

MINUTES
TOWN FATHERS' FORUM
June 25, 1973

Chairman William F. Toomey called the 85th session of the Town Fathers' Forum to order at 8:00 p.m., and made the following announcements:

The Selectmen have adopted a summer schedule, with meetings on July 9 and 23 and August 6 and 20, and will resume their regular schedule on September 10.

There will be no Town Fathers' Forum in July or in August, and the next Forum is scheduled for September 24.

Notification has been received from the Secretary of the Commonwealth that the Wayside Inn Historic District has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

In recent weeks, the Selectmen have been working on appointments to boards and committees and have made several reappointments as well as new ones.

The Selectmen have agreed to support any effort to eliminate Massachusetts county participation in federal revenue sharing and will join with the City of Lowell in expressing strong opposition to legislation to change the distribution formula for State aid on the cherry sheet.

The Selectmen will join with other cities and towns in a suit against the Commonwealth relative to the inequities of the cherry sheet distribution of Chapter 70 educational funds and the legality of distribution figures.

The Selectmen are currently negotiating with Concord for a new contract for the mutual aid firefighting agreement, but as yet no agreement has been reached.

The Selectmen have met with gas station owners/managers and representatives of the Planning Board and the Sign Bylaw Revision Committee in an effort to identify problems on the Post Road, establish ground rules for dealing with these problems and reach an agreement to end violations now existing at some of these stations. The owners were asked to work with the Executive Secretary and the Zoning Enforcement Agent to resolve any problems associated with their stations.

A special meeting has been called by the Selectmen with the Selectmen, Police Chiefs, Fire Chiefs, Principals and Regional School Committee of Lincoln and Sudbury on Thursday, July 5th in executive session, to discuss aspects of public safety at the Regional High School.

Chairman Toomey announced the appointment of John H. Wilson, to the position of Town Accountant, effective August 6, 1973.

Stanley Piecewicz, manager of the Framingham Trust Co., presented to the Board a check in the amount of \$7,000 which represents completion of the \$10,000 goal of the fund raising drive for Heritage Park.

MR. ALLEN - TOWN REPORT PREPARATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Allen reported on a special meeting of his Committee last week, as a result of a request from the Executive Secretary that the Committee review portions of the Town Report for the purpose of reducing its content in the area of Town Meeting reports, etc.

Mr. Allen stated that his Committee had received a copy of Town Counsel's letter to the Board, which set forth the interpretation of the bylaw and the General Laws regarding the content of the Town Report, pointing out that the report content is mostly a matter of policy, with no guidelines or limits. Since the Town Report Preparation Committee was unable to find any direction in the General Laws, bylaws, or policies that would give them a legal or moral right to excise submitted material from any Town Report, Mr. Allen stated that they would continue their current plan to urge conciseness of all reports.

Mr. Allen further stated that his Committee is of the opinion that the report, as it has been prepared for a number of years is adequate and that the report serves, in a way, as an historical reference and, therefore, the Committee does not want the responsibility to make any alterations other than for reasons of clarification or typographical errors. Mr. Allen stated that it was his Committee's recommendation that if the Selectmen still wish reductions to the content to be made, they prepare for Town Meeting a series of bylaws which would eliminate those sections of the report or to publish guidelines or limitations to the individual boards and committees who prepare the reports.

MR. TURNER - TOWN COUNSEL

Mr. Turner reported that the purchase of the Haskell property has been completed, that the purchases of the Oliver land and the "training field" property will be completed this week, and that all legal work has been completed on the Haynes land purchase.

Mr. Turner reported that he is presently trying a case involving the subdivision known as "Wigwam Hills". Mr. Turner added that he has held discussion during the past month with the Conservation Commission and with the owner of "Mill Village", and that the problem there has diminished and perhaps is, at this point, resolved.

Mr. Turner also reported on Sudbury's intention to join with other towns in a suit against the Commonwealth, relative to the legality of the cherry sheet distribution figures which were based on proposed legislation.

DR. COOPER - BOARD OF HEALTH

Dr. Cooper reported that he had recently met with Professor Lynn Gelhar of the Civil Engineering Department of M.I.T., who has done work concerning water pollution, and in particular, pollution from septic systems.

Dr. Cooper reported that their discussion included possible fields in which Professor Gelhar could advise the Board as a consultant on septic systems and water quality, and that future work with Professor Gelhar, might result in changes to the Board of Health's rules and regulations.

Dr. Cooper spoke of the Board of Health's, the Water District's, and the Planning Board's concern with ground water pollution along Route 20 where heavy commercial development is located close to water district wells.

Dr. Cooper announced that the Wayland/Sudbury Septage Disposal Planning Committee would meet on Thursday, June 28th to discuss the terms of a proposed contract.

MR. ESPINOLA - HIGHWAY COMMISSION

Mr. Espinola announced that a road paving contract, which involves approximately 25 miles of Sudbury roads, had been awarded to Bell and Flynn, of Stratham, New Hampshire, and that the drainage study contract had been awarded to Weston and Sampson, Engineers, Boston.

Mr. Espinola also announced the promotion of John Lindgren as Assistant Highway Superintendent.

Other programs reported currently under way by the Highway Department included the installation of street signs and street sweeping. Also announced was their plan to level all major railroad crossings during the summer.

