

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1973

Present: Acting Chairman William F. Toomey and John C. Powers

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The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Acting Chairman William F. Toomey.

Mr. Toomey announced to those present the death today, at 3:40 p.m., of President Lyndon Baines Johnson, the thirty-sixth president of the United States, and stated that the Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts, wished to be one of the first towns to officially record and offer its condolences to his widow, Mrs. Lyndon Johnson.

Application for License - Hospital Transportation Service, Inc.

Present: Edward J. Kenney, President; Helen Kenney, and William Rourke of Hospital Transportation Service, Inc.

Mr. Kenney stated that the purpose of his application for a license was to enable his company to operate motor vehicles for the carriage of passengers for hire over certain roads in Sudbury, as mentioned in his letter to the Selectmen, dated January 3, 1973, and that the operation would be geared to the needs of the Digital Equipment Corporation in Maynard. Mr. Kenney also stated that in addition to Digital Corporation, he also serves two other companies.

Mr. Kenney informed the Board that his company has been in operation for 15 years, and employs approximately 35 employees. The company operates between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 1:00 a.m. and they have 22 vehicles in operation - 14 Dodge passenger busses and 8 mini-shuttle busses. The company now operates mostly in the area of Massachusetts General Hospital, where they originated, carrying approximately 6,000 people per year. In the surrounding Sudbury area, they carry about 1,000-1,500 people per month.

Mr. Kenney stated that the bulk of the service from his proposal through Sudbury would be to and from Logan Airport and that the service would be available to the townspeople. Mr. Kenney added that other area towns in which he has made similar applications for license are Wayland, Natick, Framingham, Concord, Maynard, and Acton.

Selectman Powers asked if this proposal were in any way a bid to make a route for the Bicentennial and requested that Mr. Kenney state that this is not, or will not, be their intent. Mr. Kenney replied that he would be glad to do so.

Selectman Toomey requested that the company supply the Selectmen with a fee schedule, a time schedule, a schedule of

the roads to be traveled within the Town, what availability of service there will be to the townspeople, and a full insurance disclosure on the type of protection that a Sudbury passenger would receive if a bus were involved in an accident. Mr. Toomey further stated that if the license is granted he would hope it would result in meaningful transportation, and that consideration of their application would be scheduled on the agenda of the meeting following receipt of the requested information.

Executive Session

On motion, it was unanimously

VOTED: To go into executive session for the purpose of discussing, deliberating or voting on a matter which if made public might adversely affect the reputation of any person.

Permanent Landscape Committee

The Selectmen received a letter dated January 15, 1973, from Joan MacGilvra, Chairman of the Permanent Landscape Committee, relative to the Town collecting for property damage caused by automobile accidents, which damage or destroy Town trees; the money to be put into a landscaping and tree fund to be monitored by the Highway Superintendent.

It was agreed to refer this communication to the Insurance Advisory Committee and to the Chief of Police for their review and recommendations.

Sudbury Bloodmobile

The Selectmen received a letter from Mrs. Nancy Taft, Town Coordinator for the Sudbury Bloodmobile, scheduled to be held at Our Lady of Fatima Church of Wednesday, February 7, 1973, and Thursday, February 8, 1973, in which she requested that the Selectmen allow time-off from work for Town employees wishing to donate blood. The Selectmen authorized the Executive Secretary to use his discretion in administering time-off relative to the foregoing.

Town Fathers' Forum - 80th Session

The transcript of the Town Fathers' Forum attached hereto is a part of these minutes.

DPU Hearing - Transfer of ownership of The Gray Line, Inc. to Hughes Bros. Bus Co., Inc.

Present: Mr. Steven Caplan, President, The Gray Line, Inc., Boston; Mr. Mauel Loureiro, owner, Hughes Brothers

Bus Company, Marlboro; Miss Elinor Bentley, Mr. LaMonte Griswold and other interested citizens; Mrs. Marilyn Hotch, Chairman of the Regional Concerns Committee

Mr. Toomey announced that this meeting was requested to obtain information concerning a hearing to be held on Tuesday, January 23, 1973, at 11:00 a.m. in Room #1210 Leverett Saltonstall Building, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, on the joint petition of The Gray Line, Inc., of Boston, Massachusetts (Proposed Transferor) and Hughes Brothers Bus Company, Inc., of Marlboro, Massachusetts (Proposed Transferee), for approval by the Department of Public Utilities, of the transfer of certificates authorizing the operation of motor vehicles for the carriage of passengers for hire over routes between Boston and Worcester.

Mr. Caplan, President of The Gray Line, Inc., stated that the Hughes Company would retain the same fee and time schedules, and the same equipment with one exception - a 1972 GM bus, which will be replaced with an older model. Mr. Caplan stated that both the route between Boston and Worcester along Route 20 and the express trips which operate between Marlboro and Boston along Route 128 and the Massachusetts Turnpike will continue.

Mr. Toomey asked Mr. Caplan how Hughes Bros. Bus Company would propose to make this a profitable operation where it had not been successful for The Gray Line Company. Mr. Caplan explained that the Hughes Bros. base of operation would be Marlboro, rather than Boston, as is currently the case, and that the cost structure would be lowered by their ability to hire non-union employees.

