

TRANSCRIPT
TOWN FATHERS' FORUM
JANUARY 28, 1974

At 8:00 p.m., Chairman Toomey called the 89th session of the Town Fathers' Forum to order.

Chairman Toomey made the following announcements concerning the Selectmen's activities during December and January:

The Town has retained Richard Murphy of Murphy, Lamere and Murphy of Braintree to conduct the 1974-75 negotiations for the Town.

The Board has adopted a ten-point plan for dealing with the current energy crisis and has designated the Executive Secretary as Coordinator for the Town. In addition the Selectmen have arranged temporary emergency shelter in the upper Town Hall, have requested various Town departments to cut mileage by 10%, and are currently working on arrangements for car pool parking.

The Board has held many meetings with the Permanent Building Committee in connection with the proposed building for the Police/Fire Headquarters, and has requested from the architect a redesign of the exterior of the building in order to provide the Annual Town Meeting with cost figures for both a colonial and a contemporary design.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation has notified the Town of approval of Federal reimbursement funding for the purchase of the Haskell Land in the amount of \$90,207.60.

The Board appointed Nicholas Lombardi as permanent Police Chief on January 7th.

The Board is co-sponsoring, with the Permanent Building Committee, an article for Town Hall renovations. There were fifty-seven articles received for inclusion in the warrant for the 1974 Annual Town Meeting, which was ordered on January 14th and will be reviewed on Wednesday, March 27th.

Selectman Powers made the following announcements as Chairman of the Revolutionary War Bicentennial Committee:

The Committee has recently held a meeting with the architects working on the Heritage Park plan and expect a revised plan to be submitted to the Committee within two weeks.

The Regional High School videotaped the Special Town Meeting held on January 3, 1974, at the West Meeting House (a reenactment of the Special Town Meeting held on January 3, 1774, concerning the East India Tea Company) and have offered to make it available to the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission.

The Sudbury Police Association donated \$500.00, proceeds of their annual ball, to the Heritage Park fund. In addition, the Fund received donations in the amount of \$1,250.00 in December from the Police Association.

Selectman Powers and representatives from seventy-five other Massachusetts cities and towns attended a Bicentennial Convention at Amherst, Massachusetts, on January 26th and 27th, at which it was agreed that a federation of bicentennial towns be formed to give impetus to the celebration. Selectman Powers stated that it was further agreed to request that consideration be given to a special bicentennial lottery, to be held in April of 1974 and in April of 1975, the proceeds to be distributed as matching grants to cities and towns for local projects. In other action it was agreed to ask the Governor to take immediate action relative to clarification of responsibilities for public health, public safety, and transportation and to request of the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission a clarification of the Commission's funding programs and that this information be made available to all Massachusetts cities and towns.

Selectman Taft reported on the results of the recent Executive Board meetings of the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association, at which the former Selectmen on the Board thwarted the Officers' recommendations for a new Executive Director, Legislative Director, and office. Selectman Taft reported that about 40 cities and towns, including Sudbury had recently withheld payment of dues to the Association until the Executive Board agreed to support the Officers' unanimous recommendations. Selectman Taft stated that an Executive Board meeting had been held last Saturday, at which the full-time Executive Director and a full-time Legislative Director had been appointed. He also reported that the Association officers have held meetings with the Governor and the House and Senate leadership on State aid statutes and impact of State aid shortfall on the local property tax.

DAVID L. TURNER-TOWN COUNSEL

Town Counsel reported that he is proceeding with the equalized valuation suit and that it has begun to draw some publicity, such as the Boston Globe editorial "Truth in taxation", on January 28, 1974.

Town Counsel stated that the case is in the Supreme Judicial Court and that the Commonwealth will have to file pleadings on or before February 6th.

On the subject of the Wigwam Hill subdivision, Mr. Turner stated that the Court has ruled that the area may be subdivided in accordance with the plan on file with the Planning Board.

EBEN B. STEVENS - PLANNING BOARD

Mr. Stevens reported that the Planning Board has received to date over 800 survey returns and is currently considering analysis

by computer of the results, that members have been working on Town Meeting articles and that he had testified before the Urban Affairs Committee relative to the major revision of the Zoning Enabling Act under Chapter 40A of the General Laws.

Mrs. Gillespie stressed the importance of prompt return of the questionnaires in order that analysis be made for Town Meeting input.

COLONEL LEAHY - COUNCIL ON AGING

Col. Leahy reported that the Council on Aging has held three meetings, that the Memorial Congregational Church has offered two rooms in the former parsonage for their use as a drop-in center, and that they have worked with the manager of the Star Market relative to sponsorship of a shopping bus.

Col. Leahy reported that the Council was constituted too late to apply for funding, but that through the Executive Secretary, the Finance Committee has agreed to give them \$1,000.00 for 1974-75.

Col. Leahy requested that the Town sand parking lots of Town shopping areas and churches when necessary.

REPRESENTATIVE ANN GANNETT

Representative Gannett stated that no legislation has yet been passed in this year's session and commended the Selectmen's activities in connection with the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association's meetings with the Governor for discussion relating to property tax relief.

Representative Gannett briefly discussed and urged support for proposed legislation to limit the property tax of homeowners whose income is less than \$10,000 to 8% of income received, with the difference to be refunded or deducted from income tax payment.

