

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, JULY 29, 1991

Present: Chairman David A. Wallace, Selectman Judith A. Cope, and Selectman John C. Drobinski.

The statutory requirement as to notice having been fulfilled, Chairman Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Appointment of Executive Secretary Pro Tem

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Terri Ackerman as Executive Secretary Pro Tem for the purposes of this meeting.

Sudbury Village Project

Present: Jim McKinley, Chairman, Karen Poll, Diane Savage, Katerina Chryssolouris, Marianne D'Angelo, Sally Trimble, Joy Goff, Kate Rader, and Marylyn Benson; Planning Board: Peter H. Anderson, Chairman, Richard A. Brooks, Lael M. Meixsell, John O. Rhome, and Ursula Lyons; Earth Removal Board: Thomas Phelps, Chairman.

The Board had issued a letter on June 19, 1991, to various committees in the Town of Sudbury, as well a group of volunteers interested in the Sudbury Village Project, to attend this meeting with the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of discussing the status of the Sudbury Village Project; i.e., where we are now and where are we going.

Selectman Cope opened the discussion, offering survey information which had been obtained by the League of Women Voters. She noted this project could not actually get off the ground without a septage treatment plant. She said the League believes the residents of Sudbury seem to be in favor of a renewal of the downtown area.

Selectman Cope discussed a book in her possession, and recommended it for review. The name of the book is Main Street - Open for Business. Selectman Cope said that the book is about revitalization of towns and the book noted business improvement as a result of the Main Street project. Selectman Cope stated tonight's meeting was intended as a brainstorming session relative to this project going forward in Sudbury. Selectman Cope further noted she had spoken with the Boston Globe and they agreed to do an article on this revitalization project.

Jim McKinley, Chairman of the Sudbury Village Project, told the Board they were presently looking for a new leader because Jim Watterson is no longer working on the project. Mr. McKinley noted there was need for a planner to do the legwork on this project and expressed concern with knowing where the business community stood relative to this project.

Selectman Cope recommended a meeting with Jim Watterson, Ted Pasquarello, Burt Mullen, and Bill Place allowing Jim Watterson to bring the Committee up to date so they could proceed from there with current information.

In reference to the need for a septage treatment plant, Selectman Drobinski noted that this could be "engineered around" if everyone is of one mind on this project. He expressed concern, however, with 1) whether the money would ever be available for such a project; and 2) whether the business community is behind this project and aware of the Town's commitment.

Selectman Cope noted the DPW would like an alternate route during the upcoming resurfacing project and said the Town Engineer had suggested the traffic go down Codjer Lane. Mr. McKinley said he would speak with Bill Place concerning this.

Mr. McKinley further discussed the need for grants, and said that looking for grants is a full-time job. He also noted that most agencies issuing grants want to see a plan that is further along than the conceptual mode.

Kate Rader noted the results of the League of Women Voters' study would be available early February and Selectman Cope said she would appreciate having the results earlier than February.

Chairman Wallace inquired as to the status of the hiring of a Town Planner. Peter Anderson, Chairman of the Planning Board, said they were zeroing in on a finalist, but noted his concern with the time the Planner might have available to assist in this project since the position was a part-time 20-hour position. Mr. Anderson did say, however, that the Planning Board was supportive of the Sudbury Village Project and would like to make as much time as possible available to the Sudbury Village Project, but there would be budget limitations.

Thomas Phelps further discussed the need for the involvement of the business community. He said that at the presentation to the Chamber of Commerce he was disappointed in the reaction of some from the business community.

Mike Meixsell noted the negative attitude of some members of the Chamber of Commerce and said no suggestions or alternatives had been offered from the business community.

Mr. McKinley noted three issues need to be addressed:

- 1) A general understanding of the Sudbury Village Project by the Town -- the concept and the infrastructure, with the marketplace driving the project;
- 2) There is general animosity between the Town and the business community; and
- 3) The Town is leary of change.

Mr. Anderson reiterated the need to get the business community to buy-in and participate, noting the Sudbury Village Project needs a member from the business community.

Executive Secretary Richard Thompson noted that Ted Pasquarello was unable to make the meeting this evening and it is his, Executive Secretary Thompson's, understanding, that Mr. Pasquarello could be the focal point for the committee to make it work.

Richard A. Brooks, Planning Board, said he would like to avoid a false start on the project, noting that once it is started, they want to keep it moving.

