

**WAIVER OF NOTICE AND CONSENT OF SPECIAL MEETING**

We, the Undersigned, being all members of the Town Board of Town of Riverhead, Suffolk County 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, Riverhead, New York, a 2:30 P.M. on the 23rd day of November 1993, and do consent to the holding of such meeting for the purpose of:

ADOPTING RESOLUTION #735 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION BY THE RIVERHEAD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT (which was TABLED from the November 16th Regular Board Meeting)

**DATED:** NOVEMBER 23, 1993

**TOWN BOARD MEMBERS,  
TOWN OF RIVERHEAD, N.Y.**

*Joseph J. Jonubi*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**SUPERVISOR**

*Franklin W. [Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNCILMAN**

*Ann M. [Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNCILWOMAN**

*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNCILMAN**

*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**COUNCILMAN**

## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 23, 1993

The Special Board Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Janoski at 2:30 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Joseph Janoski  
 Councilman Victor Prusinowski  
 Councilman James Stark  
 Councilman Frank Creighton  
 Councilwoman Harriet Gilliam

Also Present: Town Clerk, Barbara Grattan

Resolution #735 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION BY THE RIVERHEAD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Councilman Stark offered the Resolution off the table and Councilman Creighton seconded the motion.

The Vote: Gilliam, yes; Creighton, yes; Stark, yes; Prusinowski, yes; Janoski, yes. 5 Yes to remove from the table.

Councilman Stark offered the Resolution for discussion, Councilman Creighton seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Gilliam: "There are many questions-- the Town being the Grantee (inaudible), there are a number of (inaudible) that the Town has to give (inaudible) federal government as the Grantee under this program, and I don't think there's been adequate discussion in terms of the (inaudible) of the program; the selection criteria for the students; whether the program is actually operating now; has there been parental notification; what's the curriculum; and what is the alternative program for these students during the day, if they're not coming to school until the afternoon; and is there someone here who can answer those questions?"

Chuck Ebetino: "Chuck Ebetino, the interim Superintendent of Schools and I'd be happy to answer your questions. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you and meet some of you who I had not met before. The program is a work study program provided to students who have demonstrated difficulty in-- operating within the confines of high school, based on either their attendance or their inability to get to class or behavior which is not acceptable. It's a-- we could call it a work study program, a program that will give students an opportunity not to drop out of school but to not only receive academic course work but also some guidance, an opportunity for some work study, vocational training, and also the opportunity to return to the high school based

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on their demonstration of interest in securing an education, adhering to the rules that have been established, and coming to school on a regular basis.

So it's somewhat of a drop-out prevention program. I think the curriculum is one that fits the needs of these students because it combines the academic, the guidance and counseling that's necessary to help a student who has demonstrated time and time again an unwillingness to adhere to the parameters that have been established at the high school. I'd be happy to answer any specific questions that you have."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "I still-- you talk in very vague and broad terms in terms of the criteria for the selection of students as being those who don't fit in and I think a part of the concern is according to the definition as to when the student has engaged in or has behavioral problems-- "

Chuck AEbetino: "Okay. I'd be happy to discuss that. Yes, I don't really feel that our evaluation of the student is vague at all. We keep a documentation of the record of the youngster; we are professional educators who are powered and legally responsible for the health, safety and welfare and education of students, and I think that we possess the qualifications to make a very good determination as to what students are not adhering to the rules and regulations and the academic requirements-- "

Councilwoman Gilliam: "With all due respects, I asked the previous school attorney, I've worked with many school districts and I'm aware of what can be done within the confines of the law to build your case. What I'm asking is, what is the selection criteria? Has that been published in any form? Have parents been alerted that their child has been, so called selected to participate in the program?"

Chuck AEbetino: "Yes, they have."

Councilwoman Gilliam: -- "notification cards to sign off?"

Chuck Ebetino: "They've been. Each parent has-- we've discussed their particular individual case. Not only in the final selection of the student for the program, but under prior concerns that have evolved during the child's stay at the high school."

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Councilwoman Gilliam: "And the Commissioner of Education has approved this curriculum that you have developed?"

Chuck EBetino: "We are empowered to-- you mean he, personally, is approving this curriculum?"

Councilwoman Gilliam: "Not personally, the office of the-- "

Chuck EBetino: "Yes, as a delegate of the Commissioner, I am responsible for that curriculum."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "And it meets the requirements-- "

Chuck EBetino: "Yes, it does."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "What about during the day, what are the children going to be doing?"

