

TOWN FATHERS' FORUM
111th Session
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1976

At 8:30 p.m., Chairman Toomey convened the 111th session of the Town Fathers Forum.

Chairman Toomey welcomed Mrs. Virginia Kirschner and members of her Town Government class to tonight's forum, and he made the following announcements concerning the Selectmen's activities during the past month.

- Recent appointments include those of Charles J. Vinciulla, Jr., as a Patrolman with the Sudbury Police Department; Valerie Keough, Carol Stearns, John Stearns, and David Helgeson as Sudbury Police Auxiliaries; Peter Thomas to the Historic Districts Commission; Nancy Schwartzman, Susan Abrams, and Victor Neumeier to the Town Report Preparation Committee.

- A Cemetery Study Committee to draft rules and regulations for Town Meeting approval has been established and appointed.

- A site plan for Gibbs Tire Depot (Tulsa) has been approved.

- A Class III Motor Vehicle Junk License for Mosher Auto Body has been approved.

- An application is being prepared for project funding assistance under Title I of the Public Works Employment Act for 1) fire/police headquarters construction, 2) road resurfacing, and 3) reconstruction of Lincoln/Concord Road intersection.

- Sudbury has been awarded Federal housing assistance in the amount of \$30,000 and implementation of the program has begun.

- Sudbury has received \$4,080.47 in matching Federal funds for Sudbury's Project Application for an Emergency Operating Center, in conjunction with 1975 police/fire headquarters plans.

- The Town has received a donation of \$100 from the Sudbury Grange for ambulance equipment purchase.

- Expenditures have been authorized from the Chapter 198 Account (Bicentennial profits).

Chairman Toomey announced that a public meeting would be held on Thursday, October 28, at 8:00 p.m. in the Lower Town Hall on the subject of the revised Flood Hazard Boundary Maps and the National Flood Insurance Program.

Chairman Toomey announced that tonight's Forum was being hosted by the League of Women Voters and he introduced the League's President, Missie Schroeder.

Mrs. Schroeder stated that the League was hosting tonight's meeting to show its support for the Town Fathers Forum as a means of good communication between those persons involved in and those persons interested in Town government and because the League wished to express its appreciation to the Town Fathers for volunteering their time in the running of the Town government.

SELECTMAN POWERS

Selectman Powers reported that Miss Florence Hosmer of Sudbury Centre had celebrated her 96th birthday last week.

PHILIP FELLEMAN - FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Felleman reported that the Finance Committee had recently acted upon several transfers and that the annual budget forms and schedule would be distributed very shortly to all boards, commissions and committees. Mr. Felleman stated that the Finance Committee would urge all boards and committees to return the forms to the Committee on or before the due date.

On a related subject, Chairman Toomey asked for all boards to cooperate in the submission of articles for the Annual Town Meeting as soon as possible to help ease the burden on the offices of the Town Counsel and the Executive Secretary during the period of transition between present Town Counsel and future arrangements for legal coverage.

TOWN ACCOUNTANT JOHN WILSON

Mr. Wilson reported that Sudbury's Free Cash had been certified by the Bureau of Accounts to be \$171,000, a reduction from the last two years.

JAMES MALONSON - EARTH REMOVAL BOARD

Mr. Malonson reported on the three outstanding permits which have been issued by the Earth Removal Board, one of which is located on Union Avenue, and a second on Codjer Lane extension.

EARL HOYLE - INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Hoyle reported that the Insurance Advisory Committee had met to review items for their coming budget, and he expressed the Committee's opinion that the budget would be unchanged from last year.

Chairman Toomey expressed the Board's gratitude for this Committee's work over the last few years, which had resulted in broader coverage and cost savings for the Town.

SUSAN ABRAMS - TOWN REPORT PREPARATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Abrams stated that the Committee was looking for additional members and would consult the Talent Search Committee in this regard.

HIGHWAY SURVEYOR ROBERT NOYES

Mr. Noyes reported the following items:

- Work has been proceeding on Route 117 and the final coat would be completed next spring.

- A trailer had been moved to the site of the sanitary landfill and a septic system had been installed.
- The State had recently inspected the Landfill and it had passed with flying colors.
- The Peakham Road walkway has been awarded and work has begun.
- Bids for a walkway on a portion of Old Lancaster Road will be opened on November 5.
- Paving of several unaccepted gravel roads has been begun to aid in snow removal operations.
- The Highway Department's brush control program is under way and is expected to be completed next spring.
- He had requested that the County survey an unaccepted portion of New Bridge Road for acceptance at the Annual Town Meeting.

The budget for the Highway Department's street lighting program is \$1,000 per year. Priorities in this program are dangerous intersections, hazardous areas, and widows who live alone.

Mr. Malonson commented on the recent relocation of Route 117 to eliminate the dangerous curve by the Davis property. Mr. Malonson recommended that the signs used prior to its relocation be placed at another nearby dangerous curve.