Chairman Wallace thanked the participants for attending tonight's meeting. It was agreed that a meeting would be set up with Messrs. Watterson, Pasquarello, Mullen, and Place.

Petition to Place Wood-Davison House Project on Hold

Present: Karen Poll, Chairman, Wood-Davison House Restoration Task Force; Richard F. Brooks and Royal E. Haynes, Petitioners.

The Board is in receipt of a petition, drafted by Richard F. Brooks of 20 Russet Lane, requesting the project to restore and move the Wood-Davison House be put on hold. Mr. Brooks noted their concern with the assumption of the ownership and care of Wood-Davison House by the Town. He further voiced his concerns with the financing of the project and the unsuitability of the site where the house was to be placed. Mr. Brooks expressed his belief that this issue should come before Town Meeting for public debate and vote. Mr. Brooks also noted that names on the petition included Royal Haynes, an abutter of the property, Robert Noyes, Mike Dunne, and Marilyn MacLean of the Historical Commission.

Mr. Royal E. Haynes, 276 Old Sudbury Road, expressed his concern with Sudbury becoming a "historical ghetto". He stated his concerns with the building being brought to the center of Town, that it was not an ideal location, and would cost a tremendous amount of money. In reference to the comments that this building could also house historical artifacts from the community, he noted there were other buildings in Town that are in better condition and could be used at less cost for this purpose.

Mr. Brooks also suggested placing the museum on the Wayside Inn property, preventing the Town from inheriting long-term responsibility for the property.

Chairman Wallace said the project had been proposed in 1989 when the property was offered to the Town by Nancy B. Taylor, and Laura Scott, Town Historian at that time, expressed interest. Chairman Wallace said interest grew after 1989, the 350th Birthday of Sudbury, and some money had been given by the community for this move. He further noted 1989 was the last good financial year for the area, and the economy dampened the visions for the future of the Wood-Davison House.

Chairman Wallace continued that, while the petition notes concern with the fact the house might not survive a move, the architect said the building is salvageable. Chairman Wallace said it had always been understood the project would have to be self-supporting and the Town would not create another line item for it.

It was further noted by Chairman Wallace his belief that there is something to be said for a Town that preserves its antiquities and adds to the culture of the Town, but this concern must be balanced against economic concerns. Chairman Wallace went on to say he could envision the project on this site where it would also be put to good use by the schools.

The Board is also in receipt of a memorandum from Karen Poll, Chairman of the Wood-Davison House Restoration Task Force, noting her personal assessment of all the options available concerning the Wood-Davison House. Ms. Poll noted she had sent a business report to the town departments but had received no feedback.

Selectman Cope noted her disappointment that the negative issues had not been addressed in the past and requested Mr. Brooks to meet with Ms. Poll concerning these issues. Mr. Brooks agreed to do so.

Mr. Brooks further objected to the funds needed to maintain this building once it is in place, and Ms. Poll noted the house would be leased to the Historical Society and it would be their responsibility to maintain it.

On motion, it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the petition regarding Wood-Davison House, dated June 25, 1991, drafted by Richard F. Brooks.

Goodnow Library Trust Funds

Present: William Talentino, Library Director; Board of Library Trustees - Chairman Kenneth L. Ritchie, Hale Lamont-Havers, Ivan H. Lubash, Richard Goldberg and Catrine E. Barr; James Vanar, Director of Finance/Town Accountant; and Mary Ellen Normen Dunn, Town Treasurer and Collector.

The Board is in receipt of a letter from the Board of Library Trustees, dated July 16, 1991, requesting the establishment of a well defined and effective plan for the management and use of the trusts, and the preparation of a comprehensive annual statement and quarterly updates.

Mr. Ritchie stated they would like a better handle on what is available in the Trust Funds. He noted they had requested this information in their letter of July 16, 1991. He noted their concerns were with receiving regular annual and quarterly reports, providing the total income earned and the total amount expended in the fiscal year ending June 30. He further noted they would like a report on the number of shares of stocks and dividends paid and number of bonds and interest rate, including the amount invested in the Mass. Municipal Depository Trust and its interest rate.

Chairman Wallace noted the Selectmen had looked into this a few weeks ago and were in favor of making this information available.

