

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead held in the Town Hall on January 6, 1940 at 10:00 A.M. pursuant to notice.

Present:

Elmer J.B. Sawyer, Supervisor.

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

Solomon Raffe, Town Attorney was present.

Notice of Meeting.

We, the undersigned, two members of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead, hereby request the Supervisor of the Town of Riverhead to call a special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead, New York, to be held at the Town Hall in the Village and Town of Riverhead, New York, on the 6th day of January, 1940, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, for the purpose of reconsidering and amending the resolution adopted at a meeting of the Town Board held on the 1st day of January, 1940, in reference to the employment of George Welsh; and also for the purpose of considering the pending appeal of the equalization of the County Assessment.

Dated: Riverhead, New York  
January 2, 1940.

Austin H. Warner  
Member of Town Board  
Fred H. Butcher  
Member of Town Board

State of New York )  
County of Suffolk ) ss.:  
Town of Riverhead )

PHILIP KARLIN, being duly sworn, deposes and says;  
That he resides at Calverton, New York, and that he is over eighteen years of age. That he is the constable of the Town of Riverhead.

That on the 3rd day of January, 1940, he served the notice of special meeting upon Hon. Joseph Kelly, at Henry Perkins Hotel, Riverhead, New York.

That on the 3rd day of January, 1940, he served the notice of special meeting upon Hon. Henry Zaleski, at his office in Riverhead, New York.

Sworn to before me, this  
3rd day of January, 1940  
Helene M. Block  
Notary Public, Suffolk County

Philip Karlin

The notice and affidavit was ordered placed on file.

Mr. George Hill Moore, Fire Commissioner addressed the Board in regard to the special fire apparatus for the Riverhead Fire

Protection District, and submitted the following recommendation.

Special meeting of the Commissioners of the Riverhead Fire District, held Wednesday evening, January 4th, 1940 at 7 P.M. for the purpose of examining bids and specifications of fire truck to be used in the Fire Protection District of Riverhead. After carefully examining each specification we recommend the purchase of a General fire truck built according to specifications submitted by Potter & Nugent of Riverhead, at a cost of \$8480.00.

George W. Hildreth  
George H. Moore  
Hubert F. Corwin  
C.F. Peterson  
Arthur J. Fisher

Fire Commissioner Moore also urged the consumation of the contract between the Riverhead Fire Protection District and the Riverhead Fire Bistrict as soon as possible in order that both Districts could function according to law.

Supervisor Sawyer thanked Commissioner Moore for attending the meeting and for the cooperation the Fire Commissioners had given the matter.

On motion made by Justice Warner and seconded by Justice Boutcher it was Resolved that a public hearing be held on the ~~3rd~~ day of January 1940 at 2:00 P.M. in the Town Hall on the matter of a contract between the Riverhead Fire District and the Riverhead Fire Protection District and further Resolved that the Town Clerk be directed to publish said notice of public hearing pursuant to law. The Resolution was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Board.

On motion made by Justice Zaleski and seconded by Justice Warner it was Resolved that the Supervisor be authorized to purchase a combination booster and pumper for the Riverhead Fire Protection District and enter into a contract with Nugent & Potter for the purchase of same for a sum not to exceed \$8480.00. The Vote, Justices Warner, Boutcher, Kelly and Zaleski, Yes. Supervisor Sawyer, Yes. Total Vote, Yes 5, No 0. The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

(Supervisor Sawyer relinquished the chair to Justice Warner and offered the following Resolution which was seconded by Justice Boutcher, RESOLVED that the resolution which was adopted at a meeting of the Town Board held on the 1st day of January, 1940, in reference to the employment of George Welsh, be amended to read as follows, Resolved, that George Welsh, is not to report for duty until further notice, and without compensation, and further that he hereby is directed to return to the Supervisor of Riverhead Town all keys, maps, diagrams, records and papers pertaining to the Sewer District of the Town of Riverhead, and the Ford automobile, and further that this resolution is to be effective as of January 6th, 1940.)

Jacob Harding, Attorney, addressed the Board in regard to the above resolution and called attention to many things that had happened in past Town administrations and especially praised former Supervisor Milton L. Burns for his fairness in politics. He spoke

in length in regard to the Sewer District, Sewer District Ordinance and the duties of the Supt. of Sewers and asked the Board to refrain from any subterfuge and finally urged the Supervisor to first study the situation before coming to any conclusion.

Former Supervisor Homan addressed the Board in regard to the above matter and stated that he did not appear on his own behalf but was asked to appear by some of the influential citizens of the Town. He called attention to the large investment the Taxpayers have in the Riverhead Sewer District and of the consequences, should the Sewer system stop functioning even for one hour. He stated that the State Health Department has commended the Supt. of Sewers for the way the system was functioning and urged that the Board defer any action today until the situation is thoroughly studied.

Mr. Grant Adams addressed the Board and reminded them of the expense of any court action. He asked that the Supervisor, if he was going to abolish the job of Supt. of Sewers. He stated that he had looked into the situation in the Huntington Sewer District and reviewed the salaries of the employees in that District.

Supervisor Sawyer replied that he has been around the Sewer District quite a bit since the Sewer System started and is somewhat familiar with what has been done. He stated that he has been approached by many taxpayers in regard to what it is all about and whether or not the Plant Operator can do some of these jobs.

Justice Zaleski addressed the Board and felt that in fairness to the judgment of the former Town Board the aforesaid situation should be studied before possibly jeopardizing the Sewer System. He also called attention to the fact of a possible legal action which would be expensive to the Town and recommended that they first make an investigation before taking any action on the matter.

Justice Kelly reviewed what the former Town Board did two years ago regarding this matter, stating that they were cautious because they did not want to jeopardize the sewer system. He felt that it was unwise to be too hasty in a matter which involves an investment of nearly \$500,000.00 and urged the Board to go into the matter more thoroughly before making a decision.

Justice Warner, Acting Chairman, stated that he thought the aforesaid request was reasonable and would like to discuss the matter before any final action is taken. He therefore declared a ten minute recess.

The Town Board reconvened with all members present.

(Supervisor Sawyer with the consent of Justice Boutcher, withdrew the aforesaid motion pertaining to George Welch, Supt. of Sewers.

On motion made by Supervisor Sawyer and seconded by Justice Boutcher, it was Resolved that the resolution adopted on January 1, 1940 pertaining to George Welch, Supt. of Sewers be and the same is hereby rescinded. The resolution was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Board.)

The matter in regard to the equalization of assessed valuations

in the Town of Riverhead was discussed by the Board. Former Town Attorney Emmett was requested to explain the status of the matter at the present time. He explained the situation to date and stated that it was better to leave the matter as it is, rather than to withdraw the appeal, for the reason he felt that it would have somewhat of a psychological effect for the future. He set the cost of an appeal conservatively at \$50,000.00, however, he stated that it possibly would not cost that amount if other towns would pool together in an appeal. He further stated that nothing else can be done at the present time until he hears from the State Tax Commission and hopes that their requirements will be such that it would be reasonable enough for the Town to take an appeal. He also said that he was not quite satisfied with the matter as yet and assured the Board that he would be glad to advise them on the matter at any time.

There being no further business on motion and vote the meeting adjourned.

*Harry J. Kratoille*  
Harry J. Kratoille, Town Clerk.