

TOWN FATHERS' FORUM  
110th Session  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1976

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman Toomey convened the 110th session of the Town Fathers Forum and announced that, following the monthly reports from the Town boards and committees, Mr. Victor Neumeier would present slides taken during the Bicentennial Celebration as a brief preview of a program planned for late October. Chairman Toomey made the following announcements concerning the Selectmen's activities during the summer:

- A reception had been held at the June 28 Forum for Mayor and Mrs. Anthony Moore of Sudbury, Suffolk, who had visited Sudbury for a period of two weeks during the Town's Bicentennial Celebration. Chairman Toomey reported that the visit was very much enjoyed by everyone, and he expressed the Town's great appreciation to the Revolutionary War Bicentennial Committee and its Chairman, Selectman Powers, to the Bicentennial Ball Committee, and to the Townspeople for their participation in the success of the celebration.

- Seven site plans were approved, including the plan for the Village Green Shopping Center on Hudson Road.

- Many of the Board's annual appointments have been made.

- The Board received a petition to locate sixteen utility poles on Route 20 in the Wayside Inn area, which it had denied.

- The Board supported the restoration of revenue sharing funds to cities and towns, and also supported the Saugus Selectmen in their efforts to return the legal drinking age to twenty-one, with the request that the legislation be amended so that the employment of persons between eighteen and twenty-one in establishments serving liquor may continue.

- The Board has been working with the Sign Review Board on a Community Message Board and with churches, citizens, and the Highway Surveyor on cemetery regulations.

- Collective bargaining negotiations are at a standoff and there are no plans to call a Special Town Meeting for this purpose.

- Bids for the Haskell Land tennis courts are now being accepted. Chairman Toomey expressed his hope that consideration would be given by the Park and Recreation Commission for repaving and providing drainage to the tennis courts on Raymond Road.

- The Board has filed a HUD application for a housing rehabilitation grant in the amount of \$30,000.

- The Military Reservation Land has been released by the Federal Government to the Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources for passive recreation uses.

#### SELECTMAN POWERS

Selectman Powers reported that the Selectmen had attended the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association (MSA) during the past weekend. Selectman Powers stated that Chairman Toomey had served on the Nominating Committee at the meeting in the capacity of chairman. On the subject of the Legislative Committee of the MSA,

of which he is a member, Selectman Powers stated that discussion concerned proposed legislation relative to collective bargaining and Chapter 766 funding. Selectman Powers commented that the incoming Selectmen, in his opinion, were very active and had indicated more concern than in years past and that the towns have stated very firmly that they have taken a terrible beating in local and State aid and will no longer let these decreases go unchallenged. Selectman Powers stated that a report card had been made as to legislator support for the MSA and that he was happy to report that both Representative Gannett and Representative Counihan had supported seven out of eight positions of that organization.

SELECTMAN POTELL

Selectman Potell stated that he had enjoyed the Annual Meeting of the MSA and was pleasantly surprised that approximately 20% of those attending the meeting were women. Selectman Potell also commented on discussion concerning the merging of certain facilities of the MSA and the Massachusetts League of Cities and Towns, which would result in a reduction of operations costs for these organizations.

MR. CUTTING - CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mr. Cutting reported that the Conservation Commission had been had been involved in Wetland Protection Act hearings and determinations and that Joan Irish, Lynne Remington, and Judith Cope had recently been appointed to the Commission. Mr. Cutting further reported that work parties will be organized this Fall, and he thanked the "Town Crier" for its coverage of the Commission's activities. Mr. Cutting presented the Board with a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings relating to these activities.

MR. FELLEMAN - FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Felleman reported that Carol McKinley had been recently appointed to the vacancy on the Finance Committee created by the resignation of Sheila MacKinnon and that the Committee is anticipating a busy fall and winter.

Chairman Toomey commended Mr. Felleman for his attendance at the Board's meetings as the Finance Committee liaison to the Selectmen, and he stated that his regular attendance was helpful to the Board.

