

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead held in the Town Hall on Wednesday, November 19, 1947 at 2:00 P.M.

Present:

Joseph V. Kelly, Supervisor

Austin H. Warner,
Frank J. Yousik,
William J. Leonard,
Henry M. Zaleski, Justices of the Peace

Arthur H. Lundberg, Town Attorney and Myron C. Young, Supt. of Highways were present.

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Town Board held on October 29, 1947, minutes of a regular meeting held on November 5, 1947 and minutes of a budget hearing held on November 6, 1947 were read and on motion and vote were duly adopted.

Notice of public hearing on the question of labor camps in the Town of Riverhead was read.

Proof of publication of the above notice was submitted to the Board and on motion and vote was ordered placed on file.

Supervisor Kelly thereupon declared the hearing open and anyone who wished could be heard at that time.

Mr. Andrew Nabor addressed the Board and asked the Clerk to read some newspaper clippings showing various arrests of migrant laborers.

Mr. Lester M. Emmett, Attorney, representing the Wading River Civic Association ^{addressed the Board} stating that they are opposed to the establishment of migratory camps, in the whole Town and especially in the vicinity of Wading River.

Mr. Walter Stark addressed the Board and outlined in detail the difficulties that the business of agriculture has in obtaining adequate help to harvest and process the various crops for market. Speaking for his company, he said that it was always their policy, and is now, to hire all local help, but if it is impossible, it must be obtained elsewhere. He said that agriculture has trebled in the last few years and everyone knows the importance of Agriculture to the Town of Riverhead. He stated that agriculture needs seasonal laborers and if there is any other way to obtain them, he would be very glad to listen.

Mr. George Cushman addressed the Board stating that the matter of providing migratory labor for the agricultural business warrants everybody's honest consideration. He said that his Company has always given preference to local labor but they just cannot get it and therefore have to obtain migratory help. He said that we have always had migratory labor and under the present conditions it will be necessary to import labor for some years to come. He stated that, isn't it better to house this migrant labor under sanitary conditions and under supervision rather than in little shacks here and there. He said that approximately 2500 cars are loaded at Calverton

which means that approximately 1,000,000 bags are handled at a total gross income of about \$2,000,000.00 of which \$90,000.00 is paid to migratory help, most of which is spent locally. He outlined in detail how they have tried to solve the labor problem in every other way but with little success.

Mr. John Doroski addressed the Board and stated that Calverton is a fine locality to live and he hopes that it will be kept that way. He asked the question "How can a migratory camp be controlled". He said that they start alright with about 30 or 40 laborers but before anyone knows it, it becomes so big that no one can stop it. He again asked " Does anyone want a migratory camp near their home".

Mr. Walter Stark addressed the Board and said that their would be no increase in the School population.

Mr. Marshall Rogers addressed the Board and said that you just cannot hold any labor camp down. He said that migratory laborers do not spend their money wisely, therefore in order to have the proper law enforcement it would cost the town a lot of money. He suggested that every one who needs extra help to house their own and if prices are met, it will take care of the situation.

Mr. George Cushman stated that he is very sympathetic to those who oppose migratory labor but yet the labor problem is here, and the farmers have a great stake in this situation.

Mr. Treadwell Cheshire addressed the Board and outlined ~~in detail~~ the troubles there are at Calverton with the migratory help. He said that State Troopers were called quite often and sometimes two or three times over the week end.

Mrs George Hackal addressed the Board and said that since she has become Postmistress of the Calverton Post Office, she moved it near the Rail Road Station and now since there are so many migratory laborers, it isn't a safe place to be.

Mr. Myron Cheshire addressed the Board and said that people traveling by train are afraid to get off ~~of the train~~ at Calverton at night because of this situation. They get off at another station and drive back. He said that he knows of other people who house migrants but they place them away from the center of villages or congested places. He did not know why they had to have it in the middle of Calverton.

Mr. Fred Foersh of River Road, Calverton addressed the ^{Board} and stated that he had some visitors a few weeks ago and when they got off the train, many of these migrants were sitting around the depot drinking beer, which made a very bad impression on his visitors of which he was not very proud. He suggested that they should be placed away from the congested areas.