Chuck EBetino: "During the day there are some provisions for some students to gain a work experience. We're working with the Department of Labor and for funding to place a number of students in jobs before. As far as the other students, they are the responsibility of their parents as they would have been if they went to school during the day and were out of school after the school day."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "So in other words, you've decided that a meaningful alternative activity for the students is a work environment as opposed to an academic environment during the day?"

Chuck EBetino: "No, well, what you-- it's really still during the day. The program begins at 2:45 and ends at about 6:15."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "Is there transportation that is going to be provided?"

Chuck EBetino: "The transportation is being provided."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "And this program is staffed by whom?"

Chuck EBetino: "The program that we've worked up through the Board of Cooperative Educational Services and is staffed by professionally

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certified personnel."

Councilman Prusinowski: "So the grant money will go-- to underwrite some of the personnel costs?"

Chuck Ebetino: "The grant money or some of the grant money-- you have to understand it's more than just-- this is one component of the program-- yes, and there are funds that are coming from other sources within the budget to combine to provide the total program."

Councilman Prusinowski: "And I believe the School Board passed a Resolution indemnifying the Town?"

Chuck Ebetino: "Yes."

Councilman Prusinowski: "And you are also going to follow it up I understand-- there's going to be some communication with the attorneys -- we're supposed to get some type of-- was telling us of something signed?"

Chuck Ebetino: "We certainly would be very favorably disposed to working-- "

Councilman Prusinowski: " -- that and some other type of-- something in writing between the two Boards."

Chuck Ebetino: "Have no problem with that. Our Board is willing to work with the Town Board. I think that there are many, many opportunities that go back and forth as I may have mentioned to some of you, where the Town and School has to work together and we are always concerned about who's indemnifying who, that we're serving the same young people. We use our fields, we had a beautiful community concert -- I mean production with thousands of people in the last two weekends. Certainly, there's a concern for it, but at the same time I think what we ought to do is work together and provide the right types of things for the community residents and the young people. And I think that both groups have extended themselves and will continue to do so and we certainly will work with you in whatever way possible to share the burden of whatever it is that we're doing."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "It is all fine and good to talk about indemnification but the grant application talks in terms of what the

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Town as the Grantee will have to do in terms of making assurances with regard to recording requirements, auditing, ensuring that program objectives are met, and I just want to make a comment to the rest of the Town Board members that I think that we're getting into a field, or an area, where-- that is not really appropriate for Town government, as evidenced by the fact that this grant application is not really a grant that is suitable to be run or operated by a school district by virtue of the fact that they had to come and ask the Town to sign off on the grant application. I think that what we have here is a hybrid. It's something that's an educational program, but yet the Town is going on record, going on paper, as being the sign-off agency in terms of the Grantee and having the ultimate responsibility with regard to recording assurances, and I just don't think that there is enough of a responsibility or a sharing of responsibility between the Town and the School Board to assure that those assurances, reporting requirements are met."

Chuck Ebetino: "If you would permit me, I certainly would like to make another comment. There are I think either 12 or 15 other school districts that are receiving the grant through the federal funds as they (inaudible) as so many times they do. And so this problem is not unique to our community. I think our community is fortunate to have been selected to receive these funds. And that the Resolution that was passed by the Board of Education does address itself to the reporting and to the-- fulfilling the objectives et cetera. And I have to say that a preliminary copy of the comprehensive application was delivered to Albany, the Department of Criminal Justice that's handling it, and nothing but favorable reviews, willingness to do whatever is possible to communicate their high regard for the application to the Board, and I think that the Board here can understand pretty clearly what this is intended to do and how it is shared responsibility and that that would not be necessary, but I just wanted to indicate that they have extended themselves, to say they would do whatever is possible because it was the best example of a grant that they have seen in this round of applications."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "Was there any particular reason that you (inaudible) to the Town Board during a work session or any of our meetings to discuss this before it got to the stage to (inaudible) any concerns that we may have in terms of administration or operation?"

