

PREFACE

This history is written to supplement the history of the Town of Poughkeepsie from 1609-1949, written by Edwin H. Rozell and Harold Dickerson. Since there is nothing in the Town files for the two preceding years, this form was adopted for quick reference and easy reading.

Grateful appreciation is given to Mrs. Anne K. Rogers and to Supervisor Thomas D. Mahar for their cooperation and assistance.

TOWN COUNCIL

Elected November, 1955

Thomas D. Mahar
Anne K. Rogers
Joseph Burnett
Quito Recchia
Clayton Seeber
Donald Holden

Supervisor
Town Clerk
Councilman, 1st Ward
Councilman, 2nd Ward
Councilman, 3rd Ward
Councilman, 4th Ward

Edward R. Maier
Constance Bower

Superintendent of Highways
Receiver of Taxes

E. Lounsbery DuBois
George C. Dietz

Justice of the Peace
Justice of the Peace

Appointed Officers

Vincent Kelly
Dr. Gilbert MacKenzie
Haynes P. Jorgenson
Otis Porter
Robert C. Miller
John Zammiello
Richard H. Arnold
Edmund Miller

Town Engineer
Health Officer
Zoning Administrator
Plumbing Inspector
Director of Recreation
Deputy Supervisor
Historian
Town Attorney

Recreation Commission

Herbert Rugman Joseph Deimling Mrs. Maurice Walsh - 1956
William Gock (Chairman) Harold Misner

Robert Miller, Director

Planning Board

Edmond J. Reuter, Chairman E. Russell Lang
Donald Northrup A. Peter Barth
J. Stanley Thornton

Zoning Board of Appeals

Edwin Knauss, Chairman
William Sedore
G. Minard Smith

Herbert Eastwood
William Culligan (Resigned - Vacancy)

Arlington Fire District Commissioners

Otis Porter - Chairman
Robert Pinckney, Secy. -Treas.

Leo Chrysler
Gerald Ruenes
Joseph Wizer
Everett Bedell

Arlington Central School District

Board of Education

Oscar D'Luhosch - President
R. Lewis Townsend - Clerk
John H. Bronson

Dr. G. McKenzie
Paul Kovacs
Arthur Langert
Frank McBrien

Police Commission

Thomas D. Mahar
J. Burnett

Earl Laffin

Union Free School - District #2 - Spackenkill

James Warner, President
Raymond Schoonmaker
Raymond Wolslagel

Wilbur Campbell
John Taylor
Joseph Coppoc - 1957

When the Town Council took office January 1, 1956, Democratic Supervisor, Thomas D. Mahar, sat with a complete Republican Council. Mr. Mahar returned to the leadership of the town governing body after an absence of two years for his 6th term. Councilman Seeber and Holden were reelected, while Joseph Burnett and Quito Recchia were entering their first term.

The office of Town Engineer was established in January 1956 and Vincent Kelly received the appointment over several other qualified applicants. The position has since been placed under Civil Service rules. The office has responsibility for all engineering problems which may arise in the town.

During the years 1956-1957, several changes in the town hall were necessitated by deaths and resignations. Shortly after he was elected by an overwhelming majority with the endorsement of both major parties, Town Highway Superintendent, Edward Maier died. By an appointment of the Town Council, John Marino became Mr. Maier's successor. Since the appointment was temporary, a special election was held in 1956. Elwood Terwilliger defeated Democrat Robert Lane and Independent Jackson. In 1957 E. Lounsbery DuBois, a faithful public servant and longtime Justice of the Peace, died. The Council selected one of their own members, Donald Holden, to fill the vacated position of Mr. DuBois. The Council seat left vacant by this appointment was filled by Republican Stanley Paul.

The Town Attorney, E. Miller, resigned in 1957 and after much discussion, David Schoentag, a resident of Beekman, was appointed to the position.

One of the most popular appointments made by the Recreation Commission was that of Robert Miller, as Director of Recreation. Mr. Miller had previously been Director in the former administration of Supervisor Mahar.

It was thought, by some members of the Board, that the position of Clerk of the Water Department should be established. However, much discussion and resentment followed the proposition and the idea was dropped. Mrs. Fern Baker, after a Civil Service examination, was appointed Clerk to Plumbing Inspector and Clerk for the many water districts and the Bradley Village sewer districts.

