

MINUTES
TOWN FATHERS' FORUM
MAY 21, 1973

Chairman William F. Toomey called the 84th session of the Town Fathers' Forum to order at 8:00 p.m.

Chairman Toomey announced the summer schedule for July and August and announced that the Town Fathers' Forum schedule for June 25th would be the last until September.

MR. LEBART - FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. LeBart announced the reorganization of his committee and that their new members were Carolyn Edwards, John Drum, and S. William Linko. Mr. LeBart distributed for the information of those present the 1973-74 Finance Committee Liaison assignments.

Mr. LeBart stated that one of his committee's first projects would be the follow-up on the five-year plans and asked for the return of those plans not already submitted to them.

Mr. LeBart announced the Finance Committee's schedule of article hearings for the June 13th Special Town Meeting.

Mr. LeBart read the Finance Committee's formal statement relative to the committee's deep concern with the evolving pattern of special town meetings, which they believe is disruptive to the orderly conduct of Town business, and their particular concern about the pattern of calling special town meetings to reverse bona fide actions taken by a regular annual town meeting.

June 13, 1973, Special Town Meeting - Warrant Review

Motions, presentations, and procedures for each article were discussed and agreed upon as follows:

Article 1 - Rescind Article 39, 1973 ATM, Legislation: Appoint Treasurer/Collector - Petition

Petitioners to speak

Ann Bigelow to speak for the Committee on Town Administration

Frank LeBart to speak for the Finance Committee.

Selectmen to speak as individuals.

Passage requires a majority vote.

Article 2 - Council on Aging Bylaw (Article XI (A))

Article 3 - Vote Funds - Council on Aging

Articles 2 and 3 will be discussed together but voted upon separately.

Reverend Carl Talbot to speak for the Council on Aging.

Selectmen to support.

Committee on Town Administration to support.

Support of Selectmen and Committee on Town Administration to be incorporated in presentation by Reverend Talbot.

William Linko to speak for the Finance Committee.

Housing Authority in favor of the articles, but will not speak.

Passage requires a majority vote.

Article 4 - Walkway - Engineering and Construction Funds

Edward Connors to speak for the Planning Board.

Carolyn Edwards to speak for the Finance Committee.

Selectmen in favor.

Passage requires a majority vote.

Article 5 - Employ Clerk/Appraiser - Assessors

Not yet known which assessor will speak.

Ronald Blecher to speak for the Finance Committee.

Committee on Town Administration to speak.

Passage requires a majority vote.

Article 6 - Enlarge Limited Business District No. 6, Article IX, Sec. II, (

Petitioners will yeild to the Planning Board.

Jane Gillespie to speak for the Planning Board.

Carolyn Edwards to speak for the Finance Committee.

Passage requires a 2/3 vote.

Article 7 - Bylaw - Prohibit Unsolicited Delivery of Advertising (Art. V)

Petitioner to speak.

Ronald Blecher to speak for the Finance Committee.

Passage requires a majority vote.

Article 8 - Amend Zoning Bylaw: Art. IX., Sec. III, C, 3 - Industrial Park Districts - Petition

Paul McNally to speak for the Planning Board.

William Cossart to speak for the Board of Health.

Carolyn Edwards to speak for the Finance Committee.

Passage requires a 2/3 vote.

Article 9 - Amend Personnel Bylaw: Art. XI, Sec. 8, (10) and Sec. 12

Article 10 - Correct Zoning Bylaw: Art. IX, Sec. II, C, Boundary Descriptions

Article 11 - Correct Zoning Bylaw: Art. IX, Sec. II, B, A - Description of Districts

Article 12 - Correct Zoning Bylaw: Art. IX, Sec. IV, B, C - Intensive Reference

A handout concerning these articles will be available at the meeting, and at the opening of the meeting, a statement will be made that these four articles will be the last items of business, that they are of a corrective nature, and will be scheduled for the consent calendar.

MR. TURNER - TOWN COUNSEL

Town Counsel reported that the cases of RADIN versus the Planning Board and the Board of Health versus the Planning Board had been resolved.

