

Minutes of a Budget Hearing held in the Town Hall on Thursday,  
October 28, 1937 at 7:30 P.M.

Present:

Milton L. Burns, Supervisor

Austin H. Warner,  
Fred. H. Boutcher,  
Joseph V. Kelly,  
George E. Luce, Justices of the Peace.

Roger M. Wiley, Town Attorney and William H. Clark, Supt. of  
Highways were present.

The following notice of Budget Hearing was read.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Annual Estimate of the Town of  
Riverhead has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk and  
that a hearing for the review thereof will be held at the Town Hall on Second  
Street and Roanoke Avenue in said Town on the 28th day of October, 1937, at  
7:30 P.M. (Eastern Standard Time).

Proof of publication of said notice from the County Review was  
submitted to the Board and ordered placed on file.

J. Leo Saxstein, Attorney, addressed the Board and inquired as  
to what action the Board has taken in regard to a petition signed by app-  
roximately 150 taxpayers recommending the reduction of salaries which was  
submitted to the Board on October 6th, 1937.

Supervisor Burns answered that it was the purpose of this hearing  
to take up matters of the Budget.

James T. Walsh, Attorney addressed the Board and requested that  
all salaries be reduced as recommended by petition submitted to the Board  
on October 6, 1937. He also recommended that the Town purchase a car for  
the use of the Board of Assessors. He further recommended that the salary  
of the Clerk of the Board of Assessors be left as it is.

Supervisor Burns inquired of Mr. Walsh if it was his intention  
that the salary of the Clerk of the Board of Assessors be more than the  
salary of the Town Clerk.

Mr. Walsh answered yes, further stating that the work of the Town  
Clerk was only routine and not much to it. He further recommended that the  
salary of the Receiver of Taxes be left as it is. He objected to Item #8,  
Town Hall and recommended that the old wooden school house be used as a Town  
Hall. He stated that there were 3700 taxpayers in the Town with a Budget of  
\$400,000.00 and in his opinion there is something wrong. He recommended that  
new badges be purchased for the Police Department.

J. Leo Saxstein, Attorney, requested that the salaries be reduced as recommended in the petition submitted to the Board on October 6th 1937. He inquired into the matter of the fees received by the Dog Warden.

Mr. Fred. Lewis addressed the Board and objected to the present Dog Warden.

Mr. I. M. Young addressed the Board stating that he was lead to believe that the old wooden school house would be torn down, but that he objects to the rent of \$4800.00 paid for the quarters now used and recommended that a new Town Hall be built; \$4800.00 is approximately 10% on \$50,000.00 and that a new Town Hall could be built for that sum.

R. Condon Smith, Attorney, addressed the Board stating that he is familiar with the workings of the Town Government and that it requires capable men. Able citizens will not take these offices with the responsibility and abuses attached to them with salaries out of proportion. He compared the work of all departments at present with that of the past showing the enormous increase in the duties of conducting Town Government. He recommended that the salaries remain the same. He favored the purchase of an automobile for the Board of Assessors.

Attorney Walsh addressed the Board stating that the only capable person needed to conduct the affairs of the Town is the person appointed to the position of Town Counsel.

Mr. L. C. Austin spoke in favor of the present salaries and speaking of the amount of the Budget stated that more than half of the amount of the budget was due to Special Districts which amounts are directly voted by the people and which the Town Board has nothing to do with.

J. Leo. Saxstein, Attorney, addressed the Board stating that if the Town Board reduced the salaries as recommended by the petition, it would be a saving of approximately \$5.00 to each taxpayer, per year.

Supervisor Burns inquired whether or not Mr. J. Leo. Saxstein was a taxpayer.

Mr. Saxstein replied that he was a taxpayer.

Attorney Walsh objected to the appropriation of \$500.00 for band concerts and recommended that the amount of \$250.00 be appropriated and later withdrew all objections to the item.

Mr. Walsh inquired whether or not the members of the Zoning Commission were paid.

