

TRANSCRIPT  
TOWN FATHERS' FORUM  
SEPTEMBER 23, 1974

94th SESSION

At 8:00 p.m., Chairman Powers convened the 94th session of the Town Fathers' Forum and made the following announcements:

Mrs. Kirschner and Mr. Murphy are attending tonight's Forum with their Town Government class for the Regional High School.

The Selectmen have designated the Park and Recreation Commission as agents to manage the Haskell land, which was purchased in 1973 for park and recreation. Matching Federal funds for the acquisition of this land, in the amount of \$90,215.74, were received from the Department of Natural Resources on September 19, 1974.

Appointments made during the summer include those of:

Richard C. Hill to the Historical Commission;

Leo Spottswood, Joseph Bausk, and Frank Koppeis to the Memorial Day Committee;

Ronald Campbell as the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission representative;

George Distler to the Personnel Board;

William Harding to the Talent Search Committee;

William Reed to the Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee;

Paul Buxbaum, Robert Coe, and Paul Wishengrad to the Sudbury Bus Transportation Committee;

David L. Turner as Town Counsel;

Alphonse Briand to the Board of Appeals;

Robert Burd, Robert Savoy, John Cheney, Robert Anderson, and Robert Turner as Associates to the Board of Appeals;

Margaret Langmuir, Marion Harris, and John Cutting to the Conservation Commission;

John Reutlinger and Carleton Colburn to the Permanent Building Committee;

Winifred Ledger to the Permanent Landscape Committee; and

Frank Grinnell as Veterans Agent and Veterans Graves Officer.

Donald Bishop was recently elected to fill the vacancy on the Highway Commission.

Volunteers are need for work with the Citizens Task Force, when appointed.

Town Surveyor Arthur Harding resigned as of October 19th and candidates for the position are currently being interviewed.

The Board held a hearing on June 24th, at which the Board voted to add transportation corridors, limited to railway transportation, to the Official Map of the Town.

The Board has held several meetings with the Permanent Building Committee and the architects for the Housing for the Elderly Project and the Police/Fire Headquarters building to seek the best possible plan to present to the Town for a common access road with the Sudbury Housing Authority. Reimbursement funds, through Civil Defense, in the amount of \$89,000.00, are to be included in the plans.

The Board has endorsed a proposal of the Regional High School Town Government class to participate in one aspect of the Civil Defense program.

The Selectmen are continuing their contact with Government Services Agencies to insure Sudbury's interest in the exsessed military reservation land, the most recent meeting having been held with Commissioner Brownell and his staff from the Department of Natural Resources on September 18th.

A Special Town Meeting has been called for October 22nd, and five articles were submitted for its warrant.

The Board recently approved the application of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District, requesting matching funds for the Lincoln-Sudbury Bicentennial Oral History Program, as well as two applications from the Revolutionary War Bicentennial Committee for matching funds for the 1975 Memorial Day program and acquisition of the so-called Training Field.

CRAIG PARKHILL - PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Parkhill reported that partial bids relative to the Police/Fire headquarters building were expected on September 24th, with general bids due on October 1st, and that to this date twelve general contractors had indicated an interest.

Mr. Parkhill stated that the Permanent Building Committee will meet with the Finance Committee on October 1st to submit and review the bids.

Mr. Parkhill also reported that they have an additional new Committee member, Donald H. Katz.

ARTHUR BABIGIAN - BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Mr. Babigian stated that the 1975 tax bills were recently mailed to Sudbury homeowners and suggested that a vote of thanks be given to the Sudbury Taxpayers Association for their efforts in maintaining the tax rate.

JANE GILLESPIE - PLANNING BOARD

Mrs. Gillespie reported that no new subdivision plans had been submitted during the summer months and expressed the Planning Board's appreciation to the Town Surveyor for his work in completion of old subdivisions.

Mrs. Gillespie also reported that Dr. Motts is currently collecting data for the hydrological study voted at the 1974 Annual Town Meeting.

MALCOLM BEERS - REGIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Mr. Beers reported that the Regional Concerns Committee had met several times with different area towns between Route 19 to the South and Route 2 to the North for the purpose of discussing regional transportation areas and methods to obtain a commitment of funds from the State in this regard.

Mr. Beers reported that he has also met with Selectmen from Wayland and the transportation group from Weston relative to developing Route 20 transportation needs.

WILLIAM E. DOWNING - TOWN TREASURER

Mr. Downing reported that the Town has been receiving interest rates between 9% - 12%, depending on the size of the investment, and that the Selectmen had recently authorized the borrowing of \$1,000,000 in anticipation of taxes at interest rates which will run between 5.8% - 6.1%.