Mr. Noyes stated that the Highway Department was aware of the second curve and that they intend to relocate the signs and to also install street lights in the area.

DALLAS HAYES - SUDBURY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mr. Hayes reported the following items:

- The first residents moved into Musketahquid Village on June 14, 1976 and the project is now occupied.
- Work is progressing and the landscaping by Sudbury Nurseries has been begun.
- The road lighting contract has been awarded and should be completed by December. New street lighting will be installed on Hudson Road across from the entrance.
- He wished to thank the Highway Superintendent for allowing the Authority to put out a contract for a connecting walkway to Peakham Road, work for which will be done concurrently, although not by the same contractor.

The Authority's Executive Director Dougal Menelaws' contract expired on October 6 and, at his request, it was not extended. Mr. Menelaws will continue through mid-November.

- Job interviews were conducted this month and an appointment to this position will soon be made.

- At the time the Town voted to extend the powers of the Sudbury Housing Authority to enable them to become involved in the Chapter 705 program, it was presented as a program which would pay the Town an amount levied at the current tax rate based on the assessed value at the time of housing acquisition by the Authority. The Authority has purchased five pieces of property under this program, but since the Town Meeting vote the administration has changed and the current administration is willing to make a payment of 10% of the actual annual amount of rental income only. He had informed the Board of Assessors of the new policy and that Board had voted not to abate the taxes on any of the five pieces of property involved. He had then informed the Department of Community Affairs of the Assessor's action and requested their reconsideration of their earlier decision. Other towns had also appealed the decision and agreement had subsequently been reached to honor the commitment and the Authority hoped to be able to pay its full tax load.

JUDITH COPE - CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mrs. Cope reported that the Conservation Commission has held 34 Wetland Protection Act hearings and has issued 33 hunting permits.

TOWN ENGINEER JAMES MERLONI

Mr. Merloni commented on Thursday night's meeting on the flood insurance rate maps, and he invited questions to his office on the matter from anyone concerned.

MODERATOR FRANK SHERMAN

Mr. Sherman stated that he has appointed Floyd Stiles, Jr., as the new member of the Committee on Town Administration.

FIRE CHIEF JOSIAH FROST

Chief Frost reported that October had been a very quiet month and that during the month the Fire Department had spent considerable time with the first four grades in the public schools and with the private schools concerning their fire prevention program.

BUILDING INSPECTOR FRANCIS WHITE

Mr. White reported that the number of building permits for new starts at this time exactly equalled those of a year ago--45--although this year's estimated construction cost had increased by \$250,000.

Mr. White reported that the septic system for the Town Hall buildings was being pumped every 6-15 days and that a location for a centralized system was being investigated, with a probable location at the Noyes School playground.

Mr. White further reported that 18 site plans had been processed this year and that painting of the interior of the Lower Town Hall had begun.

The Executive Secretary reported that the septic system problem and the possible location of a central system at the Noyes School have been discussed with the Sudbury School Committee and that final arrangements must be worked out with the State Department of Public Health. Mr. Thompson further reported that if the school area is the one selected, playground activities would in no way be affected.

REPRESENTATIVE ANN GANNETT - PRECINCTS 2, 3, and 4

Representative Gannett reported that the 1976 legislative session is over, but that they would probably be called back for further discussion of the collective bargaining law.

Representative Gannett stated that she had brought a petition with her tonight which would provide that all revenues derived from the State Lottery Commission be used to provide local property tax relief rather than to be credited to the General Fund and used by the State for purposes unrelated to local property tax relief, which she wished to leave for signatures. Representative Gannett stated that she had spoken with Sudbury's Town Clerk today, as permission had just been received to allow the petition inside the polls during the national election.

Selectman Powers commented that the compulsory arbitration statute is due to expire and will need to be revoted. Selectman Powers commented that the Massachusetts League of Cities and Towns, the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association, the Mayors' Association and others have all indicated positions for non-renewal of compulsory arbitration and that he wished to ensure that Representative Gannett was aware of their positions.

Representative Gannett stated that she would be interested in knowing the position of all the Town Fathers on this issue.

The Executive Secretary, in response to Representative Gannett, read a portion of his annual report to the Board, which expressed his opinion of the importance of the repeal of the binding arbitration section of the State Collective Bargaining Law.

Chairman Toomey, on behalf of Police Chief Lombardi, who was unable to attend this evening, expressed the Chief's hope that all young children would be properly escorted on Halloween and that all older children would behave themselves. Chairman Toomey reported that the Sudbury Police Auxiliary would be assisting the members of the Police Department that night and that the Department would be ready, willing, and able to provide assistance to anyone in need.

At 9:15 p.m. Chairman Toomey adjourned the Town Fathers Forum for coffee and refreshments and informal conversation.