

TRANSCRIPT
TOWN FATHERS' FORUM
FEBRUARY 26, 1973

Acting Chairman Toomey called the 81st session of the Town Fathers' Forum to order at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Toomey announced and congratulated the winners of the 1972 Town Report Art Contest awards. The awards were made as follows:

Cover Winner - \$25 award: Valerie Nelson, 18 Austin Road, age 17, 12th Grade

Honorable Mention Award Certificates:

Christie Sears, 36 Hickory Road, Age 5½, Kindergarten
Kimberly Helms, 14 Basswood Avenue, Age 6, 1st Grade
Scott Kellstedt, 22 Mill Pond Road, Age 7, 2nd Grade
Bill Holloway, 73 Jarman Road, Age 9, 3rd Grade
Tommy Hillery, 66 Willow Road, Age 10, 4th Grade
Carl Schulz, 64 French Road, Age 10, 5th Grade
Ricky Leonardi, 22 Newton Road, Age 11, 6th Grade
Peter Wigandt, 37 Kay Street, Age 12, Special Education
Jonathan Adolph, 57 Robbins Road, Age 12, 7th Grade
Bill Charlton, 16 Hammond Circle, Age 13, 8th Grade
Janice White, 130 Woodside Road, Age 15, 9th Grade
Jose Giner, 92 Old Lancaster Road, Age 15, 10th Grade
Eric Lewtas, 15 Juniper Road, Age 16, 11th Grade

Mr. Toomey made the following announcements of Selectmen's activities:

1. A permit was granted to Hospital Transportation Service, Inc. for a bus shuttle service over Route 27 through Sudbury as part of scheduled runs between Acton and Logan Airport.

2. At a joint election with the Park and Recreation Commission, Pasquale Piscitelli was appointed to fill the vacancy, until the next Town election, occasioned by the death of Mr. Francis Feeley.

Mr. Toomey reported that, as a result in part of the ad placed in Bentley's Calendar, the Selectmen have discussed the tax concern of the citizens with the Finance Committee and the Sudbury School Committee and have scheduled four joint regional meetings with the Selectmen, the Planning Board, the Finance Committee and the School Committee for March 21, 22, 28, and 29 at four different elementary schools to make a presentation on the 18-month budget and to answer any questions concerning the budget and the 1973 Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Toomey requested all chairmen or representatives from all Town boards who were involved in these subjects to attend these meetings.

Mr. Toomey reported that the Sudbury Board of Selectmen has agreed to participate in the formal protest, on behalf of the 351

cities and towns in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, from the Massachusetts Mayors' Association to Mr. Graham Watt, Director, Office of General Revenue Sharing, Department of the Treasury, Washington, D. C., and explained that the letter was a formal protest against distribution of revenue sharing funds to the counties in Massachusetts.

Mr. Toomey announced that the Selectmen have met with the Business Advisory Study subcommittee on signs, resulting in plans for an in-depth study and revision of the sign by-law.

Mr. Toomey reported on a letter received from Congressman Robert Drinan relative to the status of excess land at the U. S. Army Natick Laboratories, Sudbury Annex. The Selectmen have in turn, expressed to Congressman Drinan Sudbury's interest and continued efforts in the acquisition of this land.

Mr. Toomey reported that the 1972 Annual Town Report is due back from the printers by March 2, 1973, and expressed the Board's thanks to the Town Report Preparation Committee for their fine work.

Mr. Toomey read a report from the Moderator stating that Samuel L. Reed has retired from the Historic Structures Commission with Jerome G. McGonagle appointed as his replacement, Robert Hotch has been appointed to the Permanent Building Committee and the fact that the Attorney General has approved the article passed by the January 29, 1973, Special Town Meeting relative to the lowering of the quorum to 200.

Mr. Toomey announced that Tuesday, March 27, 1973, is the date set for a warrant review meeting for the 1973 Annual Town Meeting.