No one else wishing to be heard, the hearing was declared closed.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Yousik it was resolved that the amount of the bond of the Receiver of Taxes for the

year 1947-48 be fixed at \$25,000.00. The resolution was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Board.

On motion made by Justice Zaleski and seconded by Justice Leonard it was Resolved that Bond No. 45715 of the United States Casualty Co., bonding Forrest G. Downs, Receiver of Taxes in the amount of \$25,000.00 be and the same is hereby approved as to form, manner of execution and the sufficiency of the surety. The resolution was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Board.

Forrest G. Downs, Receiver of Taxes submitted his final report for the the 1946-47 tax collection together with a Satisfaction of Receivers Bond for 1946-47 and on motion and vote were ordered placed on file.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Zaleski it was Resolved that William O. Good of Wading River, N.Y. be appointed Special Policeman for Wading River, to serve at the pleasure of the Town Board under the supervision of the Riverhead Town Chief of Police at a salary of \$50.00 per month. The Vote, Justices Warner, Yousik, Leonard and Zaleski Yes, Supervisor Kelly Yes. Total Vote Yes 5, No 0. The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Justice Yousik offered the following resolution which seconded by Justice Warner

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 535 of the Laws of 1945, as amended by Chapter 436 of the Laws of 1946, the Superintendent of Public Works of the State of New York, has prepared plans for the Construction of two stone jetties on Long Island Sound at Wading River in the Town of Riverhead, Suffolk County, New York at a total cost not to exceed \$19,000.00, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the plans and estimates submitted for the construction of the jetties be and are approved, and be it further

RESOLVED, that it is the intention of the Town of Riverhead to participate in sharing the cost of the work to the extent of 25% of the total cost. The Vote Justices Warner, Yousik, Leonard and Zaleski Yes, Supervisor Kelly Yes. Total Vote Yes 5 No 0. The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Justice Leonard offered the following resolution which seconded by Justice Zaleski

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 535 of the Laws of 1945, as amended by Chapter 436 of the Laws of 1946, the Superintendent of Public Works of the State of New York has prepared plans and estimates of the cost for the construction of jetties on the beach in front of the property owned by "The Boys Club of New York, Inc.", located on Long Island Sound, Town of Riverhead, New York at a total cost not to exceed \$16,000.00, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the plans and estimates of cost submitted for the construction of said jetties be and hereby are approved, and be it further

RESOLVED, that it is the decision of the Town of Riverhead to share in the cost of the work to the extent of 25% of the total cost provided said cost shall not exceed \$16,000.00. The vote, Justices Warner, Yousik, Leonard and Zaleski Yes, Supervisor Kelly Yes. Total Vote Yes 5, No 0. The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

On motion made by Justice Zaleski and seconded by Justice Leonard it was Resolved, that pursuant to Chapter 535 of the Laws of 1945, as amended by Chapter 436 of the Laws of 1946, the Superintendent of Public Works of the State of New York be and is requested to make surveys and prepare plans and estimates of cost for the construction of three jetties on the beach of the Long Island Sound in the vicinity of Pier Avenue in the Town of Riverhead, Suffolk County, New York, and be it further

RESOLVED, that it is the intention of the Town of Riverhead to participate in the cost of such construction to the extent of 25% of the Total cost. The Vote, Justices Warner, Yousik, Leonard and Zaleski Yes, Supervisor Kelly Yes. Total Vote Yes 5, No 0. The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

A communication was read from Arthur Sandberg urging the Town Board to increase the salaries of the Police of the Town of Riverhead. The communication was ordered placed on file.

A communication was read from Mrs George Weisen making application for additional street lights on Northville Turnpike, from Maple Avenue to Ostrander Ave. The communication was referred to the Lighting Committee.

On motion made by Justice Leonard and seconded by Justice Warner it was Resolved that the Long Island Lighting Company be authorized to place one 80 C.P. Street Light on Pole No 29 on Ackerly Street in the Riverhead Lighting District. The resolution was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Board.

A petition signed by 19 residents and taxpayers in the vicinity of Osborn Ave. was submitted to the Board making application for sidewalks to be laid on the East side of Osborn Ave. north from the intersection of Harrison Ave. The petition was referred to the Highway Committee and the Supt. of Highways.

