

PUBLIC HEARING

Nov. 2, 1945

Town Clerk's Office

3:00 P.M.

Present: Mr. Schmersahl

Mr. McIntyre

Mr. Eberling

Mr. Dickenman

Mr. Blauvelt

Mr. Blauvelt opened the hearing and said it was being held to hear any person who wished to speak either for or against the proposed 1946 budget.

Mr. Blauvelt then requested the reading of the Notice for the hearing.

Miss Martling, Dep. Town Clerk then read the Notice as published in the newspaper.

The first speaker was Mr. James Swan of Nanuet, who told the Board that he had come to speak in favor of the police and highway departments. He said that he spoke not only for himself but also for those people who were unable to be present. He told the Board he felt the salary increases were deserved in both departments and that we should be proud of the work they have accomplished, since they have had to work under great strain because of the shortage of manpower. He further added that the peace we enjoy is something we would never have without the police department.

Mr. Frank Connor of Congers then spoke in favor of salary increases for the police and highway departments, and told the Board that his sentiments were the same as Mr. Swan. He further told the Board that he is a member of the School Board in Congers, and that at any time a call is made for a police officer at the school, there is always one there. He also voiced his complete approval of the fine condition of the Clarkstown highways.

Mr. George James of Congers then spoke inquiring why an item of \$1956.00 for repairs should appear in the budget when the Town doesn't own any Town Hall. He also asked about the high item for rentals and asked if it might not be possible to consolidate the office of Town Clerk and Supervisor.

Mr. Blauvelt informed Mr. James that the item of \$1956.00 covers light, heat and telephone for all departments of the Town. He said that the office of the Town Clerk is already crowded, and that it would be rather difficult for the two offices to be together, since the back room was not sufficiently large enough for his needs. He then told Mr. James that the Town is considering a Town Hall, and that plans are now under way to acquire the property.

Mr. James then inquired about the Congers Lighting Dist. and why the cost was so much.

Mr. Blauvelt informed him that the cost of a lighting district is determined by the number of lights within the district. He said that it is expected there will be a saving next year, since new contracts are being drawn with the Rockland Light & Power Company which will save the Town money.

Mr. James then suggested to the Board that future meetings on the budget be held in the evening, as there are many people unable to attend because they go to business during the day.

Mr. Roald Hall of New City Park appeared as a representative of the New City Park Association, regarding the salary increases proposed in the budget. He asked why the merit for the increases.

Mr. Blauvelt told Mr. Hall that it was the feeling of the Board that conditions warranted an increase in salary for the police, highway department and clerks.

Mr. Dickenman then told the Board that while he was not opposed to salary increases, he could not vote for anything beyond 15%.

Mr. Blauvelt then told the group present that he had told the Board members he did not want an increase in his salary, and that he still feels the same way.

Mr. Hall said that a differential is not being maintained, since no increase was given the Justices or the Town Attorney. He said he felt that if salary increases were justified, then he would like the Board to give careful consideration to any requests from New City Park for extended highway service.

Mr. Hall then said he would like to speak as an individual, and he asked what method was employed by the Town in the purchase of highway equipment.

Mr. Blauvelt replied that the Town may purchase up to \$500. for highway equipment, but for all over that amount bids must be secured.

Mr. Klein, Supt. of Highways, then told Mr. Hall that in January of each year bids are secured from various dealers, and that he goes by their prices throughout the year.

Mr. McIntyre then said he felt that the Councilmen would be pleased about a raise, since they are still receiving the same salary paid to this office when the budget system was adopted in 1933. He told the Board members that he felt the increase in this office and also all the other increases were justified, and that the tax rate would not be raised. He told the Board members that he felt future budget hearings should be

held after election, and he favored reserving decision on the budget until after election.

Mr. Dickenman then told Mr. McIntyre that he wasn't on the Board two years ago when he made a statement that he wouldn't vote for more than 15% salary increases.

Mr. Blauvelt then read a letter from Norman R. Baker, opposing an increase in the salary of part time officials.

Mr. Blauvelt then read a letter from John J. Harrison, opposing any increase in salary to the assessors.

Mr. Blauvelt then told those present that the Board wanted to take time to consider the items in the budget, especially the salary items, and that therefore they would take no action at this time.

Mr. McIntyre then said he felt that the police and highway departments should be commended, as only a small portion of the Town was incorporated, and that meant more work for them and also other town officials.

Mr. Blauvelt then said that compared to other townships, Clarkstown has the most work of any town in the County. There is only the village of Upper Nyack incorporated within its limits. He said that our highway department serves more town roads than Haverstraw, Stony Point and Orangetown all put together. The police department has to police the entire township where in other townships the incorporated villages have their own police departments.

Mr. McIntyre said he felt that New City Park deserved roads and that the Board wants to give them roads, but that it must be done in the right way.

Mr. McIntyre moved that decision be reserved on the budget until November 8th, 1945, and that the hearing be adjourned until November 8, 1945 at 5:00 P.M.

Seconded by Mr. Dickenman

Carried

Hearing adjourned.

KATE BUCIENAU,
Town Clerk of Clarkstown

By

Cor. J. J. Marthy
Dep. Town Clerk