Ms. Dunn noted she would be meeting the next day with the MMDT to see what options were available to the Town concerning the MMDT funds. She further stated her intention to issue the first Quarterly Report in September.

Executive Secretary Thompson noted the Trustees of Town Donations were the three Selectmen and the Town Treasurer.

Ms. Dunn further suggested they look into getting a volunteer financial advisor to assess their investment activity.

Mr. Vanar pointed out the opportunity to simplify this situation by liquidating some of the stocks and placing the money into the MMDT to earn money at market rates. Mr. Ritchie noted it was not financially advisable to liquidate some of the bank stocks at this time. Mr. Vanar agreed that the goal is to simplify, but also to get maximum revenue.

After further discussion on investment opportunities, Mr. Ritchie stated he would like to work with Ms. Dunn and Mr. Vanar, possibly getting the advice of a volunteer analyst and broker. Selectman Cope suggested two possible volunteers: Anthony Cope and David Wilson.

Chairman Wallace informed the Trustees they would be provided with regular and more accurate information. It was further noted that Ms. Dunn would start to detail facts concerning these funds and possibly involve a formal investment committee, after consulting with the Selectmen. Mr. Vanar stated he will also be getting a recommendation from the Town Auditors about consolidating into MMDT.

Long Range Planning Committee

Present: Long Range Planning Committee - Robert J. Cusack, Philip Ferrara, Robert A. Cala, L. William Katz and David A. Palmer; Robert "Kip" G. Johnson and John Hannan.

Health Insurance

The Board is in receipt of a letter from Mr. Robert Cusack, Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee, dated June 13, 1991, noting the concern for the increase in health insurance premiums and the intention to explore alternatives.

Mr. Cusack noted that Mr. Hannan was joining the discussion this evening as a result of seeing an article on medical insurance in the Crier and volunteering to work with Bill Katz and Phil Ferrara on the problem.

Selectman Cope inquired as to the possibility of regionalization of insurance coverage and whether this was being done by other towns. Mr. Katz reported that many of the towns are changing carriers, but they had not seen any examples of regionalization of towns. Ms. Ackerman noted that Concord and some other towns had regionalized, but each town in the region pays its own rate based on its claims experience.

Mr. Cusack noted Mr. Ferrara and Mr. Hannan had just received the information on insurance options and should have it analyzed and have the information available in September. Mr. Katz plans to look at possible bidding agencies.

In response to Mr. Drobinski's question of whether they will be able to save any money, it was noted there was the possibility to save money, but there were concerns about what could and could not be done under some of the union contracts. Mr. Katz noted that one possible recommendation would involve the change of carriers, but not a change in benefits, and this might require the Town to self-insure.

Ms. Ackerman noted the Committee now had three years of Blue Cross renewal packages, which include claim summaries for the last 3-5 years, and Mr. Katz noted this information was sufficient to get bids from other carriers.

Town Space Planning

Mr. Cusack reminded the Board that Kip Johnson had headed up the space planning project two to three years ago.

Mr. Cusack further noted he had spoken to Henry DeRusha about the planning for the Nixon School, recommending it be turned back to the Town to centralize Town and School Administration. He noted he expressed his same concerns to Robert Weiskopf and Ed Campbell of the School Committee, and commented he did not believe the Town could afford to staff the school at this time.

Mr. Johnson noted, with the exception of the Fire Department, little progress had been made in space planning since 1988. He expressed his concern with the decentralization of Town Administration and his belief that it is costing the Town a lot of money because they are not sharing resources. He said one of the other options considered was the remodeling of the Town Hall, with a cost of approximately \$2 million, with Nixon School being another option. He said he has also recommended they stop construction of the elementary school areas until some determination of space planning has been made.

Mr. Johnson also expressed concern with truck storage by the Highway Department -- trucks are remaining outdoors and rusting due to weather.

Mr. Johnson expressed his opinion that until the Town consolidates space, it will continue to cost money, and he felt centralization was essential to cut down costs.

Chairman Wallace requested recommendations on the use of Town Hall.

Executive Secretary Thompson noted the advisability of getting the Long Range Planning Committee into a Space Planning mode, because there is an immediate need to analyze the future use of Flynn Building and the Town Hall. He requested the LRPC appoint a liaison to begin chairing the space planning project.

