

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1975

Present: Chairman John E. Taft, William F. Toomey, and John C. Powers

The statutory requirements as to notice having been fulfilled, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman John E. Taft.

Article 1 - Supplement to Sudbury Schools 1974-75 Budget - June 9 STM

Present: Phyllis Prager, Alfred Cron, and Cornell Gray of the Sudbury School Committee; Lawrence Gogolin, Chairman, and Elizabeth Byars of the Finance Committee; John O'Neill, Superintendent of Sudbury Schools, and Town Accountant John Wilson.

Chairman Taft stated that the Sudbury School Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Town Accountant had been requested to meet with the Board to discuss an alternative rational low figure if a motion is made at the June 9 Special Town Meeting to amend the \$104,000 figure under Article 1. Chairman Taft also stated that the Board wishes to hear the Finance Committee's position on the article.

In response to Chairman Taft's request to the School Committee for a minimum figure to cover expenses for the remaining school year, Mrs. Prager stated that the bare minimum figure is \$104,000 as printed in the warrant.

Mr. Wilson distributed a Sudbury Public Schools statement dated May 30, 1975, which showed encumbrances and, at the request of Chairman Taft, stated that the deficits occur chiefly in the teachers' salary accounts, for purchase orders which have not been received and paid for, and for contracted services such as busses, tutoring, etc.

Mr. Cron stated that June represents the ninth month of salary payment for the teachers and that the remaining three months of wages must still come out of this budget.

Selectman Toomey stated that the most obvious question from the Special Town Meeting floor is that the School Committee knew they were in trouble prior to the 1975 Annual Town Meeting and what has the School Committee tried to do since that time to reduce the program.

Mrs. Prager stated that the School Committee had put a hold on all purchases about April 16.

Chairman Taft read a memorandum dated June 4 from the Town Accountant on the subject of a tuition reimbursement bill in the amount of \$280, which the Selectmen had earlier directed be held in order to determine whether the payment could be delayed until the next fiscal year. Mr. Wilson's memo stated that, in his opinion, payment could be made in either fiscal year based on when the individual teacher submits the bill. Chairman Taft suggested that the reimbursement payment be held until the end of the course in July.

Mrs. Prager explained she was unaware that this tuition reimbursement is a contracted agreement which provides that payment be made upon presentation of a bursar's receipt--in advance of the applicant's taking the course, and suggested the procedure be changed, if possible next year.

Chairman Taft requested that the wording of the contract be changed during this year's negotiations to provide for reimbursement at the end of courses.

Selectman Powers stated that he had asked Mr. Cron at the May 19 Town Fathers' Forum whether or not, if the Town should vote "no" to the School Committee's supplemental budget at the June 9 Special Town Meeting, the Committee could live within the budget appropriated at the 1974 Annual Town Meeting, and that Mr. Cron had replied that the Committee would not expend funds in excess of appropriation. Selectman Powers now asked the Committee if they had an alternate plan if the article were defeated.

Mrs. Prager replied that the School Committee had asked Town Counsel this question and that his response had been that the Town is legally responsible and will have to appropriate the money.

Discussion followed concerning the determination of the cost of daily operation of the schools and, by closing early, how much could be saved versus the loss in State aid for each day of early closing.

Mrs. Prager stated that 75% - 80% of the daily expenses for schools are covered by contract and estimated that to close the schools six days early would only result in a saving of \$10,000-\$11,000 and stated that, in her opinion, the most logical method of savings would be an across-the-board salary cut.

Town Counsel was requested to prepare a memo relative to possible salary cuts under G.L. c71 §43.

Selectmen Powers reported that at the 1974 Annual Town Meeting, Mr. Cron had stated that the School Committee would be about \$70,000 "in the hole" with their present budget if fuel increases continued at their present rate, but that, by arrangement, the Finance Committee would, later in the meeting, present an article to increase the Reserve Fund to cover such a contingency, which the School Committee would support. Selectman Powers continued that the School Committee's budget was then committed back to the School Committee for considering a reduction in their requested total amount. Selectman Powers stated that the Finance Committee did not, in discussion of the Reserve Fund, move for an increase to provide for fuel increase contingencies and that the Town voted to reduce the Reserve Fund by \$30,000. Selectman Powers reported that the School Committee did not, during this debate, refer to any future needs for fuel monies or to anything else, and that when the School Committee again came in with the same total for its budget, which was then voted by the Town, the Committee must have realized that they had just lost \$30,000 that they had thought they could use.

Selectman Powers stated that he must assume that the Committee knew in April of 1974 that they had a problem and asked the Committee what administrative steps, since April 1974, they had put into effect relating to their budget. Selectman Powers also asked why the Committee had not brought this matter to the Selectmen's attention until April of 1975.

Mrs. Prager responded that the School Committee had reduced their fuel consumption and the consumption of material.

Selectman Powers stated that the Committee must have been aware of their increased costs due to their negotiated contract by last September and asked why they had not submitted an article at the 1975 Annual Town Meeting. Selectman Powers suggested that the School Committee prepare answers to these questions for the Special Town Meeting.

Chairman Taft asked what the potential was for Chapter 766 money.

Mr. Wilson stated that the money was to come directly to the Town in November. Mr. Wilson stated that the Town should have received \$156,000 during this fiscal year, but had only received \$76,000.

Selectman Powers stated that the cherry sheet reimbursement figure last August should have shown the School Committee what they would receive.