Town Counsel also reported that the Haskell property will be purchased on Wednesday of this week or as soon as Mr. Haskell returns to Sudbury,

Town Counsel announced a hearing to be held by the Board of Appeals on June 12, 1973, concerning the applicability of a permit granted on December 1, 1970, to Sylvia Silverman to conduct a school for classical ballet, property located at 717 Boston Post Road, for current use in the conduct of slimnastic classes.

MR. SHERMAN - MODERATOR

Mr. Sherman announced his 1973 appointments as follows:

Committee for the Preservation of Ancient Documents - M. John Rice, Jr.

Permanent Building Committee - Robert J. Hotch

Power and Light Committee - Robert E. Stone, Jr., and Rodger N. Sjolund

Earth Removal Board - Theodore Kohane, Edwin A. Blackey, Jr.

Committee on Town Administration - Sally T. vonBenken and Louis G. Edwards

Regional Refuse Disposal Study Committee - Paul H. McNally and E. Lawrence Gogolin. Mr. Sherman stated that he had a designee for the third vacancy, but that, as he does some work for the Town, there might be a possible technical violation of the conflict-of-interest law. Mr. Sherman requested that the Selectmen designate this committee as special municipal employees, thus exempting them from the question of conflict of interest.

The Board asked that Mr. Sherman give them a written recommendation to this effect, and the question will be placed on the agenda for the meeting of May 30, 1973.

Mr. Sherman announced that he had received with great regret the resignations of Donald Bishop and Donald Stowbridge from the Finance Committee.

Memorial Day Celebration

Chairman Toomey announced that the usual ceremonies and parade would take place on Memorial Day and that the schedule of events had been reported in the local newspapers.

Revenue Sharing Funds

The Executive Secretary commented on a communication, dated May 11, 1973, from Senator Edward L. Burke, which requested that the Board look into the possibility of directing a portion of the revenue-sharing funds into maintaining local services, which are scheduled to be terminated or rendered less effective by the loss of Federal funds.

Senator Burke's request is in conjunction with Senate Bill 1125, passage of which would enable the State to make funds available for grants directly to community action programs, when Federal funding runs out, through the State economic opportunity office of the Department of Community Affairs. The act would require some matching funds at the local level in a proportion of 80% State and 20% local.

It was the recommendation of the Executive Secretary that the Board indicate to Senator Burke that while it fully appreciates and is concerned with all Federal and local cutbacks, and the resulting hardships to these programs, that the Board does not feel we should back up any type of 80%-20% matching funds, as the Town is unable to afford it.

1973 Cherry Sheet Estimates

The Executive Secretary reported on a legislative bulletin from the Massachusetts League of Cities & Towns, which stated that 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 have been proposed in House bills H.6645 App A, H.6645 App B, H.6645 App C, and App D. The recently distributed cherry sheet figures reflect these cuts, which were estimated on the proposed legislation, and the legality of these estimates is being challenged in a suit by the City of Lowell.

The question of legality and the fact that it is not yet known whether some State budgets, such as the MBTA, were based on a 12- or 18-month period led to the request that the Board of Assessors hold a moratorium on setting the tax rate until all questions have been settled.

It was the recommendation of the Executive Secretary that the Board join in the Lowell suit against the Commonwealth. Representative Ann Gannett suggested that if Sudbury did join in the suit with Lowell that the suit be between the taxpayers versus the Commonwealth rather than the Town of Sudbury versus the Commonwealth.

Representative Gannett stated that, in her opinion, the pending legislation should have been taken up before distribution of the Cherry Sheets. Representative Gannett was requested by the Board to vote "no" on all four bills.

The Executive Secretary reported that the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association is trying to help sponsor through State Secretary Atkin's office a change in the definition of Counties, which would eliminate the distribution of Federal revenue sharing funds to Massachusetts counties. The Executive Secretary stated that he will be asking the Board of Selectmen to endorse the foregoing.

The Forum was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.