

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead held in the Town Hall, Riverhead, New York, on Wednesday, November 5th, 1975, 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 1976.

Present:

John H. Leonard, Supervisor
Robert G. Leonard, Town Justice
Gregory R. Manning, Town Justice
George G. Young, Councilman
Francis E. Menendez, Councilman

Also present: Allen M. Smith, Town Attorney
Alex E. Horton, Supt. of Highways

Town Clerk submitted affidavit of posting and publishing Notice of Public Hearing Upon Preliminary Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1st, 1976.

The affidavit was ordered filed.

There were approximately 19 people in attendance.

Thereupon Supervisor Leonard declared the Hearing open at 7:30 P.M. and asked if anyone wished to be heard and the following responded:

COMMUNICATION

Letter from the Riverhead Town Preservation and Landmarks Commission, to the Town Board, requesting the Town Board to appropriate \$5,000 for the architectural survey and an additional appropriation of \$10,000 toward the purchase of property, based on the feasibility of said survey. Filed.

Mrs. Shirley Smith, Chairman of Riverhead Preservation Commission, spoke on the \$5,000 put in the Budget for surveys, plaques and etc. and requested the Town Board to keep that amount in the Budget, but to delete the \$10,000 put in for purchases.

Mrs. Alice Graff, member of the Riverhead Preservation Commission, stated that as part of their preservation society, they would like to purchase the Corwin and Benjamin homes, and were asking the Town Board to give them funds, with which to start negotiations for purchasing.

She further commented, that in order to get going, they need the good will of the Town Board in order to start buying the properties.

Judge Leonard referred to the \$5,000 item for surveys and asked if Ms. Van Liew was the only person they could contact or were there others available.

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

Mrs. Smith replied that Ms. Van Liew volunteered to come to Riverhead with two or three assistants to make the survey.

She further stated that part of Riverhead has already been done as part of a survey by the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities.

Further discussion followed.

Town Attorney, Allen M. Smith, explained that the Budget items referred to by Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Graff were on page 26 of the Budget and continued by saying that he assumed Mrs. Graff was suggesting that the second item of \$10,000 be deleted from that page and be placed under Capital Improvements-Acquisition of Land, on pages 22, 23 or 24 of the Budget, under Culture and Recreation.

Further discussion.

Mrs. Shirley Smith reiterated the Town Attorney's remarks about the Budget items and stated again that the Commission didn't want anyone to think that that \$10,000 was put in a preservation budget because the Commission was empowered to spend the money themselves.

She further stated that only the Town Board has the authority to spend these funds, in the name of the Preservation Commission, upon presentation of appropriate vouchers.

Discussion followed.

Dr. Caryl Granttham referred to the "Shade Tree" item on page 30 of the Budget and asked how much money was actually spent in 1975 on this item.

She then expressed her concern for the care of the trees in Town.

Alex Horton answered Dr. Granttham by saying that approximately \$8,000 was spent on trimming and removing dead trees.

Thomas McKay asked if the properties to be purchased by the Town would come off the tax rolls.

Mrs. Smith stated that there were many ways of receiving revenue from these two buildings that would pay for the taxes and upkeep of the properties.

Discussion followed.

Town Attorney stated that Mr. McKay's question deals with a matter that will not arise until the future and should not be confused with the simple request of these ladies to have money put into the Budget to start things going.

George Plevretes, representing the Riverhead Chamber of Commerce, asked the Town Board to add \$1,500 as "seed money" to the Planning Board's Budget, so that Frederick Reuter could be hired to make a study of the downtown area, so that the Town could see where they're going, relative to "where the Master Plan left off".

Short discussion followed.

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

Town Attorney then directed himself to Frank Polacek, Chairman of the Planning Board, and asked him if there was any money in their Budget to pay Mr. Reuter regarding the processing and enacting of the proposed amendments to Ordinance #26.

Frank Polacek then stated that they put \$5,000 in their Budget, because the Town Board neglected to put in any funds relating to the implementation of the Master Plan and he didn't see anything listed, as such, in the estimated revenues from County allocated funds.

He then suggested that the \$1,500 "seed money" come from the Town Board, rather than the Planning Board, because he felt that the upgrading of the downtown area should be a Town Board concern.

Judge Manning asked why the Planning Board's 1976 Budget was lower than 1975, if Mr. Polacek added \$5,000 to his proposed Budget.

