

Minutes of a Budget Hearing held in the Town Hall on
Wednesday, October 19, 1938 at 7:30 P.M.

Present:

Dennis G. Homan, Supervisor

Henry M. Zaleski

Joseph V. Kelly

Austin H. Warner

Fred H. Boutcher, Justices of the Peace.

Seth A. Hubbard, Town Attorney and Myron C. Young, Supt.
of Highways were present.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the Annual Estimate of the Town
of Riverhead has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town
Clerk and that a hearing for the review thereof will be held at the
Town Hall on Second Street and Roanoke Avenue, in said Town on the
19th day of October, 1938 at 7:30 P.M.

Proof of Publication of the above notice pursuant to law was
submitted to the Board and ordered placed on file.

Supervisor Homan called the meeting to order and gave an
explanation of the tentative budget as a whole, making many recomen-
dations and especially recommending that Item No 1, Town Board be
reduced from \$1700.00 to \$300.00 thereby eliminating a full time Town
Attorney.

Mr. Reginald C. Smith addressed the Board in regard to the
position of Town Attorney, being a former Town Attorney himself,
he brought to the attention of the Board many things that came before
him during his term of office and firmly believed that he earned
\$1200.00 per year. He further stated that the affairs of Town
government are continually becoming more complicated, that the Town
Board needs legal advise before making decisions and urged the Board
to consider carefully the need of a Town Attorney.

Justice Zaleski addressed the Board stating that he fully
realized the purpose of this meeting and that it is his sincere
purpose to save money, yet, it is possible we may save pennies and
lose dollars. He further stated that as an Attorney on the Board
he is always ready to be of service in legal matters, however, it is
his honest opinion that any governing body whether it be Federal,
State or Town needs advice of Counsel in making vital decisions and
that he thinks it folly to make any reduction in Item No 1, Town Board.

Mr. J. Leo Saxstein addressed the Board inquiring why the
Town Attorney could not have handled the legal matter pertaining to
the condemning of the shell fish of Peconic Bay. The cause was
explained to him.

The Board then decided to vote on each item of the Estimate
separately. It was suggested that if the reduction of Item No 1,

Town Board, from \$1700.00 to \$300.00 was to be voted upon it would be wiser to first vote on the question of whether or not the Board wishes to retain a Town Counsel for the ensuing year.

A roll call was ordered upon the question of whether or not to retain a Town Attorney for the ensuing year as follows. Justice Zaleski, Yes, Justice Kelly, Yes, Justice Warner, No, Justice Boutcher No and Supervisor Homan, No. Total Vote Yes 2, No 3. The question of retaining a Town Attorney for the ensuing year was defeated.

Mr. Reginald C. Smith addressed the Board calling to their attention Section 24 of the Town Law, that a Town Attorney, when appointed, shall hold office until the first day of January 1940.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Boutcher it was Resolved that the aforsaid vote to eliminate the office of Town Attorney be and the same is hereby rescinded. The Resolution was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Board.

On motion made by Justice Kelly and seconded by Justice Zaleski it was Resolved that the salary of the Town Attorney be left at \$1200.00 per annum. The Vote, Justices Zaleski, Kelly, Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Supervisor Homan, No. Total Vote, Yes 4, No 1. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Kelly and seconded by Justice Zaleski it was Resolved that the expense account in Item No 1, Town Board be left at \$500.00. The Vote Justices Zaleski and Kelly, Yes, Justice Warner and Boutcher, No. Supervisor Homan, No. The Resolution was thereupon declared defeated.

Supervisor Homan advised the taxpayers present that the meeting was open to discussion and anyone wishing to be heard was at liberty to do so.

Mr. Benjamin Szerepinski addressed the Board stating that heretofore any objections to the budgets have been ignored, so why make any, however he stated that in his opinion the salary of \$1800.00 for a Justice of the Peace was too much as that position allowed a person to work at his regular occupation. He further stated that he has owned a piece of property for 19 years and that his taxes during that time has increased tremendously.

Mr. J. Leo Saxstien inquired as to the item of salary of Clerk to Supervisor in Item No 3. Supervisor Homan explained that heretofore, that Clerk hire was put in a lump sum in the Miscellaneous Item No 9 but that this year it was broken down and placed in the various departments.

Justice Warner addressed the Board and recommended that the salary of the Supervisor be reduced to \$3600.00 per year.