R. Condon Smith, Attorney stated that the members of the Commission serve without pay. After completing the job, their findings will be presented to the Board and offered to the public by a public hearing, after which the findings will be either adopted or rejected and the zoning commission will be discharged. If their findings are adopted the Board will appoint a Board of Zoning Appeals who will receive \$7.00 a piece for each meeting.

Mr. J. Leo Saxstein inquired whether the \$5000.00 appropriated for Zoning in last year's budget was spent.

Mr. R. Condon Smith who is Chairman of the Zoning Commission stated that to date they had spent \$13.00, but that they were under contract with an Engineer to furnish maps and plans for zoning the Town which will be presented to the Town Board.

Mr. J. Leo Saxstein spoke in reference to some of the items in the Highway Budget making a comparison with last year's budget stating that he cannot understand some items being increased while other items were decreased. He asked Supt. of Highways Clark how much money he received from Joseph L. Sigretto and Sons, Contractors for the Sewer District for replacing the roads.

Mr. Clark stated that he received \$5500.00 from the Contractors and that he had used the money as specified in the contract.

Mr. Robert E. Riley addressed the Board and objected to the sum of \$9000.00 placed in Item #3 of the Machinery Fund. He stated that it was too much money for the upkeep of Machinery.

Mr. J. Leo Saxstein objected to the item of \$500.00 placed in the Highway Budget for upkeep on garage and supplies. He also inquired how much State Aid was received by the Town for Highways last year and why it was not shown in the Budget.

The Supt. of Highways stated that he received over \$4000.00 from the State last year and that it will be shown in the Supervisor's final report for the year which shows all monies received and expended.

James T. Walsh inquired how many miles of dirt road there were in the Town. The answer was 140 miles. He then stated that in his opinion \$40,000.00 was sufficient for the Highway Budget.

Mr. Charles W. Ludlum addressed the Board in regard to the sidewalk in front of his property on West Main Street stating that \$2500.00 was placed in the Budget to fix the ~~above~~ sidewalk but that it was never done. It was explained that the \$2500.00 was not placed in the Budget for the repair of any specific sidewalk, but that it was to be used for the repair of sidewalks throughout the Town.

Mr. J. Leo Saxstein addressed the Board and stated that he favors two Justices of the Peace on duty at all times, who would be paid more and that the two Justices who are out of the Village and who are on only part time ~~be~~ paid less.

Mr. Reginald C. Smith answered that, that could only be done if the Town petitioned to become a First Class Town, which he favors but would not recommend it as it would be unfavorable to this Town.

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Justice Luce addressed the meeting in regard to the petition which was submitted to the Board relative to the reduction of salaries stating that reducing the Justices salaries to \$600.00 was so out of proportion to the responsibility and the work of a Justice that he questioned the sincerity of purpose of the petition and did not think most of the people knew what they were signing.

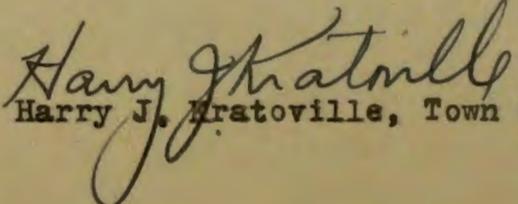
Mr. Horace J. Wells addressed the Board stating that the Town was spending money altogether too fast and in his opinion every item in the budget should be reduced 25%.

Mr. Ira M. Young addressed the Board stating that he wanted to go on record that in his opinion the Highway Budget is too high as well as other items, and recommended that the Budget be reduced.

Mr. Lester Emmett of Wading River, N. Y. addressed the Board in favor of the present salaries of the Justices stating that he is familiar with their duties, which are many and varied, and a Town does not get any more than what they pay for.

No one else wishing to be heard, Supervisor Burns declared the meeting closed.

There being no further business on motion and vote the meeting adjourned to meet on Wednesday, November 10, 1937 at 9:00 A. M.

  
Harry J. Kratville, Town Clerk.