In the absence of the Town Clerk, the Executive Secretary made available to those present, the list of names to be placed on the 1973 Annual Town Election Ballot.

MR. HUGHES - HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Hughes reported that there has been very little snow removal work, mostly sanding operations by the Highway Department, and that they are presently doing maintenance work at the garage and making street signs for replacement in the spring. In answer to a question from a citizen, Mr. Hughes, Chairman of the Highway Commission, stated that no official vote has yet been taken by the Commission concerning funds for monitoring the recycling program at the sanitary landfill.

MR. HARDING - TOWN SURVEYOR

Mr. Harding reported that during the month his department has been preparing aerial photos for the Conservation Commission for several proposed land acquisitions as well as photos showing the flood plain of Hop Brook and the 125' flood plain at the sanitary landfill. He reported that his department has completed specifications and plans for the Concord Road walkway, that the work will be advertised this week with a two-week deadline on bids, that easements for the Horse Pond Road walkway will be completed prior to Town Meeting, and that they have been working on plans for the proposed Landham Road and Woodside Road walkways.

Mr. Harding further reported that his department has been working on sketches for the warrant, has completed plans for the reconstruction of Old Lancaster Road, has been working on plans for the Solid Waste Subcommittee, has provided information to the Water District for proposed well site and land acquisition, and is currently working on new plans for Wadsworth Cemetery and drafting new property maps.

MRS. ROBERTS - TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Mrs. Roberts reported that the free cash figure received from the Bureau of Accounts is \$201,684.00.

MRS. LANGMUIR - CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mrs. Langmuir reported that the Wetland Protection Act has been reduced to an understandably worded leaflet and that she has copies for distribution. She reported that her Commission has issued two cease-and-desist orders for wetland filling within the month and that the receivers have been cooperative.

Mrs. Langmuir also stated that, relative to Article 20, 1973 Annual Town Meeting - Purchase of 30 Acres of Haynes Land for Conservation purposes, the Commission has received an option agreement signed by Honora Haynes.

MRS. GILLESPIE - PLANNING BOARD

Mrs. Gillespie reported that her Board has recently held a public hearing for a new proposed subdivision, a wholesale lumber operation, and that findings concerning this hearing would be made by March 6, 1973.

MR. PARKHILL - PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Parkhill reported on last week's meeting with the Selectmen to discuss the selection of an architect to complete

plans for the proposed police/fire headquarters. He reported that the firm chosen was Hughes and MacCarthy of Natick and that William Bell of his committee will be the liaison man with this architectural firm. He further reported that the firm of A. & H. Browning, Architects, has been retained for the Town Hall planning, with James Rubin of his committee acting as liaison with this firm.

MR. BUXBAUM - MBTA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Buxbaum stated that as the Sudbury designee to the MBTA Advisory Committee he had cast a "no" vote to enable Sudbury to proceed with steps to get out of the MBTA. He reported that the Advisory Board was considered below standard and that members are trying to improve the operation.

MR. FOX - SUDBURY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mr. Fox reported that his committee has had discussion with their architect concerning development of the Oliver site and would meet again next Monday, following receipt of topographical plans. He stated that his committee has been in touch with their appraiser for an "enlightened" figure and reported on their meeting with the Selectmen and the Permanent Building Committee concerning the possibility of shared facilities.

Mr. Fox reported that his committee will attend the Planning Board hearing on March 12, 1973, to make a presentation and will have, at that time, a more complete explanation including their architectural plans. He also reported that his committee is favorably disposed toward holding neighborhood meetings.

REPRESENTATIVE ANN GANNETT

Mrs. Gannett, in response to a question concerning the fiscal year change, reported that she had that afternoon attended a hearing on corrective changes, but that no final version has been decided upon. She then explained about the possibility of including in the 18-month budget funds for an additional two-month period for teachers salaries to cover July and August and the option to include these two months in the following fiscal year's budget.

