
7 another. And I think I think that would be a good
8 start. And I apologize to you, Darlene. I did cut
9 you off.

10 MS. GARRETT: No, that's okay. The other
11 one was the salary schedule, as I mentioned
12 earlier and I'm going to get the account wrong, I
13 wanted the expenditure, the invoicing and again
14 if I use the wrong word, just call me let me know
15 Cindy. But other insurance, it's, it's not --

16 MR. SERRANO: I know what, unallocated
17 insurance.

18 MS. GARRETT: Thank you.

19 MR. SERRANO: Yes.

20 MS. GARRETT: Anything unallocated to me
21 means what is that? So --

22 MR. SERRANO: General, it's just general
23 liability insurance for the entire, for all the
24 entire village. That's for equipment, general

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2 liability insurance, police protect, it's all the
3 insurances.

4 MS. GARRETT: Okay. Other than the
5 health and all of that, which is allocated within
6 each department?

7 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

8 MS. GARRETT: So you may, you can throw
9 that one out then. So those were the four
10 currently.

11 MR. WHEELER: So the only reason was
12 that if there was other things, if they were all
13 just contractual things that didn't make a
14 difference in the budget, I would be ready to
15 actually close a public hearing and move forward.
16 But if not --

17 MS. GARRETT: You know, Bob, yeah, as
18 far as I'm concerned for the budget, my biggest
19 question on the budget remains just these
20 additional expenditures, right. It's a very broad
21 category to me within each of these areas.

22 MR. SERRANO: Oh, let me explain that.

23 MR. WHEELER: But I think --

24 MR. SERRANO: Let me explain that one to

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2 you.

3 MR. LAKER: But I think we have to look
4 at it too is it's a budget. So it's, it's up to
5 that amount that could be expended by the board.

6 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

7 MR. LAKER: So, you know, it's an
8 estimate.

9 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

10 MR. LAKER: But yeah, Marcus I mean you
11 can, he'll definitely give a breakdown of any of
12 the other expenditures.

13 MS. GARRETT: Yes. And I'm probably
14 going to be issuing some more FOILs for that.

15 MR. SERRANO: So I'll give you an
16 example. So since we're, we're a very small
17 budget compared to other budgets, so we have a
18 line in most department called other expenses,
19 which is a catchall for things that are not major
20 equipment, major repairs, stuff like that. So
21 when I worked at other municipalities which had
22 bigger budgets, we have a lot more line items,
23 more specific because we had thousands of dollars
24 in those lines. So, if I broke up these other

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2 expenses, you might see \$100 here, \$200 there,
3 and the budget will be triple the size of what it
4 is. So that's a catchall for things that are a
5 repair, a minor repair, supplies. So that's what
6 that's for. That's a catchall for everything.

7 MS. GARRETT: I get it, you know, and as
8 though a small village, with so many residents
9 and again concerned taxpayer that 500 may mean,
10 you know, something more than a larger
11 municipality, but I certainly understand it can
12 be larger. So, I'll pick and choose carefully
13 what I would like to [unintelligible] [00:55:33]

14 MR. SERRANO: Yeah, absolutely. Yep, no
15 problem.

16 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Anything else, Bob?

17 MR. WHEELER: Thank you.

18 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: You're good?

19 MS. BAEZ: Thank you, Darleen.

20 MR. WHEELER: Thank you.

21 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: And I just want to
22 make one last statement on this. I was just
23 concerned for the taxpayer for transparency of
24 taxpayer dollars. That was my only, my only

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2 concern. So --

3 MS. BAEZ: I'd like to say something.

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Sure, of course.

5 MS. BAEZ: So, just to move forward and
6 to be on the same page, if there should be an
7 issue, such as you had with the kitchen, then why
8 not shoot out an email to the board --

9 MR. SERRANO: That's what I'll do.

10 MS. BAEZ: -- so that we can respond to
11 you and if we have questions, we can just go to
12 the village and speak to you.

