

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead held in the Town Hall on Wednesday May 31, 1939 at 2:00 P.M.

Present:

Dennis G. Homan, Supervisor

Henry M. Zaleski,
Joseph V. Kelly,
Austin H. Warner,
Fred H. Boutcher, Justices of the Peace.

Lester M. Emmett, Town Attorney and Myron C. Young, Supt. of Highways were present.

Minutes of a meeting held on May 10, 1939 were read and on motion and vote were duly adopted.

A communication was read from the Wading River Civic Association urging the Town Board to pass appropriate ordinances regulating camping areas in the Town of Riverhead, they further requested that the two standing policemen now stationed at Wading River be replaced by one motorcycle or automobile policeman. The matter was referred to the Police Committee.

Mr. Edwin S. Lapham, President of the Wading River Civic Association addressed the Board in regard to the policing of Wading River stating that there is no criticism on the present police, but due to the heavy traffic, it would be better if the two stationed policemen could be replaced by one motorcycle or automobile policeman and urged the Board to take such action.

Mr. William Filmanski of Wading River addressed the Board, stating that a former request was made to the Board to place a policeman at the intersection of the Manor-Wading River Road and Route 25A, and in his opinion one is needed at that dangerous intersection.

Mr. Lapham again stated that without a doubt both are needed but after much discussion at the last meeting of the Civic Association, it was the concensus of opinion that a moving policeman was needed more.

Mr. James Guy addressed the Board in regard to the shelter on the beach at Wading River, stating that it would be unfair to the women and children who wish to use the shelter if it is not replaced on the beach.

A communication was read from Mrs. Dorothy C. Kempf in regard to four large trees blown over into the ponds at Wading River during the hurricane. The trees being on private property, Supervisor Homan advised the Board that he would take the matter up with the Mosquito Commission.

A communication was read from the Riverhead Yacht Club advising the Board that there is an obstruction in the form of a sunken barge, in the body of water known as Merritts Bay, an enlargement of Peconic River in the Town of Riverhead and that it constitutes a menace to

the navigation of small boats in the waters.

On motion made by Justice Kelly and seconded by Justice Boutcher it was Resolved that the Supervisor be authorized to send a copy to the United States War Department urging them to take immediate action to eliminate this menace. The Resolution was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Board.

Forrest G. Downs, Receiver of Taxes submitted a statement of taxes collected as of May 16, 1939 and on motion and vote was accepted and ordered placed on file.

The Thompson Act, relative to exemption from taxation of buildings damaged or demolished by the hurricane was discussed at length by the Town Board and the Board of Assessors.

Supervisor Homan relinquished the chairmanship of the Board and offered the following resolution which was seconded by Justice Warner, WHEREAS, the Tax Law of the State of New York has been amended by inserting therein a new section known as Section 5-b, relating to certain tax exemptions for alterations and improvements to buildings damaged or demolished by hurricane in the year 1938 and WHEREAS, such amendment, without action by the Town Board is inoperative as to taxation for town purposes, and WHEREAS, this Board deems it advisable to extend the benefits conferred by such amendment to owners of property within the Town of Riverhead, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:- That it is the determination of this Board that until July 1st, 1942, alterations and improvements made since September 21st, 1938, or hereafter made and completed prior to the 1st day of July, 1942, to existent buildings, damaged or demolished by or as the result of the hurricane of that date including any action of the elements and fires attending it or occasioned thereby shall be exempt from taxation for town purposes, except taxes and assessments for special district purposes, during construction and upon completion for a period of three years after completion, provided that alterations and improvements made by a purchaser by deed or on execution sale subsequent to September 21st, 1938, shall not be exempt; provided further, that in no case shall such alterations and improvements be exempt to an extent greater in valuation than the valuation of the previously existent building appearing on the assessment roll in the year 1938. The term "alterations and improvements" also shall include construction or reconstruction. RESOLVED further that the board of assessors be and they are hereby directed to list the parcels of improved taxable real property within the town as to which any buildings located therein were so damaged or demolished and to ascertain and determine the amount of damage to buildings on each parcel listed and the depreciation in value resulting therefrom. The Vote, Justice Zaleski, not voting, Justices Kelly, Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Supervisor Homan, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 4, not Voting 1, No 0. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Justice Kelly offered the following resolution which was seconded by Justice Zaleski, WHEREAS, Franklin H. Young, owner of a tract of land adjacent to the Town Dump has made complaint against the Town for damages arising out of the unauthorized excavation upon and removal of top-soil sand and other materials from a portion of his said land, and WHEREAS, the nature and extent of such damage has been investigated by the Town Superintendent of Highways, a Committee representing this Board, and by the Town Attorney and WHEREAS, as a result of such investigations and

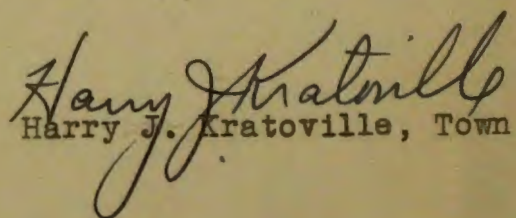
negotiations had with said Franklin H. Young, it has been determined that said claim is just and can be settled for the sum of One Hundred and Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars, therefore Be it RESOLVED:- That the Supervisor be and he hereby is authorized to settle such claim for the sum of One Hundred and Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars and to receive therefor a general release to the Town. The Vote, Justices Zaleski, Kelly, Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Supervisor Homan, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 5, No 0. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Zaleski and seconded by Justice Boutcher, it was Resolved that the Supervisor be and he hereby is empowered to enter into an agreement with the Long Island Lighting Company for certain changes in the street lamps as agreed upon within the Wading River Lighting District. The Vote, Justices Zaleski, Kelly, Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Supervisor Homan, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 5, No 0. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Mrs. Katheryne Van Nostrand of Wading River addressed the Board, urging them to place a motorcycle or automobile policeman in Wading River due to the heavy summer traffic.

On motion made by Justice Zaleski and seconded by Justice Warner it was Resolved that the Supervisor be authorized to expend the sum not to exceed \$50.00 as a contribution toward the building of a float to represent the Town of Riverhead in the Suffolk County Day parade at the Worlds Fair on June 14, 1939. The Vote, Justices Zaleski, Kelly, Warner and Boutcher, Yes, Supervisor Homan, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 5, No 0. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

There being no further business on motion and vote the meeting adjourned to meet on June 28, 1939 at 2:00 P.M.


Harry J. Kratoville, Town Clerk