Mr. Polacek explained that that money was used to pay Mr. Reuter for his work on the Master Plan and for the last shipment of the amended Master Plan.

Councilman Menendez asked Mr. Polacek where he thought the \$1,500 "seed money" ought to be put in the Budget.

Mr. Polacek suggested that it go on page 5 under Legislative Contractual Expense along with Maps, Zoning & Other.

Short discussion followed.

Town Attorney stated that his very reason for asking Mr. Polacek that question was to bring out the fact that the Planning Board has their funds allocated for certain things and the Town Board has no funds allocated anywhere for the implementation of the Master Plan or the enacting of the amendments to Ordinance #26.

Discussion followed.

Ralph Quinton, representing the Industrial Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, explained that the Chamber is trying to develop a program that will bring new industry to the Town.

He then said that since Riverhead is surrounded by research facilities, the Chamber feels that Riverhead is an ideal place for a research-type facility.

He went on to say that they felt that \$5,000 was needed to start this program with brochures, etc. and that the money would only be spent on printing of the color brochure, the ads in magazines and the mailing of same.

Town Attorney stated that on page 20, Item A6410, there was already \$1,000 allocated for publicity.

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

Judge Leonard stated that several years ago, this same idea was tried, at a cost of \$2,500 a year and during a two year period, only three inquiries were made.

Further discussion followed.

Councilman Menendez asked if the Town would be doing the same as the County is doing now.

Mr. Quinton replied: "No. You'll be working specifically to bring industry to Riverhead."

Thomas McKay, member of the Board of Assessors, stated that he felt that the position of Clerk-Typist in his office, now occupied by the newly elected Councilwoman, Jesse Tomlinson, should be abolished and the money taken out of their Budget.

Councilman Young asked Mr. McKay if that suggestion was the consensus of the entire Board of Assessors.

Mr. McKay replied that he was speaking only for himself, as a taxpayer.

Dr. Alfred Smith (First part of inquiry was lost due to the tape recorder being accidentally disconnected.)

He then referred to Item A3120.1, under Law Enforcement-Personal Services on page 14 of the Budget and asked what the extra money listed at the end was for.

Councilman Young explained that that was for the 7% raise that the Police got as of November 1st.

Supervisor Leonard stated that that money was put in the Budget because negotiations were still going on and the Town Board didn't know how much more they would have to pay the Police, if any.

Dr. Smith then went back to page 11, Item A1430.1 and asked the same question.

He was told that the reasoning was the same in that case too.

Town Attorney then asked if they were covered in the Budget for snow.

Miss Block, Town Clerk stated that according to law, they were covered.

Town Attorney stated that in the State Comptroller's report, the Town was criticized for carrying the snow item on tax anticipation notes.

He further stated that if they can wipe it out, that's what the Auditor says to do.

A lengthy discussion followed.

PUBLIC HEARING - continued:

Miss Block then explained the break-down of Contractual Expenses on page 43 of the Highway Budget, as follows:

<u>Misc. Item-Ice & Snow Expenses</u> (Salt, snow fencing, private equip. rentals)	\$25,000.00
 <u>Misc. Other-Contractual Expenses</u>	
Signs	30,000.00
Traffic Paint	6,000.00
Cleaning Materials	500.00
Trees	500.00
Miscellaneous	4,000.00
Uniforms	1,000.00
TOTAL	<u>\$67,000.00</u>

Town Attorney stated that there is \$20,000 in the Budget to retire notes, but in fact there are approximately \$50,000 worth of notes to be paid off, regarding snow removal, etc.

Miss Block explained that there was only one outstanding note for \$20,000 and that would be paid off in January, 1976.

She further pointed out to the Board that the note amount plus the interest due was included in the Highway Budget under Item #4 - Appropriations on page 43 of the Budget.

Connie Gevinski asked where or if any money was put into the Budget regarding the Jamesport School.

Stanley Grodski stated that the Recreation Budget had \$10,000 under Contractual Expenses, \$5,900 of which is allocated for the Jamesport School.

Short discussion followed.

There being no one else wishing to be heard, and no communications having been received, Supervisor Leonard declared the Hearing closed at 9:15 P.M.

The adoption of the Budget was deferred to Friday, November 14th, 1975, at 10:00 A.M.



Helene M. Block, Town Clerk

HMB/mhj