13 MR. SERRANO: Yep. No problem at all.

14 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: And then if anyone
15 has any questions for me, please send me an email
16 or call me. I will pick up the phone and, so that
17 we have better communication, I do notice with
18 some of the emails they're not responded to. So I
19 understand you saying with the email, you are
20 good Awilda, with getting back with emails. So I
21 think we just need to learn to work together and
22 I think we're going to do that. I think we're
23 going to accomplish that this year. So, the
24 board, as I said, I prefer to keep this open for

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2 any other comments with the budget but -- I'm
3 sorry?

4 MS. BAEZ: But I think Tania had
5 something to say.

6 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Tania, do you have,
7 I'm sorry?

8 MS. TANIA DREZEK: I was going to say
9 like, you know,

10 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Oh, I'm sorry.

11 MS. DREZEK: Maybe you guys could email
12 each other, you know. And I really don't think
13 that Ms. Knickerbocker was saying anything bad. I
14 don't know why everybody's, you know, I don't
15 want to see that because it upsets me. And I
16 think that the kitchen is a big deal, remodeling
17 a kitchen is a big deal. And if there is mold,
18 let's -- is, was there a mold test done? Did
19 somebody come in? Was it just mold, like you can
20 spray it in your bathroom?

21 MR. SERRANO: It all was rotten. You can
22 put your finger right through it.

23 MS. DREZEK: Okay. Well, I'm just saying
24 like maybe there needs to be more testing done in

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2 the building, because I worry about you know all
3 of your health, because you're all here for hours
4 and it can really ruin your lungs.

5 MR. SERRANO: Absolutely.

6 MS. DREZEK: And I just, you know, the
7 kitchen there was a lot of residents that were
8 talking about that from the meeting. They saw it
9 on the meeting and they were like well did they
10 ever vote on that? And I was like I don't think
11 so. So, I'm happy that it was brought up because
12 it was something I was going to ask. So, I really
13 wasn't going to come up, but I just don't -- it
14 is a big deal to, it's not a bad thing to ask
15 that question during this meeting. I don't think
16 it is. Me, as a board member would want to know.

17 MS. BAEZ: So, I want to respond to that
18 and I'm respecting your point of view. But for
19 me, if we noticed it two months ago, and I did
20 when I walked in, I asked my questions while I
21 was there. I didn't ask --

22 MS. DREZEK: You could see that wall was
23 wet behind the cabinets?

24 MS. BAEZ: No, I saw that they were

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2 working on it and I asked what's happening here.
3 Everything was covered and I asked. I didn't ask
4 for dollar amounts. Nothing was put in yet. When
5 I came back and I saw the counters and, you know,
6 the refrigerator I just thought it was very nice.
7 I didn't ask again for dollar amounts. But I
8 think the main point here was if this is
9 something that was concerning, it could have been
10 brought up in the moment, and we would have
11 handled it and moved on.

12 MS. DREZEK: Well, if I was a trustee, I
13 would say, well, did we vote on this, because I
14 would be concerned, as a trustee, because I have
15 to answer to the constituents of this village
16 what happened.

17 MS. BAEZ: We could have handled it
18 there and if it was a problem with the board, we
19 could have said, Marcus, you need to notify us
20 prior because this is something we want to
21 discuss publicly and that's it, but we would have
22 not have of this.

23 MS. DREZEK: It's not a big deal because
24 there's been many people asking and I mean was

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2 going to ask.

3 MS. BAEZ: And there's always a lot of
4 people asking stuff. I get it.

5 MS. DREZEK: Yes.

6 MS. BAEZ: And if you could handle it in
7 the moment, then do so. And if you can't, then
8 you bring the question here.

9 MS. DREZEK: I was going to talk about
10 the emails and you said it and I think that's
11 great.

12 MS. BAEZ: Yeah. And it could, my bottom
13 line is it could have been handled sooner. It
14 wasn't. So I think at this point we should move
15 on.

