

10/27/70

314.

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead, held in the Town Hall, Riverhead, New York, on Tuesday, October 27th, 1970, at 7:30 P.M., for the purpose of holding a Public Hearing to review the preliminary budget of the Town of Riverhead for the year 1971.

Present:

Bruno Zaloga, Supervisor
Thomas R. Costello, Town Justice
Robert G. Leonard, Town Justice
Vincent B. Grodski, Councilman
George G. Young, Councilman

Also present: John J. Munzel, Town Attorney.

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P.M.

Town Clerk submitted affidavits of posting and publishing Notice of Hearing upon Preliminary Budget for the Town of Riverhead for the year 1971.

The affidavits were ordered filed.

There were 67 persons in attendance.

Supervisor Zaloga explained the increases of \$55,000 in Welfare, \$47,500 in the Drainage Item, Official salaries -\$22,000, Police Department-\$60,000 and CSEA salaries-\$21,000.

Supervisor Zaloga thereupon declared the Hearing open and asked if anyone wished to be heard

Sydney Block, 41 Forge Road, Calverton, asked how the salary increases of town employees are arrived at - especially the town officials.

Supervisor Zaloga answered, "As the demands of the jobs are increased - the salaries are increased - according to the demands of the job."

Mr. Block asked who decides on the raises.

Supervisor Zaloga: "The Town Board makes the decision."

Mrs. William Esseks read a statement from the League of Women Voters, stating they take no position on the budget - only opinions expressed by individuals - suggested that future budgets show figures of previous budget, also proposed budget and percentage of amount of increase or decrease.

Mr. Willis asked if the Board finds the services of the dog warden more worthy than that of the tax receiver.

It was explained that the Dog Warden provides his own truck, gasoline, pays his insurance on the truck and salary of person replacing him during vacation period.

10/27/70

315.

BUDGET HEARING continued:

Mr. Carl Stagg, Riverhead, referred to the services of the Town Board members and the Town Attorney and stated he saw no reason for salaries such as proposed which seem completely out of line and in all respects for part-time employees, and objected to the proposed raises.

Mrs. Richard Carey, asked the reason for Item 1430. -Personnel-\$21,362. and why the Board was not foresighted enough to complete negotiations before budget time.

Supervisor Zaloga informed Mrs. Carey it was because the CSEA refused the offer of the Town Board.

Mrs. Henrietta Edwards objected to proposed raises of Town Board members.

Mr. Richard Carey asked clarification of contractual expenses, asked about the following items:

- \$600 Tax Extension salary
- Increase in Fire & Liability Insurance
- Contingent Account
- Who the Building Inspector is
- Who the Housing Inspector is
- How many full time recreation employees
- Beautification Aides and program
- Capital Improvement Account
- Drainage Item 8540
- Fire District total budget
- Miscellaneous Item 4 Contractual expenses.

Mr. Wickham Tyte talked on the increases of the Town Board members and the retirement and social security benefits and asked if the Town is paying anything that would be termed as a fringe benefit.

Supervisor Zaloga: "Only hospital insurance for the Police Department."

Mr. Tyte asked what is actually paid on retirement and social security for town officials.

Mr. Tyte was informed that it has never been computed.

Mrs. Helen Guyer explained that vacation periods do not cost the Town any moneys as no replacements are made.

Mr. Tyte stated his personal opinion is similar to Mr. Stagg's and spoke against the raises as being more than the job is worth.

Mr. John Riesdorff asked clarification of Item 1430-Personnel.

Mr. Robert Gagen addressed his remarks to the Board and stated it has a moral obligation to its constituents to take a long hard look at this budget and the rising tax rate and opposed the increase of salaries of the elective officials.

BUDGET HEARING continued:

Mrs. Carol Ferguson, stated her opposition to salary raises, especially the Supervisor's, saying a \$7000 raise in two years is disgusting especially when he has two clerks in his office who do most of the work.

Mr. Block figured that the Supervisor has received a 60% increase in his salary in a two year period and asked how it is possible for the Town's people to control the increases and if there were any suggestions for the Board on how this could be done.

Supervisor Zaloga stated that the people can voice their objections as they are doing now and also do as they wish during election time.

Mr. Richard Manning read a note from Maurie Semel making objection to Item 6410.1-Salary of Industrial Commissioner-\$1500, for the reason that this position has brought no returns to the Town.

Mr. Stagg asked how the Board expected to evade the constitutional limitations on elective officials raising salaries during term of office.

Mrs. Esseks asked about the raise in the Town Attorney's expense account from \$150 to \$2500 and what the jump is going to be used for.

John J. Munzel, Town Attorney explained that in the past the Town Attorney has carried the expenses of his office out of his own salary and beginning next year whatever time his secretary will spend on town work will be charged to his expense item.

Mr. Carey asked about the Police Department salaries and if already finalized and how many men involved (was told 42), also asked about contractual expenses of the police budget.

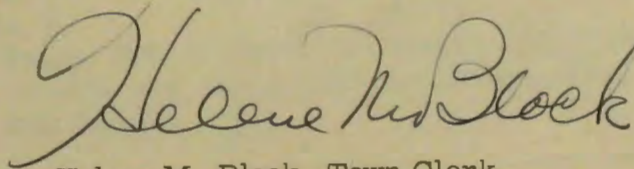
Mr. Stagg asked if this amount includes any moneys for the 7th Squad (police budget contractual expenses) Was told "No".

Mr. Manning asked about personnel for playgrounds.

No one else wishing to be heard and no communications having been received thereto, Supervisor Zaloga thanked everyone for coming, declared the Hearing closed and re-opened the meeting.

The adoption of the Budget was deferred to the next meeting of the Town Board.

There being no further business on motion and vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 P. M.



Helene M. Block, Town Clerk