

Minutes of a Chapter 54 Public Hearing held by the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead at Town Hall, Howell Avenue, Riverhead, New York on Wednesday, August 30, 2000, at 11:30 a.m.

**Present:**

Robert Kozakiewicz,	Supervisor
Edward Densieski,	Councilman
James Lull,	Councilman
Christopher Kent,	Councilman
Philip Cardinale,	Councilman
Matthew White,	Code Enforcement Officer

**Also Present:**

Dawn Thomas,	Town Attorney
Barbara Grattan,	Town Clerk

Supervisor Kozakiewicz: "Okay. The designated date, August 31, 2000. The time is 11:34 and we have before us a Chapter 54 involving property owned by Lloyd Seymour before us, the Town Board is present and Matthew C. White, Code Enforcement Officer who needs to be sworn."

(Matthew White was sworn in by Supervisor Kozakiewicz)

Supervisor Kozakiewicz: "Okay. And please state for the record your position with the town, how long you've been employed by the town."

Matthew White: "My name is Matthew C. White, Code Enforcement Officer of the Town of Riverhead. I've been employed by same since July of 1999. I'm also a part time police officer with the Town of Riverhead and a part time consultant with the County of Suffolk (inaudible)."

Supervisor Kozakiewicz: "And the property in question is located where?"

Matthew White: "34 Oak Drive, Town of Riverhead, New York 11901, County of Suffolk, State of New York, tax map number 65-1 Section 15."

Supervisor Kozakiewicz: "Okay. And you know the routine. Just ask you to testify how you came to inspect the property and what you

observed."

Barbara Grattan: "Should we read this- call this- should we call this hearing?"

Matthew White: "On or about July 24<sup>th</sup> at approximately 9 in the morning, I was in the area of Oak Drive handling numerous code violations at which time I came across #34 Oak Drive which according to the records belongs to the tenant, Lloyd Seymour, in care of Marie-Maryann Fitzgerald, 223 Flanders Road, Apartment #20, Riverhead, New York.

Upon inspecting the property we found numerous vehicles in front of the property which were in a dilapidated condition. The property itself is, I believe, a health hazard. It is extremely overgrown. There's numerous amounts of debris, including barbeque, lawn furniture, automotive equipment, fences and I guess you could say household building products, wood, framing, nails.

The structure itself, I can describe as dangerous, unsanitary, not provided with adequate egress. The reasons due this are inadequate maintenance, dilapidation and abandonment. The house appears to have been abandoned for quite some time.

Upon viewing the structure, it has broken windows. The numerous holes in the roof indicate a severe amount of leaking. Due to those holes and environmental condition, the structure is rotten and in need of repair. Shingles are missing on the side of the building. In addition- it's wood shingles and several holes that go all the way into the house. The sheetrock and plaster throughout the house is damaged, both the interior and exterior in need of painting. There's no water at all going to the structure nor electricity. There's two electric meters on the building which indicate that it might have an illegal apartment, possibly in the basement. There's no heat. The interior of the building is unfit for human habitation and there's a large amount of vandalism.

It's the request of the Building Department that this structure be torn down. In addition, it's also the request of the Building Department that the property be cleaned up including the unregistered and junk vehicles and I would like to see some sort of fence put up around the property to eliminate potential littering and dumping as that has been a major problem in the area."

Supervisor Kozakiewicz: "Matthew, you've read from a report.

Was your report prepared at or close to the time after you did you inspection?"

Matthew White: "This report was prepared on July 24, 2000."

Supervisor Kozakiewicz: "And this is done in your usual ordinary business course?"

Matthew White: "Yes, sir."

Supervisor Kozakiewicz: "Okay. Unless there's any objection, I'd like to make that part of the record and introduce it as evidence and also the notice that Barbara has as far as the public hearing is concerned, also I'd like that to be made part of the record."

Matthew White: "In addition, I also have pictures from the site that was taken on the day of inspection."

Councilman Cardinale: "Where is this located, this property?"

Matthew White: "This is Oak Drive, Riverhead, across the street from Doctor's Path."

Councilman Cardinale: "Okay."

Councilman Kent: "Do you know what the status is on the taxes? Are they being paid?"

Matthew White: "The last time I checked the Receiver's Office- I don't have that information in front of me- I believe it was in arrears. It wasn't being possessed right, it was only two years in arrears."

Councilman Kent: "It is customary that we do these types of demolition and then charge it back on the taxes. So, the likelihood is that never recoup the monies that we expend for demolition."

(Unidentified): "But if we charge it on the taxes and the property is picked up by the County- "

Councilman Cardinale: "They pay the taxes."

Councilman Kent: "They pay the taxes."

Councilman Cardinale: "As long as they're stupid enough to pay

this as a tax- if this is a tax, then we get paid. This is a lovely home."

Supervisor Kozakiewicz: "The photos are also- should be made part of the official record as well."

Councilman Densieski: "Is there vagrants on this property?"

Matthew White: "There hasn't been evidence of same. The major problem as I said earlier on the property, is the illegal dumping. We've had several- the lot across the street, we had a major problem with dumping. Someone dropped a motor home shell on that property; we have vehicles. Since this morning, there's another vehicle dropped on the property."

Councilman Cardinale: "The house looks like it's in bad shape but that chair is in really good order, so- "

Supervisor Kozakiewicz: "Salvage that."

Councilman Cardinale: "Salvage that. It's better than my chairs at home."

Supervisor Kozakiewicz: "Anything else, guys?"

Councilman Cardinale: "No."

Supervisor Kozakiewicz: "All right. The time of 11:40. What? Okay, the time of 11:40."

Public Hearing closed: 11:40

*Barbara Guttman  
your Clerk*