16 MS. DREZEK: Things don't always happen
17 the way they should and it happened, so.

18 MS. BAEZ: There you go.

19 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: And I brought it up
20 during the budget because I wanted to understand
21 what budget line it came from.

22 MS. DREZEK: Yes.

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: That's all.

24 MR. WHEELER: All that I was trying to

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2 get across was that we're talking about
3 communicating and talking to each other so we're
4 not, when something --

5 MS. DREZEK: I know, but this is the
6 budget. So --

7 MR. WHEELER: Excuse me. When something
8 took two months to get done and he wasn't
9 approached about it until tonight, I think is
10 unfair.

11 MS. BAEZ: Mm-hmm.

12 MR. WHEELER: Because if it was, if it
13 was a concern then, she would have brought it
14 then --

15 MS. DREZEK: It would have been it would
16 have been a complaint, no matter when she
17 mentioned it.

18 MR. WHEELER: Excuse me, I respected
19 that while you were speaking. Oh.

20 MS. BAEZ: All right then you answered.
21 So anyway, that's all I was doing right here. I
22 wasn't really trying to attack you I was just
23 think that we have to turn the page, go a
24 different way. When something like this is going

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2 on, approach it when it happens. Don't wait two
3 months to make it happen, that's all I'm saying.

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: And I did ask
5 questions when I came into the office, so. I just
6 wanted to understand where it was on the budget
7 line, how that money was expended. So, I'm
8 understanding the board --

9 MR. SERRANO: Theresa, you've got
10 another.

11 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Oh, I'm so sorry.
12 Please, Sal, come up. Where's my -- oh, here it
13 is.

14 MR. TAVANO: Thank you. I'm still Sal
15 Tavano and I still live on Lindsay Avenue. First
16 of two things, a general comment or concern, just
17 to mention about you know ongoing budget
18 increases, you know, we've -- the village, the
19 town, the school district has all been through
20 some really tough challenging times. I'm not sure
21 what the budget increase this year. It was
22 something like 258,000 the tentative?

23 MR. SERRANO: Mm-hmm.

24 MR. TAVANO: And somewhere over three

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2 percent but I didn't, I didn't notice that. I
3 mean it's less than the, what was it, 4.11
4 percent the year before. And, you know, we're
5 getting closer to you know the consumer inflation
6 rate although we've been above it because of
7 these challenging times, although that's
8 something that can't continue indefinitely. And
9 for example, many of us, maybe all of us, read
10 about the school district proposing a six plus
11 percent increase in the school budget this year,
12 which is, you know, certainly well beyond the
13 rate of inflation and certainly well beyond the
14 average rate of increase in earnings. And you
15 know it's something that's unsustainable. So, you
16 know, I believe that the long run rate of
17 increases in the budget as necessary should be,
18 you know, within range of the of the consumer
19 price index or the inflation rate. So I think
20 that's an important objective. I don't know the
21 details of the budget process and how if or how
22 zero budgeting works or might work, but anything
23 that can help control costs and, you know, and
24 then I'm a firm believer in you know strong

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2 financial controls, you know, for everyone in a
3 fiduciary capacity. And, you know, how the board
4 manages is the discussions about that and the
5 issues that have come up, miscommunication.
6 That's for the board to decide among themselves
7 but I would appreciate some sort of documented
8 financial controls to that the public can be
9 aware of so that there is, you know, fiscal
10 oversight and accountability in whatever
11 budgeting and actual fiscal spending is made.

12 MS. BAEZ: So you're suggesting like a
13 periodic expense chart?

14 MR. TAVANO: Well, you know, it it's a
15 matter of the board deciding what are the
16 controls that should be documented and managed,
17 ceilings and floors, I don't want to get into
18 specifics, right.

19 MS. BAEZ: No, I was just trying to
20 assess where you were headed.

21 MR. TAVANO: Yeah. Well, you know,
22 accountability that is, I mean everyone's using
23 the word transparency which I know the board
24 members certainly have all expressed that

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2 commitment and, you know, transparency, you know,
3 is more than just information or discussing a
4 topic. A transparent, transparency is developing
5 trust and accountability over a period of time by
6 having strong financial controls that are
7 implemented and monitored. And then there's no
8 miscommunication because you have documented
9 policy and procedure for everyone to follow and
10 everyone to review and the information can be
11 readily explained to the public at any time.