JOHN V. SULLIVAN - BOARD OF HEALTH DIRECTOR

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Board of Health is still working with the engineer for the McDonald's Restaurant and that the land they are interested in on Route 20 is marginal for Board of Health sewer requirements.

Mr. Sullivan also reported that the Board of Health sewer regulations have been completed and will soon be available.

Mr. Sullivan stated that there was no incidence of equine encephalomyelitis this year.

DR. WILLIAM COOPER - WAYLAND/SUDBURY SEPTAGE DISPOSAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Cooper reported that Wayland will have a special town meeting on October 30th and has included warrant articles for authorization and funding of a joint septage disposal facility, and that agreements for the same are now being reviewed by the two Town Counsels.

Mr. McNally of the Planning Board reported that Sudbury is one of nine member towns in the Minuteman Regional Refuse Planning Board, which had recently signed a contract with Arthur D. Little Company to do a septage disposal plant study, and that by the end of December, the Town might have an alternative.

JOHN H. WILSON - TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Mr. Wilson reported that the end of June had marked the completion of the 18-month fiscal year and that his office had recently received notice that the Town has available funds in the amount of \$215,000.

PAUL BUXBAUM - SUDBURY BUS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Buxbaum described the proposed intra-town bus service, following the Town's vote at the 1974 Annual Town Meeting, and stated that bid specifications had been prepared.

Mr. Buxbaum stated that they had held two open meetings with citizens and one with business people for their suggestions, and that following approval of the bid specifications, they will advertise for bids.

ARTHUR HARDING - TOWN SURVEYOR

Mr. Harding reported that during the past summer, with the help of eight temporary high school and college school students, the Engineering Department was able to do a lot of the field work for the planning of next year's walkways - that the engineering on the Butler Road walkway and a portion of the engineering work for the Horse Pond, Fairbank, and Landham Road walkways has been completed and has been submitted to the Highway Department.

Mr. Harding also reported that the Engineering Department has recently done work in connection with the Heritage Park, Davis, and Hulbert properties and is continuing with the drafting of the property maps.

POLICE CHIEF NICHOLAS LOMBARDI

Chief Lombardi reported that there has been an increase in juvenile vandalism as well as an increase in alcohol-related problems such as drunken driving.

Chief Lombardi reported that there were two traffic deaths in Sudbury during the summer and that the incidence of housebreaks is decreasing, probably due to Operation Identification, which has been used by 325 families.

Chief Lombardi reported that the Auxiliary Police program has been active during the summer months and that additional lighting has been placed at the Route 20/Station Road intersection, but that still more work is needed to increase safety at that location.

FIRE CHIEF ALBERT ST. GERMAIN

Chief St. Germain reported that there had been few brush fires during the summer, but that the fires had burned well into the ground because of the drought.

Chief St. Germain reported that he has rebuilt an army truck, on loan from the government, using a 2,000 gallon tank given the Department by Interstate Oil Co., and will use this vehicle for wooded areas.

Chief St. Germain stated that the Fire Department had inspected all the schools the week before school opened and had held fire drills within the first week of school.

Chairman Powers noted receipt of a communication from the Sudbury Skating and Tennis Club, commending the Sudbury Fire Department for its service in supplying water during an interruption of normal service by the Sudbury Water District.

REPRESENTATIVE ANN GANNETT

Representative Gannett reported that the Legislature has wound up the 1974 session, that she had tried to keep the Town abreast of pending legislation, and had brought to the Assessors new legislation relating to the distribution formula of funds.

Representative Gannett reported that a bill had been passed to remove the fixed percentage increase for Police and Fire Chiefs' salaries -- that any present chief will continue to be paid on the percentage basis, but those appointed in the future will not be paid on that basis.

In response to a request from Col. Leahy, Representative Gannett stated that she would be pleased to file legislation to permit issuance of fishing licenses to persons over 55 or 60 years of age, at no cost.

PAUL J. REMINGTON- LONG RANGE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES COMMITTEE

Mr. Remington stated that the Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee had distributed questionnaires to the Town boards and committees and requested that they be returned by November 1st.

RONALD L. BLECHER - FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Blecher reported that the Finance Committee had received several transfer requests to date and announced the schedule of hearings for the October 22nd Special Town Meeting.

ALFRED C. CRON - MINUTEMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mr. Cron reported that the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School is currently operating from the Rose Hawthorne School in Concord as the School facilities are not yet completed and that the new date for its opening has been given as November 1st.