Mr. Johnson noted the Town has all the information it needs, and the Space Planning Report gives the Town enough information to do whatever is needed. He noted the Flynn Building would be sufficient to provide space for the school administration. He noted the extra space in the old Fire Headquarters may not be usable due to the collection of fumes in the bunk room, but said some of the downstairs space could be used for storage by Park & Rec. and the Highway Department.

Executive Secretary Thompson noted he is looking for a liaison from the Long Range Planning Committee to work with him, to take the document and develop it further, addressing the Flynn Building, Town Hall, etc.

Selectman Drobinski expressed his concern with the Town "spinning its wheels", noting these projects never seem to get anywhere. Mr. Johnson noted progress had occurred with the Fire Department and the Senior Center.

Executive Secretary Thompson added he had received an estimate for the furnace in Town Hall -- \$22,000 plus for a new one, but the furnace could be downsized.

Vehicle Use

The Board is in receipt of a report, dated July 29, 1991, prepared by the Long Range Planning Committee, concerning the Town of Sudbury Vehicle Usage for Commuting.

Mr. Cusack said they sent out a survey, and tabulated the results -- cars that do go home (18) and a summary of the cost of these cars. He noted the Committee had called the neighboring towns of Wayland and Concord, to ascertain their existing policies. Mr. Cusack said they took the best of both policies and put them together with some adaptation to fit the Town of Sudbury, discussed same policies with department heads and came up with the proposed policy. Mr. Cusack stated they presently have no recommendation concerning the 18 cars because the contracts for the next fiscal year are already in force, and this would also require negotiations with the Supervisory Union.

Selectman Cope noted she would like to see an addition to the Guidelines, Item No. 5, lines 3 and 4 to read that it is the "personal responsibility" of the operator. Selectman Cope also noted her belief that the process of logging trips would cut down on the personal use of the car. She would also like to see the dollar value of this perquisite in the salary information, so there is no impression that this perquisite is being hidden.

Mr. Cusack noted the value of the use of this car, according to those surveyed, was about \$4,000 per year. He noted that if the cars are taken away, and this car is in lieu of salary, the people will be looking for compensation. He further noted, if you take the cars away and give the salary amount, you must then add in the cost to the Town in Social Security, etc.

Mr. Katz spoke of the new gas pump which will be installed, noting that it will record mileage; however, from what they can tell from the present handwritten logs, they seem to be going about the same amount from month to month.

Mr. Cusack added the new gas pump will be activated by a card issued to the employee, which activates the computer, requiring him to punch in the amount of mileage, etc. He said this will go into operation when the tanks are installed.

Chairman Wallace felt the Long Range Planning Committee had formulated a good policy. He stated his belief that we should adopt such a policy and, while it must wait until next year, it will allow individual contract negotiations. He questioned the Long Range Planning Committee as to whether they found any glaring misuses.

Mr. Cusack noted they were not looking for glaring misuses. He said the Town has never had a Town automobile usage policy in the past, and if there were any abuses, they are in the past. He stated his belief that a policy, when adopted, will eliminate any abuses which may exist.

Mr. Cala noted there is additional work to be done relating to cars taken home -- they would like more of an overall analysis of vehicles, enabling them to make recommendations on some policy issues. He inquired as to whether this was of interest to the Selectmen. The Selectmen answered in the affirmative.

Executive Secretary Thompson commended the Long Range Planning Committee on the report. He noted the policy will be transmitted to the Board of Selectmen for study and adoption. This meeting is strictly on town auto use policy, and the Selectmen, at a later time, should determine a directive for accountability on the use of Town vehicles.

At the recommendation of Executive Secretary Thompson, it was unanimously

VOTED: To refer this report to Town Counsel for response to the questions raised by the Long Range Planning Committee concerning Internal Revenue Service regulations;

and further

VOTED: To refer it to the Sudbury Supervisory Association for comments.

Executive Session

At 9:00 p.m., it was on motion by roll call unanimously

VOTED: To go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining matters. (Chairman Wallace, aye, Selectman Cope, aye, Selectman Drobinski, aye).

Chairman Wallace announced that public session would reconvene immediately following Executive Session.

At 10 p.m., regular session reconvened.

Minutes

On motion it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the regular session minutes, with the exception of the section on the Hop Brook Ponds Study Committee, and the executive session minutes of July 15, 1991, as drafted.

