

Minutes of a Special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead, held in the Town Hall on Monday, January 1, 1940 at 7:00 P.M.

Present:

Elmer J.B. Sawyer, Supervisor.

Austin H. Warner,
Fred H. Boutcher,
Joseph V. Kelly,
Henry M. Zaleski, Justices of the Peace.

The Town Clerk advised the Board that he has filed all bonds and oaths of office of all the newly elected officers with the County Clerk pursuant to Law.

WAIVER OF NOTICE AND CONSENT TO MEETING.

We, the undersigned, being all members of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead, County of Suffolk and State of New York, do hereby waive notice of the time, place, date and purpose of a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead to be held at the Town Hall, at Riverhead, New York at 7:00 P.M. on the first day of January 1940, and do consent to the holding of such meeting and to the transaction of any and all business that may come before such meeting.

Dated at Riverhead, N.Y.
January 1, 1940.

Signed Elmer J.B. Sawyer
Fred H. Boutcher
Joseph V. Kelly
Henry M. Zaleski
Austin H. Warner

The above notice was ordered placed on file.

A petition signed by approximately 169 taxpayers and voters of the Town of Riverhead was submitted to the Board, urging that John Kruszon be retained as Clerk to the Board of Assessors. The petition was ordered placed on file.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Boutcher it was RESOLVED that the employment by the Town of Riverhead of Lester Emmett and Seth Hubbard as Town Attorneys, be terminated as of this date. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski No. Supervisor Sawyer Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Boutcher and seconded by Justice Warner, it was RESOLVED that Solomon Raffe be appointed Town Attorney for the Town of Riverhead at a salary of \$1,200.00 per annum, payable monthly. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, No. Supervisor Sawyer Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Mr. Raffe was sworn in by Mr. Joseph Kozofsky and was therefore declared duly qualified as Town Attorney.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Boutcher, it was RESOLVED that the employment by the Town of Riverhead of Frank Sowinski, as special policeman and as officer in charge of the special policemen of the Town of Riverhead, be terminated as of January 2,

1940 at 4 P.M. and further, that the employment by the Town of Riverhead of John Leonard, Milton Mottus, John Block, Madison Courtney, Anthony Danowski and Raymond Oliver, be terminated as of this date; and further that the employment by the Town of Riverhead of Charles Hagen, John Burgess, Frank Blasko, Walter Downs and Fred McGlaflin, as special policemen for school duty, be terminated as of this date. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, No. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Boutcher and seconded by Justice Warner it was RESOLVED that Thomas Walker be appointed special policeman of the Town of Riverhead and as officer in charge, and that he serve at the pleasure of the Town Board at a salary of \$2,000.00 per year, payable semi-monthly. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justice Kelly, No, Justice Zaleski, Not Voting. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 1, Not Voting 1. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Boutcher it was RESOLVED that Joseph Wowak, Harold Bowden, Herbert Snell, George Cooper, John Doscinski and Stephen Grodski be appointed special policemen of the Town of Riverhead, and that the said special policemen serve at the pleasure of the Town Board, and that the salary be fixed at the base rate of \$1,650.00 per annum, payable semi-monthly. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justice Kelly, No, Justice Zaleski, Not Voting. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 1, Not Voting 1. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Boutcher and seconded by Justice Warner, it was RESOLVED that Phillip Karlin, Albin Zaleski, Caesar Dabrowski, John Burgess and Fred MacGlaflin be appointed special policemen by the Town of Riverhead to serve on school duty for the Town of Riverhead, and to serve at the pleasure of the Town Board, and further that the said special policemen appointed for school duty serve between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 9:00 A.M., 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., and 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., under the direction and supervision of the Town Board of Riverhead, and that the compensation be fixed at the rate of \$.50 per hour. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, No. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Boutcher, it was RESOLVED that the employment by the Town of Riverhead of Frank Konchalski, as Dog Warden, be terminated as of this date. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski No. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Boutcher and seconded by Justice Warner, it was RESOLVED that Sherwood C. Hallett be appointed Dog Warden for the Town of Riverhead and that the said Sherwood C. Hallett serve at the pleasure of the Town Board with a salary fixed by the Agriculture and Markets Law. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski No. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Boutcher, it was RESOLVED that the employment by the Town of Riverhead of Frances Konchalski, as Clerk to the Supervisor, be terminated as of this date. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, No. Supervisor Sawyer Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Boutcher and seconded by Justice Warner it was RESOLVED that Helen Block be appointed Clerk to the Supervisor, and that the said Clerk serve at the pleasure of the Town Board, and that her salary be fixed at the rate of \$1,200.00 per annum, payable semi-monthly. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justice Kelly No, Justice Zaleski, Not Voting. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 1, Not Voting 1. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Boutcher it was RESOLVED that the employment by the Town of Riverhead of Adam Pawlaski, as special policeman of the Town of Riverhead, be terminated as of this date. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, No. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Boutcher and seconded by Justice Warner it was RESOLVED that William Shaddock be appointed policeman of the Town of Riverhead, and that he serve at the pleasure of the Town Board, and that his salary be fixed at the base rate of \$1,200.00 per annum, payable semi-monthly. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, No. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Boutcher, it was RESOLVED that the employment by the Town of Riverhead of John Kruzon as Clerk to the Board of Assessors, be terminated as of this date. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, No. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Before the recorded vote was taken upon the above resolution, the following persons requested to be heard.