MARGARET E. LANGMUIR - CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mrs. Langmuir reported that during the summer the Commission had received \$13,450 in matching funds for the acquisition of the Haynes Land and that three wetland hearings had been held.

Mrs. Langmuir reported that the Commission is presently forming a committee to organize a community garden effort on Lincoln Meadows and is asking for interested volunteers in this regard. She also stated that on November 6, the Commission will hold a public meeting to interest Townspeople who want to help the Commission in its work.

Mrs. Langmuir announced that permits for hunting on conservation land must be issued by the Commission and that in only certain of these lands will hunting be allowed.

SALLY VONBENKEN - COMMITTEE ON TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. VonBenken requested that in cases where a motion presented for a vote on the floor of Town Meeting differs from the motion printed in the warrant, copies of the corrected motion be made available, well in advance, to the Town Clerk and the Moderator, as well as to everyone in the hall.

On the subject of the EDP subcommittee, Mrs. VonBenken stated that the Committee would request time on board and committee agendas relative to what use would be made of EDP equipment if it were available.

PRISCILLA T. HARDING - TALENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Mrs. Harding reported that the current list compiled by the Talent Search Committee will be further broken down by categories and abbreviated lists distributed to the individual committees.

DOUGLAS A. MIRANDA - SUDBURY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mr. Miranda reported that the Sudbury Housing Authority has been working with the architects for the elderly housing project and the police/fire headquarters building in connection with finalization of the access road layout on the Oliver land and will have an article in this regard in the warrant for the Special Town Meeting on October 22nd.

Mr. Miranda also reported that the Housing Authority has recently signed a contract for financial assistance with the Department of Community Affairs in the amount of \$175,000 and are now awaiting money from the State to purchase five homes within the Town for rental to families with low income.

WINIFRED H. LEDGER - PERMANENT LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ledger reported that the Permanent Landscape Committee has requested that property owners mow the strip of grass between the walkways and the public way in front of their homes and that the Highway Department mow similar areas on the Town's property.

Mrs. Ledger also reported that the Committee has asked the Friends of the Library to pot up the small plants in front of the Library, offering them for sale, and using the proceeds for purchase of a large plant for the Library.

Mrs. Ledger stated that the Committee is going to try to interest the woodworking shop at the Junior High in making a bridge for use in Heritage Park and has acknowledged a gift from the paralyzed veterans who wished to donate shrubs and trees to the Park.

MARY H. D'ANDREA - SUDBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mrs. D'Andrea reported that in addition to the summer learning programs held at the elementary schools during the summer, there had been extensive interior and exterior maintenance work done on the school buildings as well as the construction of a pathway between some classrooms.

Mrs. D'Andrea reported that the Committee had provided a resource center for implementation of Chapter 766, and have an educated and trained staff to operate this program, which they hope will be among the best in the State.

JOHN R. FLATHER - LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Flather reported that the stripping of the field to improve the drainage at the Regional High School is well under way and it should be ready for use by the fall of 1975, that outside painting of the school has been completed, and a new scoreboard has been installed.

Mr. Flather reported that the budget for the Regional High School will be voted at a later date this year, as January 15th is the new budget submittal date in accordance with the new law.

Mr. Flather further reported that the School Committee has received a grant which will be used to study ways to present the choices in education and that a new student handbook has been issued to the students.

COLONEL LEAHY - COUNCIL ON AGING

Col. Leahy reported on the institution by Star Market Co., of a bus to serve the senior citizens of the Town and expressed the Council's appreciation to the High School for sending its band to play for the opening ceremonies.

Col. Leahy reported that the Council on Aging has planned a series of bus trips for senior citizens, and will have a free flu shot clinic sometime in October.

Col. Leahy stated that he has requested \$700, as Sudbury's share, from the Massachusetts Public Health Department, which will receive over \$800,000 as a result of drug price fixing, the \$700 to be used in furnishing medic alert bracelets to approximately 100 people in Sudbury.

Col. Leahy reported that he had recently attended a meeting relating to State regions for purposes of distribution of Federal funds.

FRANCIS E. WHITE - BUILDING INSPECTOR

Mr. White reported that the Building Department has issued exactly the same number of permits for new housing starts as in 1973 and that a permit has been issued for a shopping center on the northerly side of the Boston Post Road (previous site of the Buddy Dog Humane Society).

Mr. White stated that his Department is now in the process of cataloguing business signs.

FRANCIS E. WHITE - DOG OFFICER

Mr. White reported that there are only three unlicensed dogs in the Town.

The Forum was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.