

SPECIAL MEETING

October 1, 1953

Town Clerk's Office

8:00 P.M.

Present: Mr. Schmersahl

Mr. Fibble

Mr. Welchman

Mr. Burleigh

Mr. Dillon

Mr. Dillon called the meeting to order, explaining that it had been called to discuss the appointment of a Building Inspector to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of John Mr. Jeffrey.

Mr. Dillon presented the list which contained the names of the following:

Joseph Mutinsky
Hamilton Fisher
George Murdock

Mr. Fibble moved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that George Murdock be permanently appointed as Building Inspector for the Town of Clarkstown.

Seconded by Mr. Schmersahl.

Mr. Dillon stated that before a vote was taken, the Board would listen first to anyone who wished to speak regarding the appointment.

Mr. Dan Shea of Valley Cottage came before the Board. Mr. Shea said that the examination was taken in 1949 when the only regulation in effect was the present Zoning Ordinance. He stated that the list of eligibles should be permitted to expire and Mr. Jeffrey continued in office until a new examination can be taken and a permanent appointment made from the results of that examination.

Mr. Dillon informed Mr. Shea that the Civil Service Commission had granted an extension to Mr. Jeffrey until Dec. 31, 1953, and had then reversed their decision and refused a further extension after August 31, 1953. Mr. Dillon stated that he had received a telephone call from Elmer C. DeFlaun of Central Nyack, formerly a member of the Clarkstown Zoning Board of Appeals, urging that a new examination based on the regulations now in effect in the Town, be had and an appointment be made from the results of that examination. Mr. Dillon also said that George Stohl of Central Nyack, President of Central Nyack Civic Assn. had called him and urged that a new examination be had before an appointment is made.

Mr. Dillon also read letters from John D. Howell of New City and Dean B. Siefert of New City, both licensed engineers, strongly urging that the Board make no permanent appointment until a new examination can be taken, which would be based on all the regulations now in force in the Town.

Mr. Dillon also presented a petition signed by neighbors of Mr. Murdock requesting his appointment, and also a letter from Mr. Murdock's superior recommending him for the appointment.

Mr. Roland Giroux, a New City Builder, came before the Board, and requested the Board to put off a permanent appointment until such time as a new examination can be taken.

Mr. Carl Manzler of New City, came before the Board. Mr. Manzler stated that he was in favor of Mr. Murdock's appointment. He said that Mr. Murdock proved

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he was qualified for the appointment by passing the examination.

Mr. George H. Scott of New City said that George Murdock held the position previously and many people felt that it was not handled properly. Mr. Scott also requested that a new examination be held before an appointment is made.

Mr. Joseph Nagle of Nanuet asked the Board why the services of Mr. Jeffrey had been terminated.

Mr. Dillon explained that Mr. Jeffrey had reached retirement age and the Civil Service Commission had refused to extend his term.

Mr. Nagle said that Joseph Mutinsky of Congers should receive the appointment since he was highest on the list. Mr. Nagle said that Mr. Murdock was completely ignorant on the job and had a very poor approach to the public. He said that a man with courtesy and experience is needed in such an important position.

Mr. Howard Ferguson of Valley Cottage asked why the higher men on the list were not being considered.

Mr. Fibble stated that the appointment was political and the Republican members of the Town Council were in favor of appointing Mr. Murdock since he had been recommended by the party.

Mr. Norman Baker of New City said that the appointment was political in all its aspects. He said that the best interests of the people should come first and the Town should not be governed by any political organization. Mr. Baker said that political work does not qualify any man for such an important position. He stated that there are many new regulations in effect and they all are within the jurisdiction of the Building Inspector, and they were not included in the examination which was taken in 1949. He said that Mr. Murdock has not passed an examination based on these regulations. Mr. Baker went on to say that Mr. Murdock's manner was very irritating to the people and many uncomplimentary remarks had been passed on the manner in which he handled the job. He said that Mr. Murdock may be qualified but his personality was not very tactful.

