

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead, held in the Town Hall on Wednesday January 25, 1939, at 2:00 P.M.

Present:

Dennis G. Homan, Supervisor

Henry M. Zaleski

Joseph V. Kelly

Austin H. Warner

Fred H. Boutcher, Justices of the Peace.

Lester M. Emmett, Town Attorney and Myron C. Young, Supt. of Highways were present.

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Board held on January 11, 1939 were read and on motion and vote were duly adopted.

A communication was read from the Riverhead Garden Club thanking the Board for their cooperation with the Club in beautifying the Town. The communication was ordered placed on file.

A communication was read from the Medical Board of the Southampton Hospital in regard to the policy of the Welfare Commissioner of Suffolk County of "lifting" surgical welfare cases from the care of their personal physician and local community hospital to the County Hospital. The communication was ordered placed on file.

Justice Zaleski offered the following Resolution which was seconded by Justice Warner,

WHEREAS, by resolution of this Board, duly adopted at a regular meeting thereof, on December 28, 1938, the immediate purchase of and planting by J. Ebb Weir, of 500 shade trees, at a cost of Five (\$5.00) Dollars per tree, payable in January 1940, was authorized and

WHEREAS, such trees have been planted, appear to be in satisfactory condition, and their replacement in case of failure, through natural causes, to grow within one year has been guaranteed by said J. Ebb Weir, Now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Supervisor be, and he hereby is authorized to issue and deliver to said J. Ebb Weir in full payment for such trees and the planting of same, a certificate of indebtedness in the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred (\$2500.00) Dollars, payable on or before January 25, 1940 without interest. The Vote Justices Zaleski, Kelly, Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Supervisor Homan, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 5, No 0. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

A communication was read from Mr. John Dombek offering to sell to the Town of Riverhead his property on the north side of West Main St. adjoining the Henry Perkins Hotel for a Town Hall site for the sum of \$16000.00. The communication was ordered placed on file.

A communication was read from Mrs. Florence F. Fudge offering to sell to the Town of Riverhead her property located on the east side

of Griffing Avenue for a Town Hall site for the sum of \$18,000.00. The Communication was ordered placed on file.

Justice Kelly addressed the meeting, stating first of all that the purchase or the building of a Town Hall was neither initiated nor motivated by the Town Board, however, he did give the matter careful consideration and talked with many people concerning the proposition and frankly, he did not find one who favored purchasing or building a Town Hall at this time outside of those who had buildings or property for sale. Most everyone felt that due to the new school and the Sewer System recently built, Riverhead is now over bonded, and as the members of the Town Board are servants of the people, they must submit to their wishes. He further stated that he was in contact with the Odd Fellows and that they had presented their side of the question, and he had given them what he thought was the opinion of the Board and that the Odd Fellows have offered an extra room on the second floor together with additional space in the basement for a vault and storage room. Justice Kelly further stated that in view of the fact that by moving the Police Headquarters in the Town Hall, there is a saving in rent of \$1600.00 a year and in view of the present bonded indebtedness, he wished to go on record as opposing the purchase of the building of a new Town Hall at this time.

Mr. Lee Hollingsworth addressed the Board stating that it appears that we all have the feeling of economy, but perhaps it is a false economy. He felt that there would be no better time than the present to buy property for a Town Hall, due to low interest rates. In his opinion the purchase of the Van Brunt Building would be an economical move, outlining the renting facilities, the low interest rate now available and further stating that the Town would own its own building in twenty years. He felt that \$4800.00 rent was too much for the present quarters used as a Town Hall.

Mr. Eugene Ruland addressed the Board, stating that he agreed whole-heartedly with Justice Kelly, however, he felt that if the Town had any idea of building a Town Hall in the near future, now would be the time to purchase or option a site.

Justice Warner addressed the meeting and stated from a business standpoint, figuring all expenses that would go with a building owned by the Town, such as Janitor service, heat, principal and interest, Insurance and upkeep, etc., he felt that the Town could do no better than the present setup.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Kelly it was Resolved that the matter of purchasing a building for a Town Hall or the building of a Town Hall be and the same is hereby tabled at this time. The Resolution was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Board.

Supervisor Homan submitted his report of balances in account as of December 31, 1938 and on motion and vote was accepted and ordered placed on file.

Forrest G. Downs submitted a statement of tax collections as of January 16, 1939 and on motion and vote was accepted and

ordered placed on file.

Myron C. Young, Supt. of Highways advised the Board that he would like to replace two of his old trucks which are eight to ten years old with two new trucks, stating that the repairs and upkeep are too expensive. He also advised that he is using the Walter's Snow fighter for every kind of duty the year around and thinks it advisable to preserve the truck as much as possible for the winter months.

On motion made by Justice Kelly and seconded by Justice Zaleski it was Resolved that the Supt. of Highways upon the approval of the Highway Committee be authorized to purchase two new trucks for use in the Highway Department for the sum not to exceed \$2200.00 each. The Vote, Justices Zaleski, Kelly, Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Supervisor Homan, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 5, No 0. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Justice Warner reporting upon the request of Mrs. Charlotte Lewis for street lights on Creek Road, Wading River advised the Board that the said Road is in the Wading River Lighting District, and also that the Long Island Lighting Co. will transfer lights in a district upon the request of the Town Board. He further stated that he found much sentiment against the present lighting facilities in Wading River and would be very glad to cooperate with that District if the Wading River Civic Association would suggest appropriate changes.

On motion made by Justice Kelly and seconded by Justice Warner it was Resolved that Supervisor Homan be designated to officially represent the Town of Riverhead at the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Association of Towns of the State of New York, to be held at Albany, New York, on Feb. 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 1939, and to cast the vote of the Town of Riverhead. The Resolution was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Board.

On motion made by Justice Zaleski and seconded by Justice Warner it was Resolved that the Supervisor, Justices of the Peace, Supt. of Highways, Town Attorney and Town Clerk be authorized to attend the meeting of the Association of Towns at Albany, New York, on Feb. 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 1939. The Resolution was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Board.

The Town Board then convened as a Board of Audit and examined the bills for the month of January 1939.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to meet on Feb. 8, 1939 at 2:00 P.M.

*Harry J. Kratoch*  
Harry J. Kratoch, Town Clerk.