12 MR. SERRANO: So, so let me touch on
13 that a little bit.

14 MR. TAVANO: Yeah, sure.

15 MR. SERRANO: I agree with you 100
16 percent and that's why I take this very
17 seriously. And that's why I take a lot of --

18 MR. TAVANO: Yes, I'm sure, I'm sure.

19 MR. SERRANO: -- and that's why I take a
20 lot of time doing a budget message, which had
21 never existed before I started.

22 MR. TAVANO: Yeah.

23 MR. SERRANO: Okay. And in that, I try -

24 -

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2 MR. TAVANO: I've seen that the past
3 couple of years anyway.

4 MR. SERRANO: Yeah. And in my budget
5 measures I try to put words into to back the
6 numbers I put in there and I even try to list
7 anything over \$5,000 increase or decrease and try
8 to put plan for the future. So, I'm not, I'm not
9 looking at just the one year aspect of a budget
10 where a lot of people look at it. I try to look
11 at multiple years. So that's all. My budget
12 message is a way to be transparent to back up
13 what the budget is. So, and I'm always available
14 to talk to anybody that wants to talk to me as
15 well. So --

16 MR. TAVANO: I'm sure, I appreciate
17 that.

18 MR. SERRANO: And I'm trying to say --

19 MR. TAVANO: I'm referring, I'm
20 referring more to processes, you know, that for
21 monitoring how, not just how a budget is prepared
22 but how our money is --

23 MS. BAEZ: Your expenditures. Are you
24 speaking about expenditures?

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2 MR. TAVANO: Well, sure.

3 MS. BAEZ: Because we do see where the
4 money is spent. We have to sign the vouchers. The
5 invoices, we sign, three of us.

6 MR. TAVANO: Yeah. And there should be
7 financial controls over monitoring it and you
8 know evaluating to have, make sure there are, you
9 know, I'm sure there are segregation of duties
10 and detective controls but also preventative
11 controls, by looking at things in advance and
12 having guidelines, like ceilings on expenses
13 without documented written approval to the
14 maximum extent possible.

15 MR. SERRANO: Just to give you some
16 information, we have a procurement policy in
17 place. We get audited every year. They check
18 internal controls. So I understand where you're
19 coming from. But what's good about working in
20 government versus the private sector is there's a
21 lot of supervision by the auditors, as well as,
22 like you said, segregation of duties. The finance
23 department does PO's I review and I sign them.
24 There are multiple levels of approval process

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2 that goes along that. The village board signs the
3 vouchers, the auditors then come and check
4 everything. So to hopefully make you feel more at
5 ease, there's a lot of internal controls and a
6 lot of reviews from multiple people on every
7 single expenditure for the village.

8 MR. TAVANO: Yeah, no I'm, you know, I'm
9 sure that, no doubt I know that that the village
10 is audited and those controls are in place. I
11 haven't seen their opinion letter, but, you know,
12 I would assume from --

13 MR. LAKER: I think they should be in
14 another month?

15 MR. SERRANO: They'll be at the next
16 meeting.

17 MR. LAKER: If you want to stick around
18 next month, they'll be here and you could ask
19 them.

20 MR. TAVANO: Yeah. Yeah. No doubt. No
21 doubt they issue an unqualified opinion, you
22 know. Great.

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: So, we got this
24 today.

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2 MR. TAVANO: Sorry?

3 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: We got this today,
4 the auditor's report, yes.

5 MR. TAVANO: Okay. Great. Great. You
6 know but you know since there's some discussion
7 about certain levels of expenditures, you know,
8 that should be clarified by the board themselves
9 and, you know, it doesn't hurt to let the people
10 know about what processes are in place because
11 you know it appears that this discussion here is
12 not something that has arisen in the past audit
13 processes. So should something to take under
14 consideration, you know, in the board's
15 discussions and as they discuss that with you as
16 well Marcus. So thank you.