ERIC LIND - CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mr. Lind reported that the Conservation Commission had, on January 27th, held a meeting on the flood plain zoning proposal, which was attended by approximately 125 people, and that about 25 of these had asked for an on-site inspection to determine boundaries.

Mr. Lind also stated that the Commission has been working on purchase and sales agreements in connection with the Davis, Whitman, and Hulbert land acquisitions.

RONALD ESPINOLA - HIGHWAY COMMISSION

Mr. Espinola reported that on Wednesday, February 20, at 8:00 p.m., in the White Building, the Highway Commission will hear the final report on the Weston & Sampson proposal for the master drainage plan.

Mr. Espinola stated that the Commission has been involved in article preparation and briefly reviewed the Highway Commission sponsored articles.

RONALD ESPINOLA - WAYLAND-SUDBURY SEPTAGE DISPOSAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mr. Espinoal reported that two identical articles have been submitted to both Sudbury and Wayland, the first to allow the one town to join with the other and the second for funding.

Mr. Espinola stated that the site chosen for this operation is located in Wayland, on the north side of Route 20, just east of the Sudbury landfill. Mr. McNally of the Planning Board added that the Committee is attempting to obtain State and Environmental Protection Agency funding, which could be as high as 90%.

POLICE CHIEF NICHOLAS LOMBARDI

Chief Lombardi stated that the biggest current problem is the traffic hazard caused by gas lines extending onto the Boston Post Road. The Executive Secretary reported, in this regard, that he is presently attempting, through the Business Advisory Committee, to contact all gas station owners in an effort to arrange a schedule for the sale of gasoline, which would lessen the present traffic hazard.

Chief Lombardi requested that the police station not be called in connection with "no school" signals, as it has caused a serious problem in tying up their lines. Chief Lombardi also stated that a hockey brochure is being distributed by the Sudbury Skating and Tennis Club which mentions the availability, through the Sudbury Police Department, of an ambulance, and that this, of course, is not the case.

Chairman Toomey suggested that the Board meet with the owner of the Sudbury Skating and Tennis Club in this regard.

JUNE MARGOLIN - TALENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Mrs. Margolin reported that the Committee has reorganized their files with the use of computer cards by neighborhoods within precincts to aid in making appointments and had earlier submitted a draft listing to the Executive Secretary.

ANN BIGELOW - COMMITTEE ON TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Chairman Toomey stated that the Board was unable to attend the Committee on Town Administration's meeting on January 30th, as invited, but requested that this Committee meet with the Board at a regular Selectmen's meeting at a time to be scheduled by the Executive Secretary. Mrs. Bigelow was in accord.

Mrs. Bigelow reported that the Committee would hold future meetings on February 6th and 20th.

TOWN ENGINEER ARTHUR E. HARDING

Mr. Harding stated that the Engineering Department had been working on street acceptance plans, property maps (which are about 85% completed, preparation of finished plans for the Conservation Commission on the flood plain article and on several land acquisition articles, walkway plans, and the layout of a portion of Union Avenue.

SAUL NATHAN - LONG RANGE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES COMMITTEE

Mr. Nathan reported that the Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee has been discussing Town Meeting articles.

Chairman Toomey requested that the Committee meet with the Board soon at a time to be scheduled by the Executive Secretary.

BERTRAM WEINSTEIN - BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Mr. Weinstein announced that the Board of Registrars had voted to hold registration sessions as follows:

Thursday, February 21, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Town Hall
Thursday, February 28, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Lincoln-Sudbury
Regional High School
Thursday, February 28, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Town Hall
Saturday, March 2, Noon - 10:00 p.m., Town Hall
Tuesday, March 5, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., Town Hall

CRAIG PARKHILL - PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Parkhill reported that the Permanent Building Committee has submitted two articles for the 1974 Annual Town Meeting, one for alternate designs for police/fire headquarters building and the second for renovations to the Town Hall.

JOHN R. FLATHER, JR. - LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Flather reported that in 1973 the Regional District School Committee voted to authorize bonding in the amount of \$175,000.00 for improvements of the High School athletic fields to correct drainage problems. This action was subsequently approved by Annual Town Meetings in both Lincoln and Sudbury, with the expectation of 65% State reimbursement.

Mr. Flather stated that it has since been determined that most of this sum will not qualify for reimbursement because of a technicality, and that, therefore, the Regional School Committee has decided to seek reapproval by the Towns before proceeding with bonding, asking in their article that the Town confirm last year's action so that the drainage work may proceed.

ALFRED C. CRON - SUDBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Cron announced that the School Committee had adjusted school hours to daylight savings time and that the Committee was still conducting collective bargaining negotiations.

ALFRED C. CRON - MINUTEMAN REGIONAL TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Cron reported that the Committee would soon begin to acquire a teaching staff and that they still anticipate opening, with a freshman class, in the fall of 1974.

MARY JANE HILLERY - MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Hillery reported that the Memorial Day Committee is continuing with the annual Memorial Day program and that the students will be asked to submit an essay, and that the chorus and the elementary school band will take part.

Board Reports for the 1973 Annual Town Report

The Executive Secretary requested that all Boards submit their reports to the Annual Town Report Preparation Committee, as they are now past due.