Mr. George E. Luce, former Justice of the Peace, addressed the Board, stating that he has had much experience on the Town Board and on the Board of Assessors and to avoid mistakes, many facts should be brought before the people of the Town of Riverhead as well as the Town Board regarding the position of Clerk to the Board of Assessors. He stated that this office is in a different category than the other appointive offices of the Town. Mr. John Kruzon is known by his works. His work has been excellent, no one has found any fault with it and he has done it better than anyone else in the history of the Town. In this case, he stated, we should not hue too close to politics. Many taxpayers have signed a petition urging that Mr. Kruzon be retained in his present position and he felt that hundreds more would like to sign it. He admitted that he had undoubtedly made many mistakes while serving on the Town Board, for these he was sorry, however. In the last analysis, most governmental bodies are all balled up on account of politics and there ought to be enough people who would stand up for their convictions in a matter of this kind. He further stated that the taxpayers eyes are focussed

on this job, Mr. Kruszon and his efficient work, they are interested in getting their moneys worth. He felt that it would be a major catastrophe if Mr. Kruszon was dismissed and urged the Board to consider this matter very carefully before acting upon it.

Mr. J. Wilson Stout addressed the Board, stating that he has had much experience in real estate problems and title work and that in the course of his duties for the past several years he has had to use the office of the Board of Assessors on many occasions and it was there that he realized the able manner and the efficiency in which Mr. Kruszon carried on his work. He asked the Board if they realized the technical nature of the position. He stated that in spite of all his experience he would hesitate to say that he was qualified to fill the position immediately. He urged the Board to retain Mr. Kruszon as Clerk to the Board of Assessors and hoped that the Board realized that the responsibility of filling the position as it should be filled, rested squarely upon their shoulders.

Justice Kelly addressed the Board, stating that it was unfortunate that people are subject to such tactics and felt that sometimes we should go beyond politics. He spoke in length of the excellent work that Mr. Kruszon has done, not only in the assessor's office, but in computing the tax rate of the Sewer District, working many extra hours in order that the matter could be brought to a successful end. He stated that the office of Assessor's Clerk was not a routine job and that the matter should be given further consideration in the interest of good Town Government. He further stated that this matter should not be considered from a political point of view, but from a common sense stand-point. He further stated that he was sincere in saying that if he should ever be interested in politics again or ever elected again, he would surely look to efficiency. He urged that the appointment of Assessor's Clerk be held over for a period of two weeks.

Justice Zaleski addressed the Board, stating that it was needless for him to repeat what has already been said, however, he felt that the appointment of Clerk to the Board of Assessors should not be placed in the same category with other appointments, but that it should be given special attention. He stated that the Board of Assessors requested the reappointment of John Kruszon as their Clerk because of his efficiency and therefore urged the Board to hold the appointment over until the next Town Board meeting.

Justice Warner addressed the Board, stating that he thought there was considerable merit in what was said about John Kruszon. He felt that the other two Justices were sincere in what they said, however, he did not feel that they were consistent. He stated that Mr. Kruszon has handled the position well, but he did not think it was a major catastrophe as other men may indicate. He further stated that they cannot expect to keep this job forever, or at least after each change of administration and it has only been on account of his efficiency that he has kept his position as long as he has. He spoke in favor of Civil Service and stated that he will work for that end. Justice Warner called attention to the fact that two years ago a similar matter came before the Board, that there was a certain employee in the Riverhead Sewer District who helped to form the District from the beginning, he knew his work, he lived right in it, however, he was replaced by an inexperienced man. There were no petitions circulated and it was not considered a major catastrophe. He was removed from office without any squawk and accepted with good grace. Justice Warner

stated that they did not appoint any Veterans or exempt firemen, which can be verified. He further stated that he went to Mr. Kruszon last Friday and definitely told him that he was to be replaced and requested him not to circulate any more petitions. He finally stated that he likes good sportsmanship and when a man is defeated he should accept his defeat gracefully.