The time of the Council throughout 1956-1957 was largely consumed with public hearings on zoning changes. The establishment of several water districts, Sharon Heights, Woodmere Park and Crestwood Heights, were also responsible for much of the time spent by the Council. During 1956 action was taken to initiate a study on the problem of off-street parking in the Arlington area. The problem was assigned to the Raymond Associate firm but no concrete proposals were ever submitted.

The problems arising from the construction of the Arlington sewer were discussed often with the Sewer District Attorney, John B. Van DeWater and the District Engineer, Morell Vrooman. Facts and figures as to the actual costs of the district have, to the end of 1957, been only a matter of conjecture. It has become evident that the original bond issue will not be sufficient to meet the overall cost and that a new petition must be circulated.

Generally, the Council acted during the two years along party lines with Supervisor Mahar acting as a public watchdog with the occasional support of Councilman Burnett.

RESIDENTIAL GROWTH

Through 1956-1957 the Town grew so rapidly that Supervisor Mahar called for a special Federal Census which showed that the population had reached 29,700. The growth resulted in increased State Aid in the amount of approximately \$32,000 the first year, and for the years 1958 and 1959, or an overall increase for the 3 year period of approximately \$96,000. The foresighted move cost the Town only about \$4,000.

Home building in the early part of the administration continued at a high level but slackened greatly during 1957. Several new communities took shape alongside their neighbors and became welcome members of the township. Ireland Estates off Overocker Road was finished in 1956 as was Hillis Park, Vassar Road, Patrick Development and the Lorraine Boulevard section.

Greenvale Farms, Alexander Knolls, Colonial Heights, Spy Hill, Twin Hills, Sharon Heights, Vassar Park, South Gate Estates and Woodmere Park continue to be developed through 1957 and will add neighbors, friends and increased business to the Town.

The prospect shows that there is still much land suitable for residential purposes and that some future projects are now in the planning stage.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS

The ideal transportation facilities, ready labor supply and nearness to metropolitan markets assures the Town of Poughkeepsie a place in the industrial sun. Scarcity of available land in the City of Poughkeepsie places the Town in an enviable position which it has taken advantage of to some extent and can to a much fuller degree.

I. B. M. continues as the major industrial factor and during 1956-1957 continued to place its faith here by doubling the floor space of its laboratory annex on the South Road, adding a new building to its Research Center on Spackenkill Road and beginning construction of a multi-million dollar Education Dept. in the old Perkins property on the South Road.

Other local concerns, some new, some old, also added to the industrial growth. The Nilson Gage Company, which became part of the Boice Gage Company opened a new factory on the South Road. The Hudson Valley Block Co. built a new block company and retail store on the South Road. Daystrom Electric Co. showed its faith in the Town by constructing a new 60,000 square feet assembly plant on the Manchester Road.

Indications are that I. B. M. has completed its main local building program for the next few years. However, DeLaval has purchased property on the Salt Point Road and is anticipating a building program there.

As the services, facilities and population of the Town increase, it becomes a more desirable place for industry to locate and history should record much development along this line.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The period 1956-1957 brought the completion of the master plan of the Raymond Associates for zoning. As it developed, the plan was not a cureall nor did it assist in the commercial development of the Town.

Beside the continuing reconstruction and modernization of property in the Arlington area, there were several large commercial buildings constructed. Among the most important of these was the

Higgins & Scheer warehouse, Dutchess Turnpike; the Verven Building 8, Dutchess Turnpike; National Cash Register office, Raymond Avenue; Poughkeepsie Motor Hotel and Howard Johnsons, South Road; Eberhard Shopping Center, Vassar Road; Merritt Meridian warehouse, South Road; Robert Hall, South Road; Ascuitto Building, Raymond Avenue.

The commercial development of the Town continues at a rapid rate and can look forward eagerly to further gains since several other shopping centers are planned. The outstanding growth is reflected in the increased value of the total assessed valuation of the Town.

1955	\$27,686,466
1956	30,197,051
1957	32,437,887

The completion of the Arlington Post Office on Raymond Avenue in 1957 added another important service to our growing community.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

The Arlington Sewer District, which was initiated by the 1954-1955 Council, was at the end of 1957 about 85% completed. The \$1,990,000 project was officially started when John Arborio, Inc. was awarded the contract for installing the pipes in the Spackenkill Outfall.