Save Our Sports Banners

On motion it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the use of a banner on Route 20 for the SOS (Save Our Sports) campaign and support said campaign activities of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Boosters Club, as requested in a letter dated July 15, 1991, from Booster Club SOS Vice Chairman Karen Smith. An effort will be made to find time for SOS use of the Community Signboards located at the Rt. 20 and Rt. 117 Fire Stations if possible.

Election Officers

On motion it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint the Election Officers for the year commencing August 15, 1991, as recommended by the Democratic and Republican Town Committee Chairmen and the Town Clerk.

MetroWest Water Mutual Aid Agreement

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a draft mutual aid agreement for emergency water supply assistance submitted by the MetroWest Water Resources Committee. The Board noted that the Sudbury Water District would need to agree to this and the legal jurisdiction question would also need to be looked into.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To support the concept of such a mutual aid agreement for emergency water supply assistance.

Resignation of Agostino M. DeBaggis - Local Arts Council

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Agostino M. DeBaggis from the Local Arts Council, dated July 2, 1991, and send a letter of appreciation to him for his dedicated service.

Council on Aging - Donations

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept \$139.50 in miscellaneous donations for deposit into the Council on Aging Van Donation Account; and to authorize the Council on Aging to expend the same for purposes of operating and maintaining the Council on Aging van.

Orders of Taking

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve and sign the Orders of Taking relative to street layouts for Red Oak Drive, Frost Lane, and Jack Pine Drive, approved by the 1991 Annual Town Meeting under Article 10.

Wood Davison House Restoration Fund Expenditure

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve an expenditure from the Wood-Davison House Restoration Fund in the amount of \$503.98 for architectural services rendered by TBA Architects, Inc.

Community Government Bulletin Board Survey

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the response to a questionnaire from Patrick Delaney relative to a community government bulletin board computer system.

Extension of Special Permit to Kathryn Barry for use of a House Trailer for Dwelling Purposes, 63 Willis Lake Drive

Selectman Cope noted the petition submitted by Ms. Barry was found to be signed by some non-residents and children. Selectman Cope also noted there was \$750 due in back taxes and the dumpster had been removed because she had not paid for it. Selectman Cope noted she has also received information that there are several members in the family and some of them would like to sell the house.

Upon request of attorney for Ms. Kathryn Barry, it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To extend Ms. Barry's trailer permit for 63 Willis Lake Drive to August 12, 1991, at which time the Board will place the matter on its agenda for review and decision.

Financial Matters

The Board reviewed the Cherry Sheets received from the Department of Revenue, and on recommendation of the Executive Secretary, it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To take a position not to call the optional September 24 Special Election for purposes of voting on an override ballot question, unless there is a public outcry to do so.

Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers Study Committee

The Board is in receipt of a letter, dated July 12, 1991, from the The Secretary of the Interior inviting the Town of Sudbury to nominate two individuals for one appointment to serve on the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers Study Committee, which was created by Public Law 101-628 (November 28, 1990).

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To nominate Frances Clark and L. Michael Meixsell to be considered for one appointment to the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers Study Committee by the U.S. Secretary of Interior.

Historic Currency

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept historic currency, circa 1775-78, for display in the Town's future museum, from Gordon A. Sampson of Magalia, California, formerly of Sudbury.

The Board of Selectmen directed the Executive Secretary to send a letter of appreciation to the Sampson family.

Reports From MAPC

There will be an MAPC sponsored meeting on August 12, 1991, 8:30 a.m. at Newton City Hall to discuss the Clean Air Act. None of the Selectmen can attend.

Minuteman School - Deferred Teacher Salaries Questionnaire

The Board is in receipt of a letter from Ron Fitzgerald, Superintendent-Director for the Minuteman School Committee, dated July 24, 1991, referring to Changes in the Assessments from Minuteman Tech, requesting a response to an enclosed questionnaire relative to the question of deferring a portion of teacher salaries to the following fiscal year, as allowed by new State budget provisions. It was noted Mr. Fitzgerald would be advised that it would be too premature to take a position on this at this time.

Postmaster

Selectman Cope stated she had attended the installation of the new Postmaster, Leonard McCarthy, on July 29, 1991.

Baptist Church

Selectman Cope stated she had been asked to speak at the installation of the new Pastor at the Baptist Church.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Attest:

Terri Ackerman
Executive Secretary Pro Tem