17 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Thanks, Sal.

18 MS. BAEZ: Thank you.

19 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: And I think just
20 because it's in a budget line, it has to be
21 specific what it's being used for out of that
22 budget line. You know I mean you can, yeah. And
23 that's something I we have to work on. Thank you,
24 sir. Okay. So, I'm going to I'm going to make a

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2 motion to close the public hearing for the
3 budget, the 2026-2027 budget. Can I have a
4 second?

5 MR. CAPICOTTI: Second.

6 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: All in favor?

7 MULTIPLE: Aye.

8 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I will say no on
9 that. I'd like to keep it open, like I said. So
10 I'd like to consider a motion to adopt the 2026
11 2027 budget and water rates. Can I have a second?

12 MR. CAPICOTTI: Second.

13 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: All in favor?

14 MULTIPLE: Aye.

15 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I Okay, I just have
16 a few other things here today. As everyone can
17 see out at the circle in the fall, there were 300
18 plus daffodils that were planted and they are in
19 full bloom. They look great. Anyone that would
20 like to apply for, we have an opening on the
21 zoning board. So anyone that would like to apply
22 for that position, it's a quasi legal board, but
23 there's training that is available, please submit
24 a resume to the office. We do have an opening.

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2 We had our, one of our members become an
3 associate judge, so we are down one member. So
4 please anyone interested in that, please step
5 forward. And I just wanted to ask the board about
6 Earth Day. Does anyone have, because we kind of
7 mentioned this before, does anyone have any
8 thoughts on what we can do or what we should do
9 or if we should do an Earth Day, which would be,
10 I think it's the 22nd, but we could do something
11 on Saturday the 25th.

12 MR. LAKER: I know in years past it's
13 been discussed and Bob probably has more
14 information regarding some type of conflict with
15 the DPW.

16 MR. WHEELER: There was a little bit of
17 conflict in the past with it and I don't know if
18 it's been worked out since I retired. There's
19 been a little bit of conflict in the past about
20 that. I don't know if it's been resolved since
21 I've retired. Has it?

22 MR. SERRANO: No. the only issue has
23 been that if there's any volunteers doing
24 cleaning, there has to be a DPW person there

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2 because they consider that a union task. So the
3 board will have to, if you want to do it, you
4 just have to budget or you have to consider what
5 overtime we have to pay for a DPW person.

6 MR. WHEELER: I know they did that in
7 the past. I think it was like three hours for one
8 guy.

9 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah, it's not a
10 lot. It's not a lot.

11 MR. WHEELER: And I don't know what
12 they've done in the past. I know they did Lents
13 Cove a couple times.

14 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

15 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah. Yeah. Because
16 we, you know, I mean there's places on 9A and
17 throughout the village, but you don't want people
18 out on the busy roads and potentially getting hit
19 or hurt. So, they usually leave it over by Lents
20 Cove because it's out of the way and it's a
21 little safer for people.

22 MR. WHEELER: I have no problem with
23 them doing it, as long as they agree. As long as
24 they can work it out with the union.

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2 MR. SERRANO: Yep.

3 MR. CAPICOTTI: Would this be on a
4 Saturday?

5 MR. SERRANO: I would assume so. But
6 they will have to let us know what day they want
7 to do it and we can assign a DPW person to be
8 there.

9 MR. CAPICOTTI: Yeah, because Earth
10 Day's a Wednesday.

11 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah, it is. But I I
12 think most people are working.

13 MR. SERRANO: Yeah, you've just got to
14 let me know what day.

15 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Unless they're
16 really into Earth Day and they take off, you
17 know, I don't know.

18 MS. BAEZ: Not everyone can afford to do
19 that.

20 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: This is true.