Under the direction of Morell Vrooman, Sewer District Engineer, the remainder of the pipes were installed in 1957 by the contracting firms of V.J. Costanzi, Inc., A. Cestone, Inc. and R. Ritter, Inc.

Supervisor Thomas Mahar recognized in the beginning of his term that the original bond issue would not be sufficient to cover the complete cost of the district. He applied to the Federal Government for a \$275,000 grant. By his prompt action and foresight, this assistance may be forthcoming.

To pay the expenses of the sewer district rates and taxes were established for the 1957 tax roll. The matter caused considerable controversy and even though a public hearing was held, it was too late to change the 1957 roll.

The sewage disposal plant still remains to be constructed at an approximate cost of \$300,000. To fully complete a working sewer system, the Town must seek authorization from the taxpayers to spend an additional amount of money.

History of the Town has not seen the last of the sewer district.

Many new lighting districts continue to be added each year.

Special water districts, which were initiated and completed were the Crestwood Heights, Sharon Heights, and Riverview Village Districts.

SPECIAL PROGRAM PROGRESS

A program for correcting the many drainage problems in the Town was started several years ago. Each and every year one problem was to be corrected with a maximum expenditure of \$50,000. At the beginning of his term, Supervisor Mahar, put through a plan whereby all such problems would be corrected as soon as possible by a general bond issue. This plan brought relief to many citizens and taxpayers years before it would have been possible.

Completed or nearing such are the Laffin Lane-Spackenkill Heights area and Stage One and Two of the Red Oaks Mill community.

A special program which has developed during recent years is the local playground. We now have fine facilities in all major sections of the Town. During the period 1956-1957 a new section was added to the Red Oaks Mill playground. River View Village obtained a playground of its own. Generally, the Town recreation program was improved and expanded.

Respectfully submitted

December 10, 1957.

Richard H. Arnold
Historian.

PROPOSED SET OF RULES FOR THE FIRE BOARD

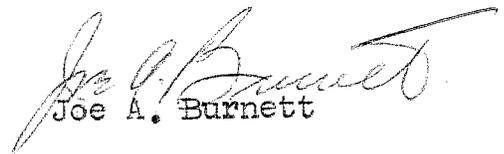
1. Elected Fire Wardens and Line Officers should meet with the Chiefs and discuss new equipment before listing of same is presented to the Village Board.
2. It shall be understood that five members of the Fire Warden Board (Which should include one Fire Warden from each company) shall constitute a quorum of said board.
3. It shall be understood that the Fire Warden Board shall render a decision in all cases pertaining to any member who shall appear before said board on any charges. Decision shall be forwarded to the Village Board for their file.
4. It shall be understood that any charges of negligence must be presented to the Fire Warden Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of said negligence. Charges to be presented to the Chairman of the Fire Warden Board.
5. It shall be understood that one member of the Fire Warden Board shall be elected as Chairman. Said election to be conducted in the presence of the entire board. Term of office to be two years. Election to be conducted in the same year as the Chiefs election.
6. It shall be understood that the constitution of the Fire Warden Board shall adopt the New York State Laws pertaining to the Volunteer Fire Department.
7. It shall be understood that the secretary shall be elected by the Fire Warden Board. Said election to be conducted in the presence of the entire Fire Warden Board. He shall be elected for a period of two years and the election shall be held in the same year as the Chief's election.
8. It shall be understood that if any member of the Fire Warden Board prefers any charges against a member of the department, said member

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PROPOSED SET OF RULES FOR THE FIRE BOARD.

8. (Cont) of the Board will automatically disqualify himself from rendering a decision on the charges being preferred.
9. When charges are preferred, the Fire Warden Board will hear both sides of the case. After the case has been heard, the Fire Warden Board will go into executive session and arrive at a decision.
10. It shall be understood that no Honorary member of either Company will be eligible for membership on the Fire Warden Board.
11. After the Fire Warden Board receives a written copy of preferred charges, the Chairman of the Board will notify all members and others involved, that a meeting will be held a a certain time, place and date within one week of the date indicated on the charge sheet.
12. The Fire Warden Board will have no jurisdiction over any regular Company business. The Fire Warden Board will act on matters concerning the negligence of any member in firematics only.

The above rules are to be considered as only suggestions on the part of the members of the S.W. Johnson Engine Company #2


Joe A. Burnett

President

S.W. Johnson Engine Co. #2

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