MR. SULLIVAN - BOARD OF HEALTH DIRECTOR

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Town had experienced a few problems with bats during the summer, but all test results had been negative. It was his understanding that new regulations were being drafted by the State that would allow release of DDT to an exterminator in an area of bat infestation.

Mr. Sullivan reported that a shot clinic is being set up with the Sudbury Public Health Nursing Association and that the State expects a shipment of Swine Flu vaccine about mid-October.

MR. NOYES - HIGHWAY SURVEYOR

Mr. Noyes reported that 1,035 feet of water main had been extended to the Sanitary Landfill and that another level of fill had been moved to make room for their next cell.

Mr. Noyes reported on the Highway Department's road paving program, that the Davis Corner relocation has begun, and on a new program using the Framingham Youth Corps at no cost to the Town.

Mr. Noyes reported that the Peakham Road walkway will be put out to bid on October 12, and the Old Lancaster Road walkway at the end of October. Mr. Noyes further reported on the excellent cooperation he had received from the Park and Recreation and Engineering Departments and the Sudbury Water District.

Selectman Powers requested that the Tree Foreman be asked to look at the increasing problem of tent caterpillars in the Town for the purpose of finding a remedy.

#### HISTORIC COMMISSION

Selectman Powers reported that one of the most recent accomplishments of the Historical Commission was the placing of the Sudbury Center Historic District on the National Register, and he expressed his opinion that this action will have a profound impact on future development in this area.

#### LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TOWN GOVERNMENT CLASS

Chairman Toomey announced that Mrs. Virginia Kirschner and her Town Government class were attending tonight's Forum, and he expressed the Board's appreciation for their interest and attendance.

#### MRS. LEDGER - PERMANENT LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ledger reported that the Permanent Landscape Committee is presently examining school and various other Town properties for their needs.

Mrs. Ledger commented on the Committee's concern with the placement of the large boulders at the Goodnow Library and the recent vandalism at Heritage Park, and she stated that the Park neighborhood residents had been helpful in watching the area, and requested others to do the same. Mrs. Ledger reported that vandalism had also occurred in other areas which the Committee had recently placed plantings. Mrs. Ledger also reported that she had recently read in the publication "Scientific American" of the development of a new method for successfully treating the tent caterpillar.

#### MR. COOPER - PLANNING BOARD

Mr. Cooper reported that the Planning Board had had a very quiet summer and that they had recently exercised several bonds to allow completion of old subdivisions.

Mr. Cooper stated that the Planning Board had received a draft of the hydrology study which Dr. Mott, its author, will review with the Planning Board on October 18.

#### MR. DAVISON - LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Davison reported that the Regional School Committee had ended fiscal 1976 with \$70,000 surplus in their budget and contingency fund, and that this surplus will be applied to the assessment of the two towns next January.

Mr. Davison reported that the Regional had opened with 1800 students, which is down 70 students from last year and 150 over the last two years.

MR. POWERS - REVOLUTIONARY WAR BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Powers reported that the next meeting of the Revolutionary War Bicentennial meeting would be held at 8:00 p.m., October 6, at the Lower Town Hall and that discussion would include close-off meetings and plans for use of the profits from the Bicentennial Ball.

Mr. Powers expressed his thanks to the 187 people who worked on related boards and committees for the success of Sudbury's Bicentennial Celebration, and he stated that the presentation by Mr. Neumeier tonight would be just enough to whet appetites for the program scheduled for the end of October.

MRS. PRAGER - SUDBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Prager reported a \$60,000 budget surplus for fiscal year 1976, which had been turned back to the Town. Mrs. Prager stated that the School Committee had reaffirmed its decision to close the Horse Pond Road School in 1977 if enrollment continues to decline.

In response to Chairman Toomey's question, Mrs. Prager stated that the budget surplus was due to the fact that the costs of fuel and electricity had not increased at the anticipated rate and to a decrease in the teaching staff.

MR. GLAZER - COMMITTEE ON TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Glazer reported that the Committee on Town Administration had recently set up priorities for discussion on the following subjects: a) quorum requirements, b) should the Town Meeting be separated into financial and non-financial segments, c) should the Town incorporate the Sudbury Water District, and d) bylaw amendments.