On Motion made by Justice Leonard and seconded by Justice Yousik it was Resolved that Joseph Bokinz be and he hereby is appointed Dog Enumerator of the Town of Riverhead for the year 1948. The Vote Justices Warner, Yousik Leonard and Zaleski Yes, Supervisor Kelly Yes. Total Vote Yes 5, No 0. The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

A communication was read from Forrest G. Downs, Receiver of Taxes advising the Board that he has appointed Ida E. Vail, Helen Maks and Helen Kukla as Special Clerks in his office, pursuant to Section 20, Chapter 187 of the Suffolk County Tax Act and asked the Board to confirm the appointments and fix their salaries. The communication was ordered placed on file.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Zaleski it was Resolved that the appointments of Ida E. Vail, Helen Maks and Helen Kukla as Special Clerks to the Receiver of Taxes are hereby confirmed and

that they serve at the descretion of the Receiver of Taxes at a salary of \$5.00 per day. The Vote, Justices Warner, Yousik, Leonard and Zaleski Yes, Supervisor Kelly Yes. Total Vote Yes 5, No 0. The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

The Supervisor's report for the month of October, 1947 was submitted to the Board and on motion and vote was accepted and ordered placed on file.

Myron C. Young, Supt. of Highways addressed the Board stating that some snow fence had just arrived which he had ordered about two years ago. He said that the price had about doubled since he ordered it and asked the Board to borrow \$3000.00 to pay for it.

On motion made by Justice Zaleski and seconded by Justice Leonard it was Resolved that the Supervisor be authorized to borrow on Tax Anticipation Note the sum of \$3000.00 for a period of 13 months beginning on December 2, 1947 for the purpose of paying for snow fence. The Vote, Justices Warner, Yousik, Leonard and Zaleski Yes, Supervisor Kelly Yes. Total Vote Yes 5, No 0. The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Justice Warner offered the following resolution which was seconded by Justice Zaleski

WHEREAS, a public hearing was called and held by the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead, Suffolk County, New York on the 19th day of November, 1947 upon a petition signed by more than two hundred residents of Calverton in our Town protesting against the establishment and maintenance there and elsewhere in the Town of Riverhead of labor camps for the housing and quartering of migratory laborers who are being imported and employed by farmers and the dealers and shippers of farm products and

WHEREAS, at such hearing all interested persons were heard and it appears without dispute and is recognized by this Board as well as those for and against the proposition that the importation and employment of such migratory laborers is of concern and does not serve to promote the general welfare, safety and health of the people in this township, and

WHEREAS, this Board is also mindful and recognizes the problem of the farmer, the dealers who serve him in the marketing of his farm products, and that the practice of importing and employing such migratory laborers is the result of a shortage of local help and that there exists the necessity and need for the employment of such migratory laborers to grow, harvest and market the farm crops in this locality and

WHEREAS, after due and careful deliberation, it is the considered opinion of this Board that the importation and employment of migratory laborers do not serve to promote the general health, welfare and safety of this community, but that there exists a need and necessity therefor, NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED as follows:-

That the employment of migratory workers be discouraged and that local laborers be sought and first hired, and for this purpose, it is suggested that contact be made with the Supervisor and his charge as Welfare Officer with the Relief Record.

That we oppose the construction and operation of labor camps or establishments for the housing, quartering or maintenance of migratory laborers, organized, operated, maintained or designed for the purpose of servicing labor to persons other than in their own and exclusive employment, unless such workers are housed under proper sanitary conditions and that such workers are properly supervised by the farmer or dealer employer and unless further, that all housing accommodations for migratory laborers be located in areas apart from the business sections, or population centers of the Township. The Vote, Justices Warner, Yousik, Leonard and Zaleski Yes, Supervisor Kelly Yes. Total Vote Yes 5, No 0. The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

The Town Board then convened as a Board of Audit and examined all town and highway machinery bills to date.

There being no further business on motion and vote the meeting adjourned to meet on Wednesday, December 3, 1947 at 2:00 P.M.

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