21 MR. WHEELER: It's usually done on
22 Saturday anyway.

23 MR. SERRANO: Yes. They have done that
24 on Saturday.

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2 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yep. So, let's, you
3 know, we'll put it out there. Let's see if the
4 beautification committee would be interested, any
5 of the board members and I will let everyone
6 know how that's going along and what was decided
7 to do that. Any other comments from the floor?
8 No? Any other comments from the board?

9 MS. BAEZ: Yeah, I have a few.

10 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay.

11 MS. BAEZ: So, first of all, I'd like to
12 thank everyone who came to the podium. Your
13 questions were very interesting, very insightful
14 and I know sometimes it's not easy to come before
15 the board and you did and I thank you for that.
16 I'd also like to inform the board that I am
17 respectfully declining to serve as a liaison
18 because I do not feel that it has any value for
19 me to go to a meeting and come back and share
20 what I heard with the board when Marcus has day-
21 to-day conversations with all of these entities.
22 So, for me, it makes more sense that Marcus comes
23 and shares his views or whatever he heard at a
24 meeting with the board and for me to consider to

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2 use my energy somewhere else. So I will not be
3 serving as the liaison.

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I think you were a
5 liaison to the fire department and what was the
6 other one?

7 MS. BAEZ: Zoning and planning.

8 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Zoning and planning.
9 So they'll be no one for that. It's, you know, I
10 changed up the, so everyone knows, I changed it
11 up because I wanted the board members to have
12 other experiences with different departments. So
13 if that's not something, I don't know about the
14 rest of the other board members, if you don't
15 want to serve on the as a liaison, then you know
16 that's totally up to you.

17 MR. CAPICOTTI: Well, I feel that you
18 put me for education and I would respectfully
19 resign as well because I think is the perfect
20 candidate. She is an educator and she has built a
21 relationship with the board of education over
22 there and she spends a lot of time in the library
23 volunteering. And I mean I think she can apply
24 her wealth of knowledge in that area a lot more

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2 than I can.

3 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: And Anthony, the
4 reason why I chose you because you are the only
5 one on the board that has children in school. So
6 I figured you --

7 MS. BAEZ: No, I have a grandson.

8 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: -- you would have
9 more contact.

10 MR. CAPICOTTI: I figured you did that
11 as well. I just feel that --

12 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: You'd just have more
13 contact.

14 MR. CAPICOTTI: And I actually thought
15 about that, that's why you did it. And I said,
16 well, that's good. But, you know, Awilda has
17 developed this great relationship with them, and
18 I think that I think she would be perfect for it.

19 MS. BAEZ: I'm keeping my contact --

20 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I just wanted you to
21 have more experience.

22 MS. BAEZ: -- with the schools because I
23 also have a grandson in the high school. So I'm
24 not giving up on the schools, but I'm just not

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2 going to serve as a liaison. I find it's useless.
3 Like fine if Marcus has contact with these
4 entities on a day-to-day basis, why can't he just
5 come back give us the information? If there's a
6 decision to be made, we make it as a board.

7 MR. CAPICOTTI: Well, who was the
8 liaison? Who did you appoint as the liaison for
9 the fire department?

10 MS. BAEZ: Me.

11 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: It was Awilda.

12 MR. CAPICOTTI: Oh, it was Awilda.

13 MS. BAEZ: Yeah.

14 MR. CAPICOTTI: Oh, I thought it was for
15 the zoning board.

16 MS. BAEZ: And that.

17 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: And planning and
18 zoning, there were two, two positions. If Marcus
19 has contact with them, why can't he come back and
20 share with us what's going on? Anyway, that's my
21 point of view and that's where I stand. But that
22 doesn't mean that I won't be serving my
23 community, because I will.

24 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Are we good?

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2 MR. WHEELER: I just have a question.

3 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Oh, sure.

4 MR. WHEELER: You mentioned the zoning
5 board. Is there education required? I thought
6 some of that was required, wasn't it?

