

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
MONDAY, MAY 24, 1976
108th Session

At 8:00 p.m. Acting Chairman Powers convened the 108th session of the Town Fathers Forum and announced that, following the monthly reports from Town boards and committees, Mr. Brooks, Chairman of the Growth Policy Committee, would present a summary review of that Committee's report and findings.

Acting Chairman Powers reported the following Board activities during the last month.

- Many reappointments have been made as well as two new appointments -- that of William Burns to the Memorial Day Committee and Malcolm Beers to the Sign Review Board.

- A site plan has been approved for Northern Farms Farm Stand located at 15 Union Avenue.

- An appeal had been considered relating to the State's assessment of \$268,000,000 as the 1976 equalized valuation for Sudbury, but a decision was made earlier this evening, on the recommendation of Town Counsel, against such action.

- The Board has signed Orders of Taking for the 1976 Annual Town Meeting street acceptances, which are now being recorded by Town Counsel's office.

- Hearings have recently been held concerning the employment status of Michael Dunne of the Fire Department and Robert Wenham of the Police Department.

- A State of Emergency was declared on April 20 due to fire danger; which was declared over on May 3 and the woodlands reopened. Aid was received from several neighboring towns during recent serious fires located near Curtis Junior High School and the Military Reservation.

- A very successful roadside cleanup was held on May 1.

- The Board had received an invitation from HUD to submit a full application for housing rehabilitation in the amount of \$30,000.

- Proclaimed May 15 - 21 as "Litter Olympics Week" in Sudbury.

- Proclaimed May 15 as "Lincoln-Sudbury Scholarship Day".

- Proclaimed month of May as "High Blood Pressure Month".

- The Selectmen are in the process of reviewing their Policies and Procedures.

- An Order of Taking for the Horse Pond Walkway railroad crossing has been executed.

- A decision has been made by the DPU relative to optional extended local service from New England Telephone Company to the Sudbury subscribers.

- The Selectmen's meeting originally scheduled for May 31, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, June 1, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

REPRESENTATIVE ANN GANNETT - PRECINCTS 2, 3, and 4

Representative Gannett reported that the State's \$3.7+ billion budget for fiscal 1977 had been presented to the legislature today for their action on May 27.

Representative Gannett also commented on the decreases in some areas of local aid and she expressed her hope that the Massachusetts League of Cities and Towns and the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association would be present and speak out louder and stronger on all important issues.

MR. HOTCH - FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Hotch reported that the Finance Committee has completed its reorganization and is still awaiting appointment of its ninth member.

MR. WILSON - TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Mr. Wilson reported that 95% of the tax revenue due on May 1 has been received and it is expected that by the end of June the receipts of the last fiscal year should show the best rate of collection to date.

MR. SULLIVAN - BOARD OF HEALTH DIRECTOR

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Board of Health's mosquito control spraying project has begun and, if it is not effective, helicopter spraying will be undertaken by the weekend.

Mr. Sullivan reported that water table elevation testing was completed on April 30 and that a ground water observation well has been established.

COLONEL LEAHY - COUNCIL ON AGING

Colonel Leahy stated that he wished to publicly thank Mr. Mercury, owner of the Mobil station at the corner of Boston Post Road and Landham Road for allowing free automobile inspections for the senior citizens as well as the Goodnow Library for not charging senior citizens fines for overdue books.

Colonel Leahy reported that their shopping bus runs about twenty passengers regularly to the Route 9 shopping areas and that this figure is expected to increase when the elderly housing development is filled around the middle of June.

Colonel Leahy reported that the Council on Aging had received an increase in their budget for transportation for the elderly through the offices of the Selectmen and that he was presently negotiating with the First National Company for a free shopping bus.

Colonel Leahy requested that signs be placed at the entrance of the elderly housing development to prevent peddlers from this area.

MR. DAVISON - LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mr. Davison reported that a task force report dealing with several issues was expected within the next three weeks.

Mr. Davison reported that this had been a good year at the Regional High School and that the graduation for the class of 1976 would be held on June 4 and that the class had had a very remarkable acceptance to colleges.

Mr. Davison further reported that the Regional had been involved for the last three weekends with productions for "Three Penny Opera", "Bye Bye Birdie", and "Springthing".

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT A. NOYES

Mr. Noyes reported that the Highway Department has finished the water line at the sanitary landfill and that the State has made an informal inspection. Mr. Noyes also reported the receipt of \$1,000 for the scrap metal pile at the landfill and that excavation has been begun for the next year's operation.

Mr. Noyes also reported that the Highway Department has been working on the cemeteries for Memorial Day, that the road leveling program has begun, that the walkway on Old Sudbury Road should be completed by next week, and that the Pine Lakes drainage is nearly complete.

MR. STUBELIS - CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mr. Stubelis reported that the Conservation Commission will hold several Hatch Act hearings within the next two weeks and that a work party will be held on Nobscot Hill on June 5. Mr. Stubelis further reported that the Conservation Commission held a bird walk recently which was attended by about twenty people and that there presently exist three vacancies on that Commission.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNIHAN - PRECINCT 1

Representative Counihan reported that, on the matter of funding pensions, the Committee had referred bills to the Retirement Law Commission, who were being asked to study partial funding, full funding, and various other investment options available and to report back to the legislature with suggestions.

MR. CRON - SUDBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE, MINUTEMAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Cron reported that the Sudbury School Committee is continuing discussion on excessing a school and will be discussing it for the next two to three months.

Mr. Cron also reported that the Committee has been discussing with the Town Engineer the erosion of the glacier pit behind the Curtis Junior High School.

Mr. Cron reported that the Vocational School will be closing around June 21.

Mr. Richard Brooks recommended that the Selectmen take an interest in the three options regarding the possible closing of a school before a decision is made.

Acting Chairman Powers stated that the Selectmen were watching the matter and will continue to do so until the School Committee makes its decision.

MR. POWERS - REVOLUTIONARY WAR BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Powers reported that the Town committees were, this year, asking former residents to come back and Townspeople to stay home in order to participate in this year's various activities during the Fourth of July celebration. Mr. Powers urged that all citizens, beginning in June, display their flags regularly.

Mr. Powers reported that the walkway along the Old Sudbury Road side of Heritage Park is being completed, and he reported the theft of \$200 worth of plantings which had been donated to Heritage Park by the Rotary Club.

MR. CONNORS - PLANNING BOARD

Mr. Connors reported that the Planning Board had recently reviewed three site plans -- those of Gibbs Oil Co., Northern Farms, and Granco Realty Trust -- and that the Walkway subcommittee will be reorganized at their first meeting on June 2 and will be joined this year by the Town Engineer and the Police Chief.

MR. BROOKS - GROWTH POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Brooks reported that the Growth Policy Committee was formed as a result of the passage of an act known as Chapter 807 of the Acts of 1975, which was designed to provide for the formulation of a Massachusetts growth and development policy.

Mr. Brooks presented a series of charts which summarized discussion held at their public hearing on May 11, and he distributed copies of the minutes of that hearing.

Mr. Brooks stated that it was the Committee's hope to have the report in a form to submit to the MAPC and the State by the end of June, and he asked for additional input from other Boards and Committees. Mr. Brooks further stated that the Committee hoped to be able to combine their second report with the June Town Fathers Forum to provide an opportunity for the public to attend.

Acting Chairman Powers thanked Mr. Brooks for his interesting report, and he adjourned the Forum at 9:30 p.m. for coffee and informal conversation.