Mr. Glazer stated that the Committee would welcome comments and proposed subjects from other Town boards and committees.

FIRE CHIEF JOSIAH FROST

Chief Frost reported that the first nine months of the calendar year had been the busiest in emergency calls in the Department's history. Chief Frost further reported that all programs budgeted and described at the 1976 Annual Meeting in a "go" position, such as updating the Fire alarm cable, in-service inspections, and developing and equipping a rescue vehicle.

SIGN REVIEW BOARD

Chairman Toomey announced that a Community Message Board had recently been discussed by the Sign Review Board and the Selectmen and that the Board had tonight agreed that he should meet with the Police Chief and the Sign Review Board as soon as possible for further discussion of its placement.

TOWN ENGINEER JAMES MERLONI

Mr. Merloni reported on recent work done by the Engineering Department in conjunction with other Town boards, and he expressed his appreciation for the cooperation accorded him by these departments.

Mr. Merloni reported that new zoning maps had been completed and were available through his office and the Town Hall.

MR. GRINNELL - BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Mr. Grinnell reported that the Town's tax rate had increased by \$5.00 and reminded the hall that increases in the rate were governed by Town Meeting action.

Building Inspector Francis E. White

Mr. White reported that building within the Town is slow and that he had recently authorized the removal of a hazardous structure on Sexton Street.

MR. HUGHES - MBTA ADVISORY BOARD DESIGNEE

Mr. Hughes reported that the MBTA Advisory Board had met on September 21 and that the MBTA had bought the B & M Railroad at a cost of \$39,000,000, \$32,000,000 from the Federal Government and the remaining \$7,000,000 from the State. Mr. Hughes reported that yearly operating costs would run approximately \$17,000,000.

Mr. Hughes further reported on the TIP program, which proposes that \$1,200,000,000 be spent in the Boston area in the next five years.

Mr. Hughes reported that Sudbury's share of this year's MBTA operating costs would be \$131,000 and that the MBTA deficit for 1975 had been \$146,000,000.

Mr. Hughes further reported that he had voted "no" on all programs.

SUDBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chairman Toomey stated that the Police Chief, who had been in attendance earlier in the evening, had been very concerned recently with the rising number of automobile accident fatalities and the increase in house breaks. Chairman Toomey reported that the Police Chief has encouraged the use of the Neighborhood Watch program.

MRS. SCHROEDER - LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Mrs. Schroeder commented on the presidential debates sponsored by the League of Women Voters, and she reported that the local Leagues are sponsoring, on Friday, October 15, at the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School, a program beginning at 7:00 p.m. at which the local representatives will be present and a program beginning at 8:00 p.m. at which national congressional candidates will make statements and answer questions.

REPRESENTATIVE GANNETT - PRECINCTS 2, 3, and 4

Representative Gannett reported that she had, earlier tonight, attended a meeting for discussion of the nine questions on the November ballot, and she urged that the citizens vote on these questions in the November election.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNIHAN - PRECINCT 1

Representative Counihan reported that the capital budget would be submitted this week to a conference committee and that the legislature may prorogate as early as October 15.

Representative Counihan submitted to the Planning Board the latest revision of the Subdivision Control Law, and she reported on a legislative pilot program which would allow the preservation of agricultural land, giving material on the same to the Conservation Commission Chairman.

Representative Counihan further reported that hearings relative to the Growth Policy Development Act would be held near the first of December and that an amendment has been made to the bill relative to distribution of food stamps by Town Treasurers to the effect that the Treasurers would accept such authority only after a decision by individual boards of selectmen.

Selectman Powers complimented both Representative Gannett and Representative Counihan for their positions of MSA support on various pieces of legislation and thanked them for their efforts relating to the legislation concerning Sudbury's Town Clerk fees.

Chairman Toomey introduced Mr. Neumeier, and the hall enjoyed his presentation of slides and commentary concerning Sudbury's Bicentennial Celebration.

Chairman Toomey adjourned the Forum at 9:25 p.m. for coffee and informal conversation.