

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

February 25th, 1942

Town Clerk's Office

7:00 P. M.

- Present: Mr. Eberling
- Dr. Gilchrest
- Mr. Goebel
- Mr. Dickenman
- Mr. Blauvelt

Mr. Blauvelt opened the meeting and explained that it had been called in order to take into consideration the question of collecting taxes at various places in the township.

Chief Liebert appeared and offered to go with Mr. Haerle in plain clothes and provide a police car and escort to take him to and from the places where he will sit to collect taxes. He told the Board he was willing to do this at no expense to the Town, because he has always received such wonderful cooperation, and wants to do all he can to help out, especially in this war emergency.

Mr. Eberling moved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board recommend to Mr. Charles Haerle, Receiver of Taxes, that he extend the date of collection of taxes without percentage ten days from the last date on the Tax Notice, which would be April 3, 1942, and that he sit at the usual places in the town for the collection of taxes, and that the Town Board will furnish a man to assist him and a car to take him to the various places he will sit.

Seconded by Mr. Dickenman

Carried

Several residents of West Nyack appeared and asked permission to protest against the West Nyack Lighting District.

Mr. Wm. Brandenburgh appeared as a representative from the Taxpayers Committee of West Nyack. He told the Board that the people who signed the petition were led to believe that the lighting district would only cost 22¢ per \$100. of valuation, and that taxpayers within the district were greatly surprised when they received bills for \$2.25 per \$100. According to this, he pointed out the rate for a \$59.00 light in an 8 light district was 82¢ per \$100. He said that a former Board member - Mr. B. Otto Jacobsen - had circulated the petition and given the assurance that the rate would be 22¢ per \$100. valuation. He asked how this happened. He also asked what would

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happen to the money paid by the taxpayers if a petition were circulated to abolish the district.

Mr. Blauvelt told Mr. Brandenburgh that no mention had been made of a 22¢ rate, and he was at a loss to know how such a figure was given out. Mr. Blauvelt pointed out that if the district is abolished the tax will be returned to the taxpayers by refund. He said the Board should know whether the people want to abolish the district or have less expensive lights.

Mr. Wm. Furno told the Board that he believed none of the taxpayers had requested the expensive lights in the petition. According to the Taxpayers Group, they don't mind paying 22¢ per \$100. or possibly a little more, but not \$2.25.

Mr. Blauvelt said that he estimated the cost of lights, smaller in size, would be about 32¢ per \$100. per year. He further added that a Public Hearing had been held, and that there were no objections at that time.

Mr. Brandenburgh said he believed the reason why no objections were raised at the Hearing was that all the people believed the rate would be 22¢ per \$100. All were satisfied with this figure.

Mr. Blauvelt said the district had been legally created, that the Town Attorney had check the petition and advertised it as required by law, that a Special Hearing was held, and that the Board created the district, believing it to be entirely satisfactory. He said he would be willing to contact the Rockland Light & Power Co. and see if something can not be done to reduce the amount. However, an assessment had to be made this year to take care of accumulated and current bills.

Mr. Edwin Haring asked if the Rockland Light & Power Co. would charge for changing the lights. He pointed out that there was nothing specified in the petition as to the amount that should be spent for the lights, although in the contract there is mention of a \$23.00 and a \$59.00 light. He asked He asked why the people weren't consulted as to what light they wanted. He said he felt the taxpayers should have been notified as to the figures before the contract was signed.

Mr. Blauvelt told Mr. Haring that the Board had entered into a contract only after they felt assured the taxpayers were satisfied with the lighting district. However, he said that because of the high cost, the extension of the lighting district had been held up.

Mr. Brandenburgh wanted to know why the railroad assessment was

reduced to \$5000. and the other taxpayers were given no consideration.

Mr. Blauvelt told him the assessments were made by the Assessors.

Mrs. Elsie Bonsall inquired why a light was not put near the curve instead of one at the Four-Corners where the traffic light is. She also asked why the tax was not put on the 1941 bills.

Mr. Blauvelt told her that on the books made up in March of 1940, there was no provision made in the set-up for the lighting district. We are now collecting taxes on the books which were made in 1941.

Mr. Phillips said he was told the cost would be 22¢ per \$100, but that some of his neighbors were quoted figures as low as 20¢ and one at 10 or 12¢ per \$100. Said he felt the tax was too high.

Mr. Furno asked what can be done if the people refuse to pay their West Nyack Lighting Dist. tax.

Mr. Blauvelt said it is a legal tax, and therefore payable.

Mrs. C. R. Jones, Jr. asked if it would be necessary to have an attorney draw a petition, should they desire to abolish the district.

The Board informed her it was not necessary to have an attorney prepare the papers, but suggested they see the Town Attorney.

No one else appeared to speak.

Mr. Dickenman moved the meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Mr. Eberling

Carried

Meeting adjourned.

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Town Clerk of Clarkstown