Selectman Powers asked whether the Gray Line Company received any MBTA subsidy. Mr. Caplan replied that they did not. Selectman Powers continued by asking whether Mr. Caplan had had any discussion concerning possible subsidies within the last three years or knew of any such discussion with the Hughes Company. Mr. Caplan again replied in the negative.

Representative Ann Gannett stated that she had heard of no talk concerning subsidies.

Mrs. Hotch, Chairman of the Regional Concerns Committee, commented that to the best of her knowledge, according to the DPU commissioners, the line was not open for subsidy because it will originate outside the MBTA area and stated that she would try to find out additional information before she attended the hearing on January 23, 1973.

Mr. Caplan stated that the terms of the transfer would include the sale of two busses and the leasing of three busses to Hughes Bros. Company.

Mr. Loureiro, owner of the Hughes Brothers Bus Company, arrived at 9:20 p.m. and reiterated much of what Mr. Caplan had previously stated concerning the terms of the proposed transfer and the fee and time schedules. Mr. Loureiro reported that he was presently operating a line through Marlboro, Hudson, Southboro and Framingham, and that his company had six drivers during the day and two at night, plus a large supply of spare-time help. In answer to a question from Mr. Toomey, Mr. Loureiro replied that the service under his ownership would keep the same posted schedule as is presently in effect.

Mr. Powers asked Mr. Loureiro why he felt he would be successful. He replied that he had studied the line, and that with his operational base in Marlboro and decreased labor costs, he would be successful.

Mr. Powers asked for information on the financial capacity of Hughes Bros. Bus Company to perform and was assured that the financial condition of the company would be taken into consideration at the DPU hearing.

Miss Bentley and several other commuters expressed their concern with the present operation and could not understand how a transfer of the same equipment would help to improve the service. They also stated that reliable service would, in their opinion, justify an increase in fares.

Mr. Toomey then announced the time and location of the hearing and the fact that he and Mrs. Hotch would attend. He added that if the DPU granted the transfer of certificates, he would hope there would be improvement in the bus line service, and that the Town would help in any way to make it a successful operation.

Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee

Present: Mrs. Marjorie Huse, Messrs. Saul Nathan and John Smith
of the Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee

Members of the Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee met with the Selectmen to discuss their report on the scheduling of projects over the next six years and how the figures relate to the upcoming Special and Annual Town Meetings.

Mr. Clough of the Finance Committee commented during discussion of the Solid Waste Disposal Facility that the Town Surveyor had made a statement that the Sanitary Landfill would be workable for another 13.6 years, a figure cut back to 10 years by the Finance Committee, but extended if their recommendation for the purchase of a compactor were realized. The Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee has included an expense figure for such a facility by 1978-9.

Mrs. Huse stated that their chart as it appears in their report shows potential expenditures about 15% higher than were projected last year and explained that this is due to the proposal for purchase of the Oliver and Haskell land sites. Mrs. Huse mentioned the possibility of contributing yearly to a land acquisition fund to offset the impact of land purchases.

The Selectmen thanked the committee for "phase one" of their report, and requested that they obtain more data, and that all figures be verified by committee heads and/or people from whom they were obtained.

Mr. Toomey suggested that the members of the committee consider taking a position, at the Special and 1973 Annual Town Meetings, on articles which are within the scope of their committee; to act in an advisory capacity to the Town Meeting.

Memorial Day Committee - Appointment

On motion it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Mrs. Mary Jane Hillery to the Memorial Day Committee for a term to expire on April 30, 1975.

Training Field

The Selectmen received a communication dated January 18, 1973, from S. F. Mazzarini, Philbob Realty, Inc., Wayland, which lists the breakdown on the cost apportionment on the three acres known as the "Training Field". Selectman Toomey requested that the Executive Secretary obtain the following information: from whom the parcel was purchased, the date of purchase, the exact acreage, the historical background, and the legal fees involved.

Senate Bill S1373

The Selectmen received a communication from John R. Caswell, Chairman of the Subregion Intertown Liaison Committee (SILC) relative to S1373, a bill calling for a bond issue to buy and/or repair our railroad rights-of-way, which will be heard January 24, 1973, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 443 of the State House. Mr. Caswell requested that the bill be endorsed by the Board of Selectmen. The Board agreed to take no position at this time, but to request Representative Ann Gannett to report on the hearing.

Minutes

The Selectmen voted to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of January 15, 1973.

Bills Payable

The Selectmen signed a bills payable warrant in the amount of \$127,904.78.

1973 Annual Town Meeting

Municipal Light Study Committee Article - The Selectmen received a communication (January 22, 1973) from the petitioners of an article proposing a Municipal Light Study Committee requesting that their article be withdrawn from the 1973 Annual Town Meeting warrant.

Town Counsel - The Selectmen received a memorandum from Town Counsel dated January 22, 1973, relative to petitioned articles presently numbered 32, 33, 34, and 35 for the 1973 Annual Town Meeting Warrant which would seem to be incorrect in their reference to "Article 9". The Executive Secretary will request that Town Counsel resolve this matter with the Moderator.

Ordering of the Warrant - The Selectmen scheduled the ordering of the warrant for the 1973 Annual Town Meeting for Wednesday, January 31, 1973, at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn at 10:45 p.m.

Attest: R. E. Thompson
Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary - Clerk