

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead held in the Town Hall on Monday, February 15, 1943 at 2:00 P. M.

Milton L. Burns, Supervisor

Austin H. Warner,
Fred. H. Boutcher,
William J. Leonard,
Frank J. Smith, Justices of the Peace.

Seth A. Hubbard, Town Attorney and Mryon C. Young, Supt. of Highways were present.

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead held on Feb. 3, 1943 were read and on motion and vote were duly adopted.

Notice of Public Hearing on the proposed Curfew Ordinance was read.

Proof of publication of the above notice pursuant to law was submitted and ordered placed on file.

Supervisor Burns thereupon declared the Hearing open and anyone who wished could be heard at this time.

A communication was read from Mrs. Inez M. Young, Secretary of the Sound Avenue Missionary Society heartily approving of a Curfew Ordinance for the Town of Riverhead. The communication was ordered placed on file.

A communication was read from Mrs. Edward J. Kempf of Wading River favoring the adoption of a Curfew Ordinance for the Town. The communication was ordered placed on file.

A communication was read from Mrs. Kenneth L. Wells, Secretary of the Sound Avenue Woman's Christian Temperance Union, stating that this Society is in full sympathy with the proposed Curfew Law for Riverhead girls. The communication was ordered placed on file.

A petition signed by 54 citizens of the Town respectfully requesting that the Town Board enact legislation that will put a Town Curfew Law into effect for the duration of the war was submitted and ordered placed on file.

Reverend Charles W. MacLean addressed the Board in regard to the proposed Curfew Law and reiterated what he had said at a Meeting of the Town Board of Feb. 3, 1943. He stated that they want an Ordinance which is sensible, one that can be enforced. He said that an Ordinance which is reasonable will protect some of our youth and help others. He further stated that some Clergymen favored earlier curfew hours and that the age limit be placed at 18 years, however, he favored the 16 year limit for both boys and girls and that the hour be fixed at 9:30 P. M.

Reverend Alfred Crayton representing the Methodist Parish addressed the Board stating that they definitely favored a Curfew Law. He said, however, that he personally felt that 9:30 P. M. was too late at this time of the year.

Miss Elizabeth Flanagan addressed the Board favoring a Curfew Law.

Mrs. Alton Medsger addressed the Board and spoke in regard to the early movies. She thought possibly this may have some bearing in fixing the curfew time.

Mr. George Cushman addressed the Board stating that he could not see how Town Officials or anyone else would be opposed to a Curfew Law. He hoped that the hour would be taken seriously into consideration. He said that he supported the suggestions made by Reverend MacLean.

Mrs. M. N. Ammann addressed the Board and stated that she had heard several speakers at Syracuse who opposed a Curfew Law on the grounds that they did not feel that it would work in communities. She said that she personally favored a Curfew Law and hoped that it would be successful.

Justice Smith in reply said that this proposed law was just a step toward a solution. He felt that it will lead to something more favorable which would solve the problem.

Mrs. Clyde Tooker addressed the Board stating that she had planned to talk on further steps for a possible solution of this matter but as it is already in everyone's mind she would only say that she favors some co-ordinating committee which would work in conjunction with the proposed law. She did not feel that a curfew law in itself would be sufficient.

Mrs. George Colyer addressed the Board stating that she felt that the parents were more to blame than the children. She suggested that a survey be made to seek the source of the trouble.

Colonel Walter F. Barnes ^{addressed the Board} stating that he was thoroughly favorable to a Curfew Law to protect the children. He asked how it would be enforced.

Mr. John B. Thomas, Principal of the Riverhead High School addressed the Board and stated that this was the third time he had spoken at meetings in regard to this social problem. He said that they have never been able to interest the parents of delinquent children. He spoke in detail of some of the problems he has, especially when there are functions at the school in the evening, crowds of small children congregate in front of the doors long before they are even open. He felt that some sort of legislation should be taken in order to bring this matter to the attention of those parents who are un-mindful of the serious problem of juvenial delinquency. ^{A curfew law} This may be a solution to the problem.

Mr. George W. Hildreth addressed the Board and reiterated what he had said at the last meeting. He further said that he felt that a Curfew Law would help the situation and at the same time would lead to a solution.

Representatives of the following organizations were present, stating that they were in favor of a curfew law; Grace Episcopal Church, Methodist Church, Catholic Daughters of America, Riverhead High School Board of Education, Riverhead Women's Club, Suffolk Chapter D. A. R., Rebecca Lodge, Women's Auxiliary of Grace Church, League of Women Voters, Suffolk County Home Bureau, Pilgrim Daughters of the Congregational Church, St. John's R. C. Church, 4-H Club and the Riverhead Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Mrs. Vera Brush of the Suffolk County Home Bureau stated that it is very easy to interest parents in Home Economics, however, it is very difficult to interest parents in home study of children's problems.

Mrs. W. G. Been agreed with Mrs. Brush.

No one having appeared in opposition to the adoption of the proposed Curfew Ordinance and no one else wishing to be heard, Supervisor Burns thereupon declared the Hearing closed.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Smith, it was RESOLVED that the following ordinance be and the same is hereby duly adopted.

CURFEW ORDINANCE

1. It shall hereafter be unlawful for any minor person under the age of sixteen years to be upon the public streets, sidewalks, parking lots, rights of way, or other public places within the Town of Riverhead, Suffolk County, New York between the hours of 9:30 P. M. and sunrise during the months of September to May inclusive, or between the hours of 10:00 P. M. and sunrise during the months of June, July and August, unless such minor be accompanied by his or her parent, guardian, or an adult person in whose custody such minor has been entrusted by such minor's parent or guardian.

11. Any minor child under the age of sixteen (16) years violating this ordinance shall be presumed to be a delinquent child and thereupon become subject to the penalties and provisions of the Penal Law of the State of New York applicable to delinquent children.

111. This ordinance shall become effective ten days after publication and posting, and remain in effect for the duration of the present war and six months thereafter. The vote, Justices Warner, Boutcher, Leonard and Smith, Yes, Supervisor Burns, Yes. Total vote, Yes 5, No 0. The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Boutcher and seconded by Justice Smith, it was RESOLVED that the above Ordinance ^{published} be posted pursuant to Law. The resolution was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Board.

Supervisor Burns submitted his financial report for the month of January, 1943 and on motion and vote was adopted and ordered placed on file.

The Town Board then convened as a Board of Audit and examined the Welfare bills for the month of January, 1943.

There being no further business on motion and vote the meeting adjourned to meet on Wednesday, March 3, 1943 at 2:00 P. M.

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