Chairman Taft again brought up the problem of June's being the ninth month of payment for the teachers and that 80% of the teachers elect to receive the balance on June 30 rather than to have payments spread over the year. Chairman Taft asked whether there is a way this year that some part of the payment (\$104,000) could be paid from next year's budget.

Mrs. Prager stated that that would just postpone the problem until next year.

It was asked whether there was any legal problem in raising money in June for this fiscal year's payment, and Town Counsel and the Town Accountant stated that it must be taken from Free Cash or Overlay Reserve.

Mr. Wilson stated that there is presently \$89,000 in the Free Cash account and \$39,000 in the Overlay Reserve.

In answer to the Board's question concerning what steps were taken in September to reduce expenses, Mrs. Prager again stated that the Committee had ordered that cuts be made in fuel and material consumption.

Mr. O'Neill presented figures of fuel reduction from 10,054 barrels last year to 6,900 barrels this year.

The Executive Secretary stated that the Selectmen's figures on fuel consumption in the schools show an increase over last year.

Mr. Thompson stated that the Town has on its books Metco money in the amount of \$23,000 and is expecting an additional \$23,000 by June 30, which he had asked Mr. Wilson to figure in the \$104,000 deficit.

Mr. Wilson stated that in January, the Town was notified that some forty students would come to Sudbury and, on a basis of per-pupil-cost, the Town would receive \$46,000 by the end of the year. Mr. Wilson stated that, as we did not then have any Metco money, expenses were paid out of the current operating budget and that all expenditures will be credited back to the budget when the funds come in. Mr. Wilson stated that he expects to receive a list of Metco expenses about June 25.

It was agreed to further check into the Metco reimbursements and to check the differing fuel consumption figures.

Town Counsel suggested that the payments to those teachers who elect to receive the balance of their yearly salaries in June could elect to pay 50% from this year's budget and 50% from next year's budget (Chapter 184 of the Acts of 1974).

Dixie Land/Rock Concert - Police Security

Present: Police Chief Nicholas Lombardi; Victor Mangini and Robert Guthrie of the Cancer Fund Raising Committee

The Board at its May 12, 1975 meeting voted that police security for the Dixie Land/Rock Concert scheduled for June 6, 1975, be worked out among members of the Cancer Society Fund Raising Committee, the Board of Selectmen, and the Chief of Police.

Mr. Mangini now reported that the Committee anticipates an audience of 750-800 people and that approximately 300 tickets have been sold to date.

Mr. Mangini stated that the ticket sales for the afternoon concert were estimated at 350-400 and that the Fund Raising Committee would provide eighteen adults to act as chaperones.

The Police Chief recommended that two policemen be provided for the afternoon concert.

Following discussion of the security for the evening concert, Chief Lombardi recommended that six men be hired by the Committee for paid detail, and it was agreed that he, the Executive Secretary and Mr. Guthrie would be in contact for a continuing reading as to ticket sale count to see if the figure should be revised.

100th Town Fathers' Forum

Chairman Taft announced that William G. Flynn, Secretary of the Executive Office of Communities and Development, would address the Town Fathers' Forum scheduled for Monday, June 23.

Sudbury Centre District - National Register

Chairman Taft reported that he had been contacted by Burgess Warren on the subject of having the Sudbury Centre district placed on the National Register. Chairman Taft suggested that the matter be placed on the agenda of a future meeting.

Appointments

The Board agreed to schedule a special meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 1975, at 7:30 p.m. in the Loring Parsonage for the purpose of interviewing candidates for appointment to the Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, and the Personnel Board.

In discussion of the overlapping of duties on the Historical Commission (appointed by the Selectmen) and the Historic Structures Commission (appointed by the Moderator), it was agreed to request the Moderator to meet with the Board with a view to consolidating the two Commissions.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To make the following appointments:

Earl B. Hoyle, R. Barry Liner, and John H. Wilson to the Insurance Advisory Committee for a term to expire on April 30, 1976.

Mary Jane Hillery to the Memorial Day Committee for a term to expire on April 30, 1978.

Craig W. Parkhill to the Permanent Building Committee for a term to expire on April 30, 1978.

The Board discussed the possible disbanding of the Regional Concerns Committee with that function to be performed by Emmanuel Tiliakos, Planner, and requested that the Executive Secretary contact the Planning Board in this regard.

It was agreed to request Clifford Hughes, Frederic Hersey, Fritz Steudel, and Lawrence Blacker to appear before the Board at a future meeting for the purpose of being interviewed as candidates for appointment to the Sudbury Bus Transportation Committee.

The Board requested that the Executive Secretary compile a list of candidates for appointment to the Talent Search Committee.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Francis E. White as Wiring Inspector, for a term to expire on April 30, 1976.

It was further

VOTED: To appoint Francis E. White as Zoning Enforcement Agent, for a term to expire on April 30, 1976;

and it was further

VOTED: To appoint Frank H. Grinnell as Veterans Agent & Director and as Veterans Grave Officer for terms to expire on April 30, 1976. (Selectmen Toomey and Powers in favor; Chairman Taft opposed)

Mini-Computer Field Day, Wethersfield, Connecticut

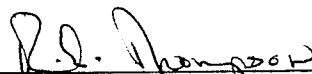
It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the travel of Board Chairman John E. Taft and the Town Accountant to Wethersfield, Connecticut, on June 18, 1975, for the purpose of attending a Mini-Computer Field Day.

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Attest:


Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary/Clerk