Mrs. Gannett also reported that under consideration is a proposal to send out a second tax bill so that the taxpayers would not receive the full impact of the 18-month budget all at once.

She mentioned a bill for repeal of fiscal autonomy for school committees which had been introduced in the Senate and

was referred back to the Committee on Education, and a bill to allow a Town Meeting to appeal any new programs in a school budget by a 4/5 vote. She commented that, in the case of regional schools, this bill would most likely be unworkable.

Mrs. Gannett reported that she has been appointed to the Committee on Transportation and assured those present that the Committee would do everything they can concerning the assessment of the MBTA to shift the burden from the taxpayers.

MRS. BIGELOW - COMMITTEE ON TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. Bigelow reported that Mr. Harrington has resigned as Chairman of this committee and that she has been elected as the new chairman.

MR. CRON - REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Cron reported that the building construction is slightly ahead of schedule and that the school would this fall bring in a core staff in anticipation of establishing curriculum.

DR. COOPER - BOARD OF HEALTH

Dr. Cooper reported that Mrs. Hotch is acting as liaison between the Regional Concerns Committee and the Board of Health and its subcommittee for study of solid waste disposal. He also reported that this subcommittee is to evaluate the responses to the proposal sent out for septage disposal facility.

MR. WHITE - BUILDING INSPECTOR

Mr. White reported that construction this year has slowed down and that only five residential building permits have been issued to date--14 less than in the same period last year. He further reported that the dog control law is being enforced more strongly and that the multiple unit plans for the Elbanobscot Foundation have been carefully reviewed for safety conditions.

CHIEF LOMBARDI - POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Lombardi reported that the Police Department has had a very good winter due probably to the increased interest of citizens in the department's burglar prevention program, and that the number of house and business breaks is down. He reported that one opening for a provisional policeman has been filled and that one policewoman on school crossing guard duty has resigned. Chief Lombardi also reported that their new cruiser is in service, that the Police Association has settled negotiations for the police department with the Town Negotiating Committee, and commented on the lowering of the drinking age to 18, which becomes effective on March 1, 1973. In response to

a question from Mrs. Gillespie of the Planning Board, he reported that the traffic counters have been received, and when set up, would be placed on Raymond Road.

MRS. HOTCH - REGIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Hotch reported that her committee has completed their final report on Article 44, 1973 Annual Town Meeting, for creation of a regional refuse disposal planning committee and will have it for the Selectmen by next week. She reported that, as members of a subcommittee of the Board of Health, they will be doing research on septage and will be addressing that problem on a regional basis. Mrs. Hotch also reported that her committee would like to have communication with the Bicentennial Committee and will be getting in touch with them.

DR. OVIAN - SUDBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Dr. Ovian reported that his committee is now required to have public hearings on their budgets and that this hearing will be held on March 21, 1973, at 7:30 p.m., and announced that copies of the budget are available. He reported that his Committee is undertaking a study of the entire structure of the school system, Kindergarten through Grade 12, and invited parents to the next session, scheduled for February 28, 1973 at 8:00 p.m. at the Curtis Junior High.

MR. MORGAN - LINCOLN/SUDBURY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Morgan reported that the program for search for a new superintendent was continuing, that a job description will be announced within a week, and that they hope to have a new superintendent by September. He announced that the Lincoln superintendent of elementary schools has just announced his resignation and said that the committee plans to pursue the possibility of a joint superintendent.

MRS. ALLEN - TALENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Mrs. Allen reported that her committee has received a good response from their table which they set up at the Special Town Meeting and that they will repeat it at the Annual Town Meeting.

TOWN COUNSEL

Town Counsel, David L. Turner, reported that there are 46 articles in the warrant for the 1973 Annual Town Meeting, of these 6 will be indefinitely postponed, leaving a total of 40 articles for consideration. He reported that the warrant is in a different form for this meeting by the incorporation of Town Counsel's opinions. Mr. Turner stated that he will draw all

motions within the next three weeks, and that if anyone wished to amend or modify their original article with a motion to notify him immediately.

