

OPEN LETTER TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN

Last month's Board Meeting was well attended by the usual village residents who have been present at our meetings since April. Responding to the now common and expected unsigned poison-pen letter, they came to vent misguided hate and insults at a candidate for the Administrator's position. Assuming they had inside information, later proven to be erroneous, they attacked Michael Snyder who was present for the sole purpose of thanking the Board for considering him. This letter was nothing more than the author(s) (not named but known by all) personal attack on the character of myself and Board members who supported my choice. Let it be known we were not, and never will be, intimidated by the rude and disruptive behavior of supporters of the anonymous letter writer(s).

Since this letter professes to have inside information of administration activities, it is strange that it failed to disclose why the former administrator purged the Village computer of records and correspondence from 2002 to August 2009. Surely it must have been known that the expert retained by the Village to retrieve the purged documents had already provided several interesting items, not the least of which was the gift of a \$1,800.00 computer to a friend of the prior administration in May of 2003. According to this new information the recipient of the computer was permitted to order a computer of his own choosing as well as what software he desired, and this private citizen was allowed to do so in the name of the Buchanan Police Dept. Of course the Police never received or had use of the computer. Because of the destruction of Village documents and the mis-use of Village funds it became necessary to launch an investigation into the circumstances involving both computers.

Our new Administrator, Kevin Hay, has assumed his duties but also inherited existing problems which must be addressed immediately. He must do this without the benefit of an easy transition period. His will be a difficult task but I am confident he is equal to the challenge and I offer the Board's aid, if such be needed. I will start by forwarding all information on the gift of the computer to the auditors from the N.Y.S. Comptroller's Office, as well as any other local or county agency.

Mayor Alfred J. Donahue