

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead, held in the Town Hall, Riverhead, New York, on Tuesday, October 30, 1979 at 7:30 P.M.

Present: Allen M. Smith, Supervisor  
George G. Young, Councilman  
Francis E. Menendez, Councilman  
John Lombardi, Councilman  
Antone J. Regula, Councilman

Absent: Henry S. Saxtein, Town Attorney

Supervisor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC HEARING - 7:30 P.M.

The Town Clerk submitted affidavits of publishing and posting of a public notice of a public hearing to be held at Town Hall on Tuesday, October 30, 1979 at 7:30 P.M. to hear all interested persons regarding the preliminary budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 1970.

The affidavits were ordered to be placed on file.

Supervisor Smith: "We are a few minutes early, but certainly the hearing will last into the appointed hour. Does anyone wish to begin? Does my old orchestra leader wish to try to educate the Town Board?"

Howard Hovey: "Mr. Supervisor, Mrs. Hirsch was supposed to . . ."

Supervisor Smith: "She's around some place."

Howard Hovey: Inaudible.

Irene J. Pendzick; "I saw her in the hall."

Supervisor Smith: "We'll wait until she shows up then. She's around here some place."

PUBLIC HEARING - continued

Howard Hovey: "I thought she was going to be right here ahead of me. I'll go look."

Supervisor Smith: "Anyone else or any questions."

Bill Nohejl: "I didn't have time to digest this thing to ask questions."

Supervisor Smith: "Bill you're welcome to ask questions any time. Either at the hearing tonight or as you examine it. If you have further questions we'll give you the opportunity even to obtain written answers. Obviously, you're familiar with the process here. This will not be voted on this evening. I do not recall the specific statutory requirements, but I think we have to vote on it by November 15th, which will mean probably a vote on the 8th.

Mr. Scheiner, I know Anne Hirsch and the Eastern Suffolk School of Music people wish to make a presentation, can you see if you can chase them in here. Here they come.

Anne if you'd like to make your presentation. We can let you and Mr. Hovey and the young lady do so. From the microphone please."

Anne Hirsch: "I'm the Executive Director of Eastern Suffolk School of Music in the Benjamin House for which I thank you all. And this is Lavonda Goree who is a student at the School and has come down to help us with the request for tonight and Mr. Hovey I don't think anyone here doesn't know him, has come to help.

We're here because we'd like to talk to the proposition that is in front of you, I believe this evening, concerts to be held in Grangebel Park this past summer . . ."

Supervisor Smith: "Anne can I interrupt . . ."

Anne Hirsch: "Yes Allen."

Supervisor Smith: "George would you close that door around the corner. It's those historians, those preservation types. They make a lot of noise. Musicians are much milder and temperament except tuba players. Go ahead."

Anne Hirsch: "Well I thought I would, Allen, the tuba

PUBLIC HEARING - continued

player to really express the full sentiments. And I would like to say that I would be happy to represent as director of the music school to work with the Town in providing future concerts for Grangebél Park. It was a lovely evening last summer and we have tentatively set a schedule which may meet with your approval for next summer on Friday evenings alternating Fridays throughout July and August. And the concerts would be open to the public and I can describe them, but I'd like Howard to really do it."

Supervisor Smith: "Why don't we let Lavonda go first. First you take the microphone, bring it down to her level. Lavonda why don't you tell us a little bit of something that you do at the music school and why you like music?"

Lavonda Goree: "I play the piano and I practice the piano every day and next summer we're going to play in the park."

Supervisor Smith: "Do you enjoy the music in the park?"

Lavonda Goree: "Yes."

Supervisor Smith: "You like the music then?"

Lavonda Goree: "Yes."

Howard Hovey: "All right. Mr. Supervisor, Members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen, Mrs. Hirsch asked me to come down here as, oh someone who perhaps knew a little bit more about the concerts. Briefly the precedent for the Town Board sponsoring concerts is not hard to find. When I first came to Riverhead forty-five years ago, the Town Board was paying for concerts. The Old Town Band with Professor Corwin and the Town Board financed those. This Band, unfortunately, went under with World War II, because people were just going into the service and there was trouble getting transportation. And at that time the Board of Education took over the sponsorship summer concerts and that continued with great success, if I may say so, because I conducted them. I conducted far over one hundred concerts and then after I stepped down,

PUBLIC HEARING - continuedHoward Hovey continues:

Charlie Cardona has done many many more. But that is vulnerable because it is subject to the will of the voters and when they don't pass a school budget, the concerts are out the window and that unfortunate circumstance maintained for the past several summers. They resumed a little this past summer.

A precedent from another angle. If you gentlemen would ever like to go up to Huntington to Heckshire Park on a Wednesday evening, in the summer, you will see a summer concert band that has been going on for generations highly successful. Also in the park down by the docks in Northport, a similar program on Thursday evenings and I recommend these to you. These are sponsored financed by the Huntington Town. Of course, there is a little bit of an angle there. The last few years Mr. Ken Butterfield, the Huntington Supervisor is an expert trumpet player and performs at those programs from time to time, proficiently too. I don't see any similar talent in front of me at the moment, but we won't belabor that.

The money that has been tentatively allocated in the budget is a fine fine indication for an excellent start. I thought it might be appropriate to mention to you that the concert that we had last summer with an American Concert Band, it cost the local community approximately one-third of the cost of that concert. The rest of that money was supplied by what is called a Music Performance Trust Fund which is administered by local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians, that's a union. Union is a dirty word, I know, in some situations, and this is one thing that a union does beautifully. The trust fund money is gathered when the juke box plays or when music played over the radio or television, phonographic record sales, a little bit of money goes back to the union and that money has to be spent to provide free live music and it takes many, many forms and one form, for example, last summer in August when the American Concert Band here played, about one-third the cost of that program was paid by the music performance trust fund. The rest of it came from, in the American Concert Band, for example, I go to rehearsal tomorrow night, it costs me \$100 a year to belong to that band. If I don't pay that \$100, I can't be in that band, and they call it the American Concert Band Society and they have that money which they use as you might call it money to help supply these concerts. The same thing applies with the Atlantic Wind Symphony where I'm going to rehearse tonight when I leave this place and I think I've taken as much of your time as perhaps you can allow me. But I can talk till tomorrow night about summer band concerts. Are there any questions?"