Chuck Ebetino: "Well, yes, I'm glad you asked that question

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because the original understanding that I had gleaned which was in error, was that it should go through the county government, and so this application in its original state was designed to be approved by the county board. However, after taking it to the county and discussing it and further communicating with Albany, it was indicated that it should go to the town government instead of to the county government. And so I do apologize for not having involved you sooner, but that's as simple an answer as I can give as to why that took place. I certainly would have been happy to do something otherwise and I take responsibility for that."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "Is the program in operation right now?"

Chuck Ebetino: "Yes, it is."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "As of when?"

Chuck Ebetino: "I think it's in its second week."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "How many students?"

Chuck Ebetino: "Well, see we had 19 in a program that was being run by BOCES, so we kind of put those together. I think we have about 50 young people there and they're attending and that seems to be working fairly well right now. We've got full cooperation and I'm very pleased with the degree of interest that has been shown. They're smaller classes. It's more individualized. There's more guidance, more direct assisting young people, and I think it's going to have a positive impact on a good number of those youngsters. Hopefully."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "Are there students who are unwilling to participate?"

Chuck Ebetino: "Through guidance and through working with their parents and to my knowledge, no one has been brought to my attention that has been unwilling to participate. But I am sure we will have, as we proceed, some young people who choose to cut that also. And, as I said-- "

Councilwoman Gilliam: "I'm not talking about in terms of cut, I'm talking about (inaudible)-- well I don't feel-- why do I have to participate and so on?"

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Chuck Ebetino: "Well, we tell them exactly why-- "

Councilwoman Gilliam: "-- I can function in the regular school environment."

Chuck Ebetino: "Well, we don't feel they've been functioning through demonstrated and documented evidence, but they have had many, many opportunities to prove their willingness to function. And they, as I've said before, will have an opportunity to prove they want to function in a regular school and they will be given that opportunity at its earliest convenience."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "That means what in terms of re-entry-- ?"

Chuck Ebetino: "It's on a quarterly basis. On a quarterly basis."

Councilman Prusinowski: "What was the vote on the Board of Education for this program?"

Chuck Ebetino: "It was unanimous."

Councilman Creighton: "Is it possible that a vehicle like this could lead toward more and better communication and cooperative effort toward the welfare of our youth 24 hours a day in town between the School Board and Town Board?"

Chuck Ebetino: "Yes, we would like to see more and more of that and we're working towards a very close relationship with the town and the Town Board and our Board of Education, because we're absolutely convinced that it takes more than a school or more than a town. It takes everyone together to run a decent community that children can prosper and people can live safe healthy lives and we're willing to do all that's necessary to cooperate. Make ourselves available at any time. The design of this program has certain modules in it that will foster that relationship."

Councilman Creighton: "In that spirit, I look forward to supporting this grant application and look forward to tracking the progress as we go along."

Councilman Stark: "You and (inaudible), Chuck, as we talked on the phone and as we pass back our certificates of indemnification, that's

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the only thing I didn't want to see come back here."

Chuck Ebetino: "That's guaranteed. We will--."

Councilman Stark: "I support that totally."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "I'd like to ask the Supervisor: Who is going to be responsible at the town level in terms of supporting that (inaudible)."

Supervisor Janoski: "Well, I guess that becomes my responsibility ultimately (inaudible)."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "What I'm concerned about, do we have a mechanism-- or will we have a mechanism for it assuring that that does get done?"

Supervisor Janoski: "We file a lot of reports that we are required to and the mechanism has worked, although sometimes a little late, but we will handle that aspect of it."

Councilman Prusinowski: "I'm sure the School District will cooperate with (inaudible)."

Chuck Ebetino: "We will copy you on every communication that's made and every directive or inquiries from the state level you will be copied and we will be willing to give interim reports and any data that's going to the Board of Education concerning the program will be forthcoming to the Board."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "What's the racial composition of the student (inaudible)?"

Chuck Ebetino: "You mean, exactly? I don't have that information with me. I would say that, Mr. DeGrasse, if I might defer with your permission. I would say that the majority are black. Mr. DeGrasse is in charge of student services and he and I have worked, since I've been here, fairly closely in trying to do some things with young people, tracking to see that they're given their opportunities and to, you know to evaluate what is taking place, and he could speak more directly with regard to that, but in simple terms, yes, it is probably a majority of black students."

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Supervisor Janoski: "Well, since this thing is very unique, why not?"

Theo Brunskill: "I just want to know, (inaudible), the students that are in the program, did they get the opportunity for (inaudible)?"