Mr. Welchman said that Mr. Jeffrey did a good job and he saw no reason why the three men on the list could not do as good a job if appointed.

Mr. Baker said that Mr. Jeffrey grew with the job and knew it thoroughly, and Mr. Murdock knew little or nothing about the new duties.

Mr. Lincoln Waldron of Valley Cottage stated that the Board should obtain the services of someone as qualified as Mr. Jeffrey. He said that a new examination with higher requirements should be prepared.

Councilman Welchman then asked what other requirements were necessary other than those already met in the original exam.

Mr. Dillon stated that a thorough knowledge of all the new regulations in effect should be required of anyone who is appointed to the position.

Mr. Welchman then said that the Septic Tank Ordinance is readable and understandable to the average person.

Mr. J. B. Johnson of Valley Cottage said that the Ordinance may be understandable to the average person, but someone with engineering or architectural experience should be in charge of inspecting the systems when they are installed.

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He said that the appointment should be kept out of politics and given to someone with technical knowledge.

Mr. Fibble stated that he could not understand why Mr. Murdock is being criticized. He said that Mr. Murdock is a respectable individual and is certainly qualified since he has passed an examination for the position. Mr. Fibble said that even though the appointment was political it had no bearing on Mr. Murdock's qualifications.

Mr. Johnson again said that the political aspect should not enter into the picture.

Mr. Scott said that Mr. Murdock's appointment was being opposed because he had held the job before and had not handled it properly.

Mr. B. O. Jacobsen of West Nyack said that Mr. Jeffrey should be retained until feeling has lessened over the matter. He said that the Republican members of the Board would be much more intelligent if the best interests of the people were observed instead of politics. He asked why the supporters of Mr. Murdock are fighting a new examination if they have so much confidence in his ability.

Mr. Louis Heydeman of Nanuet said that the people of the Town are entitled to the best and if Mr. Murdock is temperamentally unqualified he should not be given the appointment.

Mr. Burleigh said that the appointment should be made on the basis of qualifications in order that the best interests of the people be observed. He said that he is in favor of the qualifications set forth in the State Building Code which requires the Building Inspector to be a licensed architect. He asked if the results of a 4 year old examination should be hoisted upon the people or should a new examination with higher qualifications be called for. He stated that four of the five members of the Town Board are Republicans and putting such an issue through at this time would be very poor politics. He urged that the appointment be postponed until such time as a new examination is held.

Mr. Dillon said that he did not like to see politics brought into the matter. He stated that if the Republicans were to recommend a qualified man, he would vote for him, but Mr. Murdock had proven that he was temperamentally unqualified for the position when he held it previously. Mr. Dillon said that on those grounds he would not vote in favor of Mr. Murdock's appointment and he felt that a new examination should be called for.

Mr. Welchman said that the opposition seems to be based on Mr. Murdock's tactfulness rather than his qualifications. He said that it was true that the Board did have trouble with Murdock before, but that was only because he was being advised by too many departments. He said that Mr. Murdock has the qualifications and can handle all the regulations now in force and should be appointed.

Mr. W. H. Ackroyd-Kelly of Nanuet said that the only factor that should be considered is qualifications. He said that the list is four years old and the qualifications at that time were much lower than they are now. In view of this the list should be allowed to expire, and a new examination called for.

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Mr. Baker said that he was not satisfied with Mr. Murdock's qualifications and was not in favor of his appointment.

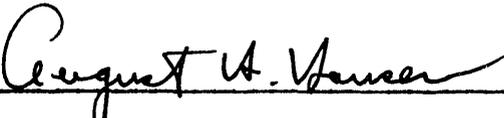
After hearing all persons interested in the matter Mr. Dillon called for a vote of the Board.

On roll call, the vote of the Board was as follows:-

AYES: Messrs. Schmersahl, Fibble, Welchman

NOES: Messrs. Burleigh, Dillon.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.


Town Clerk of Clarkstown