7 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yes. Yes. And when
8 you're on the, we have to look at that, as a
9 matter of fact. There are requirements when
10 you're on the planning and zoning board and I
11 believe I believe it's for hours a year. But the
12 planning federation has different meetings
13 throughout the year that people can go. Most of
14 the planning and zoning board members have filled
15 their required time. So yeah, no that's a good
16 question, Bob. So anybody that's interested would
17 have to get some training and I would I would
18 think they'd want some training, you know, for
19 the position.

20 MR. WHEELER: That's what it was. I
21 thought, you know, maybe I was missing something.
22 At least everyone will know that they want that
23 position, they have to have some required
24 education. And just getting back to what

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2 happened before, you know, if I came off rough, I
3 didn't mean to come off rough. All is I want to
4 see is a board that communicates with each other.
5 I think a lot of stuff can happen if you pick the
6 phone, call up Marcus, call each other up, call
7 whoever, what's going on. And that was my intent
8 of that. It wasn't intent to attack anybody. It's
9 just I feel strongly about that. I've been out
10 I've been out on that side looking here for
11 years. I've been here. I've worked here. And
12 things do work a lot smoother as you guys have
13 said, or you ladies have said, when you talk to
14 each other. And Darlene, I know you did a lot of
15 work on that budget looking at that. I only got
16 the budget myself a week ago and I appreciate
17 your hard work. You brought some stuff to light
18 that was important for us to talk about and thank
19 you for that.

20 MS. BAEZ: And you did so respectfully.
21 Thank you for that.

22 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: You did your
23 homework.

24 MS. GARRETT: Yeah.

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2 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: You got the time,
3 right? Good. Oh, and the only other last thing
4 is, so I know you said we had somebody that's
5 allocated to help Peter. How is that coming
6 along? Because I still see a lot of paperwork
7 there. I still see. and I know he's got he's got
8 backlog there. I understand that. But is that
9 moving forward?

10 MR. SERRANO: Yeah, Peter, what happens
11 with, Peter has to clean up the file to determine
12 what has to go and put into computer system and
13 Peter has to put what the inspections he did. So
14 he's going file by file, completing a file giving
15 it to Joanna. And then Joanna is inputting that
16 information into the system, scanning
17 documentation. So he's going file by file when
18 doing that.

19 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Okay. It's a
20 process.

21 MR. SERRANO: Yes.

22 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah. Because I know
23 he has had quite the mound there.

24 MR. SERRANO: Correct. A quick, quick

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2 update on something?

3 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah.

4 MR. SERRANO: I, just for the, for the
5 public, we sent a code red -- we did a Facebook
6 for the AMS paving already. So DOT is requiring
7 AMS to repave in front of their, in front of AMS
8 to repave Route 9A. So I sent the board an email
9 about that. We posted it on Facebook, email
10 blast. They're planning to mill and pay starting
11 Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday. I
12 just got a form from AMS that Monday has been
13 postponed to Tuesday, so next week they'll be
14 milling and paving, depending on the contract and
15 weather conditions, but that's the DOT
16 requirement that has to happen. So we'll keep
17 that update on Facebook and just to avoid the
18 area probably next week, most of the week until
19 that work is done. But DOT requires that one lane
20 always to remain open. It just, you know, there
21 might be a delay or what going on with that as
22 well. So I just want to give you an update on
23 that.

24 And also there was a meeting with the

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2 DOT and Carbones regarding Village Square to do a
3 preconstruction meeting. That's, there we got,
4 they got the permit to move forward. They might
5 start working that area starting next month. We
6 don't know exactly when Route 9 will be worked
7 on. So we talked about to make sure it works
8 around the school timeline to maybe do site work,
9 but not do any road work until the schools the
10 school is closed to keep the traffic flow
11 working as well. But the site work might start
12 next month, to start the site work on the Village
13 Square project.

14 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Good. And then also
15 Con Edison on First Street?

16 MR. SERRANO: Oh yeah.

17 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: They've notified the
18 residents?

