

TOWN FATHERS' FORUM
MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 1976

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman Taft convened the 104th session of the Town Fathers Forum and stated that Town Counsel David Turner would be the featured speaker and that his subject would be the new Open Meeting Law.

Chairman Taft acknowledged the League of Women Voters who were tonight supplying refreshments for the Forum, and he called for reports from representatives of the Town boards and committees.

MR. MCNALLY - PLANNING BOARD

Mr. McNally reported that he and two other members of the Planning Board had today attended a workshop at M.I.T. sponsored by the Special Commission on the Effects of Growth Patterns on the Quality of Life in the Commonwealth relative to local and regional development of a planning policy which would be reflected in the State growth policy.

Mr. McNally reported that the MAPC is sponsoring a Water Quality Control meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 21, to which the Town officials and the public have been invited.

MR. CARTER - PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Mr. Carter reported that, as a result of a letter that the Commission received from the DNR relative to Walden Pond's being put to a more passive use, the Town swimming program at that location would be discontinued. Mr. Carter reported that the Park and Recreation Commission has appointed four subcommittees who are now studying alternative plans and programs.

MRS. HILLERY - MEMORIAL DAY PARADE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Hillery reported that last year, because of a special donation from the Sudbury Ancient Fyfe and Drum Company, the Memorial Day Parade Committee had been able to include in their parade uniforms depicting those worn during the past wars in which the Town has been represented. Mrs. Hillery expressed the Committee's hope that no one will be disappointed in this year's presentation, as no special funds have been received above their annual budget.

MRS. REUTLINGER - LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Mrs. Reutlinger reported that the League of Women Voters supports the continuation of the Town Fathers Forum as a means of improved cooperation among Town boards and committees and, also, that the League strongly supports the recently passed Massachusetts Growth Policy Act and the creation of a Sudbury Growth Policy Committee.

Chairman Taft announced that the League of Women Voters will hold a meeting on the subject of Town government at 7:30 p.m. on January 20 in the Lower Town Hall.

MRS. REED - CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mrs. Reed reported that the Conservation Commission has scheduled several hearings in the near future concerning the Wetland Protection Act, the Sanitary Landfill, and upcoming drainage work and that they will soon insert a form in Bentley's "Calendar" to be filled out by the Townspeople concerning winter activities on conservation land.

MR. DAVISON - LINCOLN - SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Davison reported that the Regional High School's budget hearings will be held on January 20.

MRS. HARDING - TALENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Mrs. Harding reported that new names have been added to their files which indicate interest in almost all categories of Town government.

MRS. BUXBAUM

Mrs. Buxbaum reported that bids are to be awarded later this evening for the printing of the Town Report, and she requested that all board and committee reports be turned in as soon as possible.

FIRE CHIEF JOSIAH FROST

Chief Frost urged everyone using fireplaces to have them checked by masons, as several fires had resulted from improper construction.

MR. WHITE - BUILDING/WIRING INSPECTOR

Mr. White reported that forty-five new housing permits had been issued in 1975, which was seven less than issued in 1974, but that permits for additions to existing houses had continued to increase.

Mr. White urged that his office be notified to inspect burglar alarm installations.

POLICE CHIEF LOMBARDI

Police Chief Lombardi reported that all injured policemen have returned to duty and that when the newest member of the force returns from training school, the department will be at full manpower.

Chief Lombardi stated that his men had recently apprehended several persons during a housebreak and that they had in their possession a list containing the names and addresses of fifty-one homeowners, which had shown their connection with approximately a dozen recent housebreaks. He stressed the importance of the Department's Project Identification and the Neighborhood Watch program and requested that anyone wishing further information concerning these programs contact his Department.

Chief Lombardi also reported that there are so many burglar alarm tie-ins to the Police Department's emergency number that it had been necessary to request a new line, and he suggested that other types of alarms be considered by homeowners who are thinking of such an installation.

MR. GRINNELL - BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Mr. Grinnell reported that the Assessors are still assessing new homes and updating their present lists for basement apartments and additions,

MRS. POWERS - TOWN CLERK

Mrs. Powers reported that February 19 was the deadline for taking out nomination papers for elective positions, and she read the list of those who have done so to this date.

MRS. PRAGER - SUDBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Prager reported that the Sudbury School Committee has voted a budget of \$4.462 million and is now advertising and screening candidates for the position of Business Manager.

In response to the Board's question concerning the possibility of combining data processing equipment and staff, Mrs. Prager stated that, in her opinion, the School Committee should listen to such a possibility and evaluate the Board's position, but would not wish to be bound by such a request at this time.

MRS. COE - HIGHWAY COMMISSION

Mrs. Coe stated that the Highway Commission will probably need a reserve fund transfer before the year is over for their snow removal account, as approximately two-thirds of the appropriation has been used.

MR. POTEILL - FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Potell reported that the Finance Committee has been extremely busy reviewing budgets, which will continue through the month of January. He commented that so far everyone seems to be trying to hold the line.

REPRESENTATIVE GENEVRA COUNIHAN - PRECINCT 1

Representative Counihan reported that the legislature is in session until January 26 when the Governor will file his budget. She reported that she had brought copies of recently passed important pieces of legislation for the information of the boards and committees.

REPRESENTATIVE ANN GANNETT - PRECINCTS 2, 3, and 4

Representative Gannett stated that the 1975 session of the legislature did not adjourn until January 6 and that the Governor was still signing bills passed in those last days. Representative Gannett reported that the telephone hearing for extension of the Sudbury local calling area is to be held the morning of January 20 at the Department of Public Utilities. She expressed her interest in Mr. McNally's positive report concerning the growth pattern policy because she had heard adverse reports from some towns concerning the formation of local growth policy committees.

MR. CRON - MINUTEMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Cron reported that the members of the Minuteman School Committee are in substantial agreement with the teachers concerning their contract and that they have appointed a new Superintendent-Director as of January 1. He reported that the Committee had been conducting budget hearings, that a \$40,000 budget reduction had been requested, and that the Committee will vote its budget on January 20.

Mr. Cron further reported that Sudbury now has 67 students enrolled, with 45 additional openings. He stated that the current estimate of Sudbury's assessment is \$276,122, which is \$94 less than last year.

TOWN COUNSEL - OPEN MEETING LAW

Town Counsel summarized and explained the new open meeting law, an amendment of Chapter 39 of the General Laws. Mr. Turner referred to an outline of the new law, which he had drawn up, and stated that he would, at a later time, distribute copies of the same to boards and committees for their use and information.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Turner accepted individual questions from the audience, which resulted in discussion on the following subjects:

Designation of the Official Bulletin Board of the Town - Town Counsel stated that notices of each board meeting must be filed with the Town Clerk's office and a copy publicly posted in the office of Town Clerk on the principal official bulletin board of the Town at least twenty-four hours, including Saturdays, but not Sundays or legal holidays, prior to such meeting. Mr. Turner stated that one notice of any board meeting on a regular basis would be sufficient for that year.

Charity Fund - Selectman Powers suggested to Representatives Gannett and Coughlin that corrective measures should be taken to include the discussion of the Charity Fund as a designated subject matter for executive session.

Professional Competence - Representative Coughlin stated that members of school committees and others are hopeful that the professional competence of individuals would be included in the subjects designated for executive session, and she reported that several bills have been filed for this purpose.

Chairman Taft adjourned the Forum at 9:30 p.m. for coffee and informal discussion.