Chuck Ebetino: "I would say that a number of the students did, but not all who were in (inaudible). All parents were involved in the process and at their request, given the opportunity for Superintendent's Hearing if they chose to have one."

Supervisor Janoski: "Could you just for the purpose of what we have here, tell us who you are?"

Theo Brunskill: "I'm Theo Brunskill."

Supervisor Janoski: (inaudible) Okay, it has been moved and seconded. Please call the roll."

Barbara Grattan: "Gilliam?"

Councilwoman Gilliam: "Again, I restate my concerns about the town getting unnecessarily involved in what is essentially an educational program, and without having the direct ability to supervise and make assurances as to the operation of that program and further-- potential liability in the event that someone feels that there is an (inaudible) impact on a particular ethnic group or particular group of students, the town's liability with regard to that, I cannot endorse the program as it is set up. I think there does have to be something done to address the issues and concerns with regard to those students who seem to have some problem adjusting to the curriculum as it is, but I don't think that this is the way to do it. I vote not."

Barbara Grattan: "Creighton?"

Councilman Creighton: "Not having heard a better alternative and recognizing that this is, I think, a very good first step toward the town's involvement in the overall subject of the youth and the health of the youth in the community and the effect that the school has on that and the inappropriateness of a clear division between school responsibility for youth and the town's responsibility for youth, I am very pleased to vote yes."

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Councilman Stark: "Yes."

Councilman Prusinowski: "Very happy to vote yes. I think (inaudible) to the judgment of the School Board and administration. We also had School Board election here during the summer. I think the voters sent a message and also during this campaign I heard about we weren't cooperating enough with the School Board, and I want to correct that if that was the case and this is a situation where I'm willing to put the town at I believe minimal risk to (inaudible) program and to cooperate with something that the School Board in their expertise feels necessary for the betterment of the community. I'm very happy to vote yes."

Supervisor Janoski: "Yes."

Barbara Grattan: "4 Yes, 1 No."

Supervisor Janoski: "I have a Resolution in light of--"

Chuck Ebetino: "I'd like to just thank the Town Board for the opportunity to be here."

Councilman Creighton: "Thank you for coming."

Chuck Ebetino: "However sensitive I am to your concerns, I think the right thing has been done. It's not always the best thing to (inaudible) things. Life is tied together in many, many ways, and I hope that this is a first step towards (inaudible) activities of the Town Board with the School Board and as I said, we'll keep you totally posted in our (inaudible) right away. If you have any questions or concerns, we're here to answer them. Thank you and have a good day."

RESOLUTION #760 APPOINTMENT OF 90 DAY TEMPORARY CLERK TO ASSESSORS OFFICE

Supervisor Janoski: "Maribeth Vail has been granted maternity leave. There's an Assessor vacancy and there's a Resolution to appoint Curtis Highsmith, Junior as a 90 day temporary Assessment Clerk at the hourly rate of \$8.9350 effective, November 29."

Councilman Stark: "So moved."

Councilman Creighton: "Seconded."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "Is there a residency requirement?"

Councilman Prusinowski: "He lives in the Town of Riverhead."

The Vote: Gilliam, yes; Creighton, yes; Stark, yes;  
Prusinowski, yes; Janoski, yes. 5 YES

RESOLUTION #761 APPOINTS POLICE OFFICERS WITH THE TOWN OF  
RIVERHEAD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Supervisor Janoski: "We have a resolution appointing Kerri Fetten and David A. Freeborn to the position of police officers in the Town of Riverhead Police Department effective December 6, 1993."

Councilwoman Gilliam: "So moved."

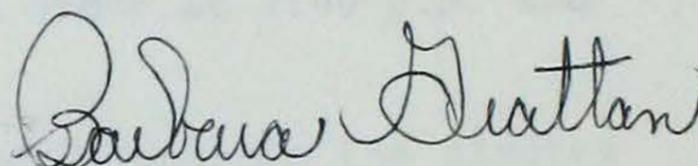
Councilman Prusinowski: "Seconded."

Supervisor Janoski: "Moved and seconded."

The Vote: Gilliam, yes; Creighton, yes; Stark, yes;  
Prusinowski, yes; Janoski, yes. The resolution was adopted.

Supervisor Janoski: "Do you want to (inaudible) any other business? Without objection, adjourned at 3:05 p.m."

Meeting adjourned: 3:05 p.m.



Town Clerk