19 MR. SERRANO: They notified the
20 residents. So First Street has gas in the top and
21 the bottom, there's no gas in the middle. So,
22 they're, they're doing that and also doing
23 Catherine Street. We don't have a, we don't have
24 timeframe. I think they're doing Catherine Street

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2 too. I think I sent you guys the map and the
3 details on that too.

4 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Yeah.

5 MR. SERRANO: So that way, you know
6 what's going on there. But they're going to
7 notify the residents what's going to happen. And
8 I know, I think First Street or Catherine was
9 part of the repaving program. So George, at the
10 workshop is going to come in with a new updated
11 repaving program. But we don't want to mill and
12 pave a road that we have to wait for the, you
13 know, thing to settle and then Con Edison has to
14 be responsible for that trench line. So we're
15 going to move to other roads and so George will
16 provide you an update at the next workshop.

17 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: That's great.

18 MR. CAPICOTTI: They're going to be
19 responsible curve though aren't they?

20 MR. SERRANO: That's why we're, yeah.
21 That's why George -- they're, they found a
22 loophole in the in our policy. So George wants to
23 come do a presentation to the board to change the
24 policy to avoid that loophole, because they said

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2 if they went in 60 ft of each other or something
3 like that, they're trying to do like pits, they -
4 -

5 MR. CAPICOTTI: They do an insertion?

6 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

7 MR. CAPICOTTI: Yeah.

8 MR. SERRANO: And they say, well, we
9 don't do curb to curb, because we're just doing
10 this section, but then this next one is 50 feet
11 away. So that's beyond your policy. So George is
12 going to recommend a policy change to avoid that
13 pitfall. So George is not approving any curb cut,
14 any street openings, until we got a new policy to
15 avoid that from happening.

16 MR. CAPICOTTI: Yeah.

17 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Because, you know,
18 remember where they did that on Bannon Avenue
19 before it was repaved? It was like this patch and
20 then so many feet later it was this, it all, the
21 road was all patched.

22 MR. SERRANO: That's what they were
23 trying to do, yes.

24 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Is there any way,

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2 instead of, because we've done this before, is
3 there any way instead of repaving that is there
4 any way they'll give us money for it instead so
5 that we can just put it towards the, towards our
6 road work?

7 MR. SERRANO: Yeah. George, we had a
8 discussion with that, that they can do a not do
9 the final coat, the final coat and give us that
10 money to do ourselves. So we're, George has
11 talked to them about that as well.

12 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: So there's no, you
13 know --

14 MR. SERRANO: Right.

15 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Breaking up. All
16 right.

17 MR. CAPICOTTI: Yeah, their restoration
18 is terrible.

19 MR. SERRANO: I know it is. Yeah.

20 MR. CAPICOTTI: Until their final
21 restoration --

22 MR. SERRANO: Correct.

23 MR. CAPICOTTI: -- which is subbed out,
24 so.

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2 MR. SERRANO: Right. And that's why I
3 think we can get, they give us money to do the
4 final mill and cut. mill and fill and we do it
5 ourselves. So we'll talk to -- so George provide
6 you an update on that on the 24th.

7 MR. CAPICOTTI: He just needs to measure
8 out that that lane.

9 MR. SERRANO: Yep.

10 MR. CAPICOTTI: And they'll pay into our
11 paving and resurfacing contract?

12 MR. STEWART: Correct. Yep. Absolutely,
13 yes.

14 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I'll be just
15 smoother instead of the cut offs. Good. No, that
16 would, if that would work that would be great.
17 Yep. That would be super. Okay. So, no more
18 questions, no more comments. I make a motion to
19 close the meeting. Can I have a second, please?

20 MS. BAEZ: Second.

21 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: All in favor?

22 MULTIPLE: Aye.

23 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Dominic, get back to
24 work.

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2 MR. DOMINIC EVANGELISTA: I know, right.

3 (The public board meeting concluded at

4 8:23 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY

I, Juliana Castano, certify that the foregoing transcript of the Board meeting of the Village of Buchanan on April 8, 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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