Supervisor Homan stated that when he was previously in office as Supervisor, he did refund a part of his salary, but now he is compelled to be on duty at all times and in his opinion if he does justice to the office he is earning the full amount of his salary.

Justice Warner stated that if that is the case he feels that the

ratio between the Supervisor's salary and the Justices salary is
right, further stating that the Supervisor has a clerk and can call
upon the various committees at all times.

Supervisor Homan replied that all departments are ready and
willing to help one another when called upon, which is a very fine feeling
and which cannot help but make the functioning of Town Government more
efficient.

The fact was brought out that once a salary is fixed, it
automatically stays until the term of that official expires and can only
be voluntarily reduced by the official himself.

Mr. Eugene Ruland addressed the Board, stating that the Town Board
fixes their own salaries and what good does it do for us to say anything.
However, in his opinion the salary of the Supervisor is all right and
that any full time official is not being over paid, but he feels that the
Justices of the Peace are receiving too much for the reason that they can
act as Justice of the Peace and also carry on their private business
without much difficulty.

Justice Warner then stated that in his opinion the Justices
salaries should be voluntarily reduced \$300.00 each, and suggested that
the Justices work should be equally divided between all Justices and that
certain times be fixed for each Justice to be on call, thereby eliminating
any Justice doing more than the other. He further stated that during
his term of office he has never failed to come down to Police Headquarters
when called.

Justice Kelly addressed the Board, stating that there has been
much bickering and petty tactics going on in the meeting, and in his
opinion justice and common sense should be used in deciding questions
of this nature. He was definitely opposed to any salary reduction for
he felt that if all public officials do justice to their jobs and are
sincere in their purpose, none are being over paid. He further stated
that each day during his term of office, he has given freely of his time,
that there is not a day goes by when he does not have from 1 to 5 persons
seeking advice or information of some sort. He sets apart an hour each
day at his home for just such work. Hardly a day goes by when he does
not come to Police Headquarters to see what is going on and that the
record shows that he has handled 66% of the work during the ~~past year~~
He felt that he has conscientiously earned his salary of \$1800.00 per
year and has come to that conclusion after carefully considering the
matter.

Mr. Lester Emmett of Wading River addressed the Board stating that
at a representative meeting at Wading River composed of both Republicans
and Democrats, the question of salaries of Town officials was discussed
and that the meeting was almost unanimous to the effect that no salaries
be reduced and it was their opinion that every Town Official who does
justice to his position earns his salary.

Mr. Elias H. Avram of Riverhead addressed the Board stating that
this meeting was primarily called to hear those persons in favor or
against any item or items placed in the budget. He felt that there was
no selfish motive in anyones mind relative to the reductions of salaries
of the Justice of the Peace. No one knows the importance and duties of

a Justice of the Peace as well as a practicing Attorney especially one like himself who has practised law for over 30 years. He outlined briefly the duties and responsibilities of a Justice and stated that in his opinion a Justice of the Peace if anything was underpaid.

Justice Zaleski stated that if the three Justices refunded \$300.00 apiece and the Supervisor refunded \$400.00, making a total refund of \$1600.00 per year, it would reduce the taxes only 12 cents for each \$1000.00 assessed valuation.

Mr. Benjamin Czerepinski addressed the Board stating that every little reduction counted.

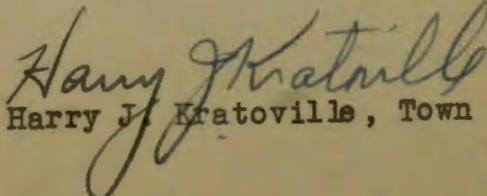
Mr. John Mundo addressed the Board stating that there is no objections to the two items of Schools and Police, but that he felt that the Police Item should be broken down to show how the money is spent. It is only fair to the taxpayers.

Supervisor Homan stated that he is in favor of a \$600.00 reduction in the Police Item.

No one else wishing to be heard at this time, Supervisor Homan thanked those taxpayers for attending the meeting and declared the hearing closed.

The matter of trucks loaded with cauliflower congesting Osborne Ave. in the vicinity of the Rail Road freight yard waiting to be unloaded was discussed by the Board and referred to the Police Committee.

There being no further business on motion and vote the meeting adjourned to meet on Wednesday October 26, 1938 at 2:00 P.M.


Harry J. Kratoville, Town Clerk.