MR. WHITE - BUILDING INSPECTOR

Mr. White reported that permits for new housing were still behind those issued during the same time period last year, that the program for undergrounding conduit in the Centre is in progress, and that the traffic lights for the private railroad crossing leading into the Sudbury Skating and Tennis Club had been ordered and that he expected them to be installed shortly.

REPRESENTATIVE ANN GANNETT

Representative Gannett reported that, of the four late-filed bills, H.6645, App A, B, C, and D, which are concerned with changes in distribution formulas for State aid in the areas of regional school construction, school transportation, school construction, and reimbursement for taxes lost due to State-owned properties, three of these bills had been given adverse reports and voted back to committee.

On the subject of the Gray Line Bus Service, Mrs. Gannett stated that many complaints were still being received relative to service, but she is of the opinion that the Department of Public Utilities is interested in the possibility of handing the franchise over to a company in Hudson.

Mrs. Gannet also reported that a bill to allow agricultural land to be taxed at a reduced rate is presently in a study package in the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and that any interested person should contact Senator Schlosstein, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Taxation for further information.

MR. LEBART - FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. LeBart announced that the Finance Committee had hired Mrs. Marjorie Potell as their new secretary, and that his Committee is currently working on a budget preparation letter to be issued following Labor Day.

MRS. MARGOLIN - TALENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Mrs. Margolin reported that her Committee had recently compiled a separate updated list of people who have volunteered their services in the areas of school department and public works.

The Executive Secretary expressed the Board's appreciation for the use of the Talent Search Committee's listings in making recent appointments and stated that several appointments had been made from the list.

MRS. VONBENKEN - COMMITTEE ON TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. VonBenken stated that the Committee's chairman, Anne Bigelow, was currently hospitalized for tests at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Mrs. VonBenken reported that recent committee meetings had been concerned with the compilation of an extensive questionnaire to be distributed to all boards and committees in order to provide her Committee with background information for use in their study of possible overlap in committee responsibility and the possibility of forming a department of public works at some future time.

MR. NOYES - ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Mr. Noyes reported on the Engineering Department's participation in the Concord, Horse Pond and Hudson Roads walkways program and work at the Sanitary Landfill and Heritage Park.

MR. STEVENS - PLANNING BOARD

Mr. Stevens reported that Paul McNally has been attending the Wayland/Sudbury Septage Disposal Planning Committee meetings, and that Mrs. Gillespie has been attending site plan meetings.

Mr. Stevens stated that his Board was pleased with the new procedure for site plan inspections and subdivisions.

Mr. Stevens reported that a peddler was operating, with a State-issued peddler's license, and expressed the hope that the Selectmen, and the Police Department and the Zoning Enforcement Agent would stop the operation at this hazardous site.

Mr. Stevens also reported on the recent loss of the traffic counters which had been destroyed or stolen, and stated that they would have to be replaced if they were not soon located.

MR. FROST - INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Frost reported that the present Workman Compensation Policy expires on July 1, 1973, and that due to the excellent cooperation and attitude of the Town's department heads and the employees, the Town has enjoyed an excellent loss ratio, and, therefore, is in an excellent position to negotiate further savings upon renewal. Mr. Frost reported that this coverage, as of July 1st, is being placed with a different company, which will result in further savings to the Town. Mr. Frost requested that the Selectmen congratulate the Town department heads for their past cooperation and interest and to request from them and their employees continued cooperation with the new company.

Chairman Toomey announced that a review of the Regional High School insurance program would be included on the agenda for a special meeting to be held in executive session on July 5th with the Regional School Committee.

MR. MIRANDA - SUDBURY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mr. Miranda reported that the architect had submitted to the Sudbury Housing Authority a number of alternatives relative to housing for the elderly.

Mr. Miranda also reported that the Department of Community Affairs, based upon appraisals submitted to the Department, had authorized that the Authority offer the Town up to, but not in excess of, \$30,000 for a 7.68 acre parcel for use by the Housing Authority. This figure was the lowest figure approved by the Town under Article 27 of the 1973 Annual Town Meeting, and was rejected by the Board of Selectmen.

MR. CRON - SUDBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Cron reported that his Committee had completed their review of the curriculum and would now go on a summer schedule, with a meeting on July 11th and one meeting in August.

Mr. Cron announced that their fall meetings would be concerned with special education planning.

Mr. Cron stated that his Committee wished to meet with the Selectmen concerning the parking lot located behind the Noyes School.

MR. CRON - MINUTEMAN VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Cron reported that work on the Minuteman Vocational Technical High School was progressing on schedule.

MR. FLATHER - REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Flather reported that a recent issue of Time magazine had cited educational interests of several students from the Lincoln/Sudbury Regional High School. Mr. Flather added that his Committee has interviewed a number of candidates for the position of Superintendent, and hoped that one would be appointed by September.

MR. KOHANE - EARTH REMOVAL BOARD

Mr. Kohane expressed his Board's concern with an earth removal operation in a North Sudbury approved subdivision, and stated that he wished to learn under whose jurisdiction it fell to see that the removal is carried on within the set limitations.

Chairman Toomey suggested that the Earth Removal Board meet with the Planning Board and the Town Counsel.

SELECTMAN TAFT - SUDBURY, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

Selectman Taft made an informative and interesting presentation on his recent trip to Sudbury, Suffolk, England, and his visit with Sudbury, Suffolk's Mayor Harold Banham, his wife, and the Town Clerk, Doris Clarke. The presentation included slides and photographs of points of interest within the Borough and was enjoyed by all officials and Townspeople present.

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