Justice Kelly replying to Justice Warner in regard to the Sewer District employee, who was replaced two years ago, stated that he knew that there were no petitions circulated for him because of the fact that he was retained for a period of three months by the Board at that time, to instruct the new employee.

Mr. J. Leo Saxstien addressed the Board, stating that two wrongs never make a right and that it seemed to him from the remarks that Justice Warner made that he didn't like some of the things that happened two years ago, consequently he is going to do the same thing. He further stated that machine politics shouldn't be carried out, but that efficient men should be retained at least for a while to first see if you get what you want.

Mr. John Kruszon in reply to Justice Warner stated that it was not him, but that it was the Taxpayers who circulated the petitions and that the Taxpayers would not stop.

Justice Warner stated that he was informed that it was Mr. Kruszon who circulated the petitions.

Justice Zaleski urged the Board to hold the matter of the appointment of the Assessor's Clerk over till the next regular meeting.

On motion made by Justice Boutcher and seconded by Justice Warner it was RESOLVED that Frank Yousik be appointed Clerk to the Board of Assessors, and that the said Clerk to the Board of Assessors serve at the pleasure of the Town Board, and that his salary be fixed at the sum of \$1,800.00 per annum, payable semi-monthly. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, No, Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Boutcher, it was RESOLVED that the employment by the Town of Riverhead of William Terry as Clerk to the Water District be terminated as of this date. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, No. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Boutcher and seconded by Justice Warner it was RESOLVED that George S. Reeve be appointed Clerk to the Water District and to serve at the pleasure of the Town Board, and that his salary be fixed at the rate of \$1600.00 per annum, payable semi-monthly. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, No. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Justice Kelly in voting No on the above resolution, wished it noted that he objected because it did not seem to him to be a good business practice to put a man of no experience in a position at the same salary as that received by one of experience.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Boutcher, it was RESOLVED that the employment by the Town of Riverhead of John Kelly as a Laborer in the Water District, be terminated as of this date. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, No. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Boutcher and seconded by Justice Warner it was RESOLVED that Harold E. Robinson be appointed Laborer in the Water District and to serve at the pleasure of the Town Board, and that his salary be fixed at the rate of \$1650.00 per annum, payable semi-monthly. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, No. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Boutcher, it was RESOLVED that the employment by the Town of Riverhead of Charles J. Hagen as Special Constable be terminated as of this date. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, No. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Boutcher and seconded by Justice Warner it was RESOLVED that Philip Karlin be appointed Constable to serve summons' and other processes of the Justices' Court in the Town of Riverhead, and to serve at the pleasure of the Town Board at a salary of \$20.00 per month. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, No. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

(Supervisor Sawyer relinquished the chair in favor of Justice Warner and offered the following Resolution, which was seconded by Justice Boutcher, RESOLVED that the Town Board notify George Welch not to report for work until further notice. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, No. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, No 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.)

Justice Kelly before voting requested an explanation of the above resolution.)

(Supervisor Sawyer replied that in the interest of economy he would like to look into the Sewer Department and to study the situation in order to ascertain whether or not a Supt. of Sewers is needed.)

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Boutcher, it was RESOLVED that in the interest of economy, the salaries of many of the Town officials should be reduced, and that the salary of the Supervisor be reduced 10%. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, Not Voting. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, Not Voting 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Boutcher and seconded by Justice Warner it was RESOLVED that in the interest of economy, the salaries of the Justices of the Peace Austin H. Warner and Fred H. Boutcher

be reduced 10%. The Vote, Justices Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Justices Kelly and Zaleski, Not Voting. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 3, Not Voting 2. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Supervisor Sawyer requested that all retiring Policemen turn in their uniforms.

Supervisor Sawyer appointed the following standing committees.

Water District Committee--Justices Warner and Zaleski.

Sewer District Committee--Justices Boutcher and Kelly.

Police Committee--Justices Warner and Kelly.

Lighting Committee--Justices Boutcher and Zaleski.

Town Hall Committee--Justice Warner.

Town Park Committee--Justices Warner and Zaleski.

Highway Committee--Justices Boutcher and Kelly.

Justice Kelly inquired whether the first named on each Committee was the Chairman.

Supervisor Sawyer replied that he would report on the above matter at the next meeting.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Zaleski, it was RESOLVED that the Suffolk County Trust Company, The Suffolk County National Bank and The Long Island State Bank and Trust Co. be designated the depositories for all town funds. The Vote, Justices Warner, Boutcher, Kelly and Zaleski, Yes. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 5, No 0. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

There being no further business, on motion and vote the meeting adjourned to meet on Wednesday, January 17, 1940 at 2:00 P.M.

Harry J. Kratoville
Harry J. Kratoville, Town Clerk.