Mr. Turner reported that the gables on the house in Robert Quirk's "Puritan Village" have been removed, that he has received a well site plan from the Water District, that the title abstract is completed for the purchase of the Oliver land, and that the court case for the Pike property is in the appellate court waiting for the other side to prepare its case.

MR. POWERS - BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Powers reported on the progress of plans for the park proposed for the area bounded by Concord and Old Sudbury Roads, basically the Hosmer/Neelon property, and that his committee has had many meetings with, and enthusiastic support from, various Boards and Committees. Mr. Powers stated that the final engineering on this project will be done by the Middlesex Conservation District at no cost to the Town, and that the Bicentennial Committee will approach the public for subscriptions on this proposal rather than seek funds through the Town government. He stated that the fund raising campaign will begin on March 14th, and added that they hope to have sufficient funds to allow construction of the park to coincide with the undergrounding of wires, walkway construction, and the re-paving of the roads at the Centre which will take place this Spring. He announced that the total cost of construction would be approximately \$10,000.

REPORT OF THE MODERATE INCOME HOUSING COMMITTEE

Members of the Moderate Income Housing Committee presented their Committee's report to those present at the Town Fathers' Forum. Mr. Hayes stated that the report is concerned only with the immediate internal moderate housing needs of Sudbury to include Town employees, teachers, the elderly, and persons employed in local businesses with upper limits of total income of \$10,000. Mr. Hayes stated that at this time the Committee feels that the upper limit figure of \$13,000 for Sudbury would be more realistic, but that the more conservative figure of \$10,000 has been used in the report. He stated that the goals of the Moderate Income Housing Committee has been to determine the supply and the need for housing, to determine the options open to the Town to provide needed housing, and to determine the housing situation in the Boston area.

Mr. Hoover showed slides which demonstrated the continually rising costs in real estate transactions and figures for Town employees, for employees of local businesses, and for Sudbury Residents aged 60 and over, all with total incomes of \$10,000 or less, which illustrated the potential demand for moderate

income housing. These figures were taken from responses to questionnaires for these categories.

Mr. Hayes stated that from these questionnaires they have determined that 241 individuals with a total income figure of \$10,000 or less indicated that they would be interested in moving into this type of housing if it were available to them; therefore, he continued, the committee feels that there is an internal need in Sudbury for 250 units moderate income housing.

Mr. Cane spoke briefly on the options open to the Town for meeting these housing needs. These included a non-profit corporation, a limited dividend corporation, and a combination of these two.

Mr. Hayes elaborated on these options, details of which can be found in the tape recording of this meeting and in their report.

Mr. Hayes stated that their recommendations for immediate action included: 1) the formation of a non-profit housing corporation, 2) that this non-profit housing corporation seek to construct, convert, or rehabilitate housing to meet the needs, 3) the formation of an advisory committee on housing to be established by the Planning Board, 4) that Sudbury embark on a new Town planning program which will consider housing as an integral part of a long-range community development program, and 5) that continued study of possible types of housing and housing assistance be undertaken.

Mr. Hayes summarized his committee's recommendation for Sudbury's long-range goals, which included the need for a regional approach to determine housing requirements and the possible use of SILC to aid this process. Further details of the immediate and long-range goals can be found in their report and in the tape recording of this meeting.

Selectman Toomey requested that one or more members of the Moderate Income Housing Committee join the Selectmen, the Planning Board, the Finance Committee, and the Sudbury School Committee at the regional meetings scheduled for March 21, 22, 28 and 29 and thanked the members of the committee for their presentation and their excellent report. Mr. Toomey stated that the Board would defer action on that committee's recommendations until a full Board is present.

The forum was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Note: Portions of this meeting were taped and are on file in the office of the Board of Selectmen.