

10/25/74

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead held in the Town Hall, Riverhead, New York, on Friday, October 25th, 1974, 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 1975.

## 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 Hearing Upon Preliminary Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1st, 1975.  
The affidavit was ordered filed.

There were approximately 17 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:

Mrs. Marie Hoff asked if there was an item of money to take care of fencing the area at Cedar Road, Wading River.

Stanley Grodski, Superintendent of Recreation replied that on page 24 of the Budget, under Beaches, Capital Improvements, there was \$8,000.00 for this purpose.

Dr. Granttham commented that she thought the citizens should have more time to study the Budget.

She further stated that she was glad to see that there was \$10,000.00 in the Budget for the care of the Town's trees.

She then asked if there were any funds in the Budget for the Jamesport School.

Supervisor Leonard replied that there was \$10,000.00 in the Budget, under Capital Improvements.

Mr. Haugaard asked the source of the Appropriated Fund Balance on page 34 of the Departmental Income.

Mrs. Helen Guyer replied that that was an anticipated surplus that the Town hopes will be left over from the General Town Funds for 1974.

Mr. Haugaard further asked about another item on the same page - interest on investments.

## PERSONAL APPEARANCES - continued:

Mrs. Guyer explained that that was regular tax money that was collected in January and May and everything that is not used is put into time certificates.

Mr. Haugaard then asked what the actual surplus was, going into January, 1974 and was told approximately \$200,000.00. He further asked about an item on page 5 listed as Litigation, Appraisal and Recording, stating that he wondered if that included the anticipated fee for the LILCO Litigation.

Town Attorney, Allen Smith answered saying: "It would be wise, in this type of a hearing, to take an educated view towards that particular item. The Board has considered the LILCO matter, both before the Public Service Commission and the Atomic Energy Commission, as important enough to obligate the Board and the people of the Town of Riverhead to pay for Counsel fees before the A.E.C. and the Public Service Commission because it is a billion dollar project coming into this Town. Now, whether or not they get these funds from the Public Service Commission or elsewhere, they are obligated to pay for the expenses of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, etc."

Mr. Haugaard commented that all he noticed was that in that item, he noticed a substantial increase in funds and just wanted to know if the LILCO Litigation was included and judged by the Town Attorney's answer that it was.

He further asked if it was the Town Board's intention to finance the Town Hall in one year from Revenue Sharing Money?

Supervisor Leonard replied that a good part of it was to come from there.

Mr. Haugaard then stated that he would rather see the Federal Revenue Funds used to reduce the Budget and that a Capital Improvement Fund be set up to help pay for the new Town Hall or a bond be floated for that purpose.

Allen Smith stated that he doesn't know whether or not it is legal to use Federal Revenue Sharing for that purpose.

Mr. Hooper asked the Board why every taxpayer in Town didn't receive a copy of the Budget.

He was told that it would be much too expensive.

Supervisor Leonard replied that anyone in the Town who was interested in the Budget could have come in and gotten a copy of the Budget, as advertised in the newspaper. He further stated that there couldn't have been too many interested enough to get one, because of the very small turnout at the Hearing.

John P. Riesdorff echoed Dr. Grantham's sentiments about the citizens having more time to review the Budget.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES - continued:

Mrs. Carol Ferguson wondered why there was to be an Assistant Dog Warden and what would he be doing.

Supervisor Leonard replied that there was too much work for one Dog Warden and the Board thought it was about time he had some help.

Mrs. Ferguson then asked about the 15% raise for the Board, as stated in the Supervisor's Budget Letter, and the Supervisor stated that at the time the letter was printed, there were some who wanted more than a 15% increase, but as of now, the increase was limited to 15% for all concerned.

Mrs. Ferguson then commented on the Recreation Budget stating she couldn't understand why it was so high, when so many people helped out for nothing in the Little League, Pop-Warner Football, etc.

Stanley Grodski, Superintendent of Recreation explained each item on the Recreation Budget to Mrs. Ferguson, in detail, to her satisfaction.

Bill Hemmenlotter stated that he felt the Recreational activities were very important in that the youngsters had a place to go and were kept off the streets.

He further stated that the only conflict he might have would be with the new programs started.

Stanley Grodski commented that if they do not get sufficient registration for any program, adult or otherwise, they drop the program before it gets started.

Mr. Hemmenlotter then commented on the possibility of saving on electricity by turning the park lights on later and off sooner.

Stanley Grodski then replied that they have been trying to cut down by having the softball leagues, etc. start earlier to save electricity.

Mr. Hooper said he was not against Recreation, but this was no time to be raising salaries.

Unidentified Lady asked if the Senior Citizens got a tax break in Riverhead like they did in other Towns and the Supervisor answered: "Yes, there is a tax exemption in Riverhead."

Supervisor Leonard stated that if anyone, who had a Budget, wanted to discuss any part of it, he would be glad to hear them out in his office, anytime before the Board adopts the Budget and bring to the Board any matter they might wish to bring up before final adoption.

He further stated that the Budget, by law, has to be adopted by the Thursday after Election Day.

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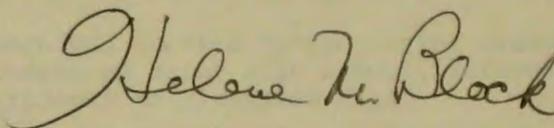
PERSONAL APPEARANCES - continued:

Riverhead so Linda Gatz stated that no other Fire District went up like what were they going to buy for us.

Allen Smith replied that he couldn't cite everything included in the Riverhead Fire District Budget, but he did know that one of the pumpers was failing and needed extensive repairs or even replacing. He also mentioned that the Riverhead District would provide greater fire protection in the future, under the Budget.

No one else wishing to be heard, Supervisor Leonard adjourned the Hearing at 8:30 P.M.

The adoption of the Budget was deferred to the next meeting of the Town Board.



Helene M. Block, Town Clerk

HMB:mhj