PUBLIC HEARING - continued

Anne Hirsch: "I'd like to add one . . ."

Supervisor Smith: "Anne, if you'll talk into the microphone, that way it comes out in the transcript."

Anne Hirsch: "I would also like to add that on the basis of four concerts if you consider it that way, we would have the American Concert Band, the Atlantic Wind Symphony, I would arrange for a Jazz Concert again on a professional level and I'm not ready to say exactly what the fourth concert would be, but it would be a Light Pops Concert of some kind, either orchestral or along those lines."

Supervisor Smith: "We thank you for coming down this evening."

Anne Hirsch: "You're welcome. Thank you."

Supervisor Smith: "Thank you. Thank you Sir. All right. Any other questions? Bill do you have specifics or do you want to . . . If you want to call them out from back there, I'll let you. Or come up."

Bill Nohejl, Wading River: "In reference to lighting, where is this contract listed for maintenance? I can't seem to find it."

Supervisor Smith: "There is not a contract for maintenance at this particular point Bill."

Bill Nohejl: "Well how do you plan to figure it into the '80 budget."

Supervisor Smith: "Jack will you give me that page please? We have two means of doing it Bill. We had, as we prepared the budget, the engineering estimates for the projection of what it might cost to contract bid the lighting. The engineering estimate was some \$39,000 plus and the actual bid came in at \$140,000."

Bill Nohejl: "Close to \$150,000."

PUBLIC HEARING - continued

Supervisor Smith: "Okay, close to \$150,000. Pretty much the Board had decided in advance, we cost analyzed the maintenance of the system similar to the method being used in Southold with our own personnel with one or two people in a truck and less than \$60,000 so this would reflect an operating expense based upon the current year 1979 and \$60,000 give or take a few for the operation of the lights."

Bill Nohejl: "Is this the way you intend to go?"

Supervisor Smith: "We are, I think the engineers report came back in. We haven't discussed it at this particular point, but given the choice between spending \$150,000 and spending \$60,000, well even if it's \$75,000 we can, it begins to get into the realm of possibility of hiring people."

Bill Nohejl: "You see what I'm getting at here? If it were to be \$140,000, \$150,000 or \$120,000 for maintenance and you remember the discussion at the Wading River School the other night about extra police. Now I know damn well a light isn't going to move around to protect people. It's stationary. And if you were to go with \$125,000 to \$150,000 as a maintenance fee I sure in hell want policemen around instead of that maintenance fee."

Supervisor Smith: "I think that's the general consensus of the Town Board."

Bill Nohejl: "Because we have lights all over here now and someone has to maintain them that's for sure. And when people are crying for police protection and if you had to go with this amount of money into maintenance, it's a terrible disgrace."

Supervisor Smith: "Well I don't think we're going to Bill."

Bill Nohejl: "Well even now if you take \$75,000 it's still money."

Supervisor Smith: "Well okay we appreciate your comments. There are people who wish the system maintained,

PUBLIC HEARING - continuedSupervisor Smith continues:

in fact, wish it expanded and . . ."

Bill Nohejl: "That's the problem expanding it. Yes, whenever anyone comes to ask for a light, it's almost automatically bestowed upon them. When everyone comes for a policeman it's the opposite. If you want us to pay for it, we shall put them on. Now you don't tell the people, lights that's going to cost maintenance that's going to cost electricity it's automatically handed to them."

Supervisor Smith: "Sometimes we do and sometimes we don't."

Bill Nohejl: "Most of the time I've been here. You haven't."

Supervisor Smith: "Okay. Be that as it may. People do demand lights and they do seem willing to pay for them. I do not see that we are going to award a contract for anything like \$150,000 on an annual basis for the maintenance of the system when we can do it based upon Southold's experience at probably around \$50,000 with our own personnel who can be used for other functions such as tree trimming which is currently contracted out."

Bill Nohejl: "Has the Horton Avenue contract been let out?"

Supervisor Smith: "No Sir, we're still waiting for an engineering report."

Bill Nohejl: "Whenever the engineering report comes or whatever the figure is you know definitely I am against the Horton Avenue project being built as a sump, otherwise relocating the people and using that as an automatic sump where the people are living now because water seeks its level. You and I know that that is an underground river section. There's an underground river flowing in that area. And I don't believe in putting money into sumps when you have an automatic area that would be a sump and move these people out to a different area and build up the roads of Osborne, Horton, and Middle Road and leave nature along because I've been born close to

PUBLIC HEARING - continuedBill Nohejl continues:

the earth and I know damn well when you start messing with nature you've got problems."

Supervisor Smith: "All right. Thank you."

Bill Nohejl: "I don't know if I'm finished now. If I have anything else, I wish to come back."

Supervisor Smith: "Even if I close the hearing Bill we'll answer those questions. Anyone else who chooses to address the Town Board? There being no one rising to speak, we will declare the hearing closed, reserving to Mr. Nohejl the right to ask questions which we will reply to either verbally or by letter. Thank you very much."

No one else wishing to be heard and no communications having been received thereto, Supervisor Smith declared the hearing closed at 7:46 P.M.

*Irene J. Pendzick*

Irene J. Pendzick, Town Clerk

IJP/vlv