

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 1977

Present: Chairman C. Powers, Ira M. Potell, and William F. Toomey

The statutory requirements as to notice having been fulfilled, the meeting was called to order in the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Library at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman John C. Powers.

Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District

Present: Richard Davison, Chairman, Ronald L. Blecher, Joan Wofford, Dante Germanotta, and Richard Brooks of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District; David Levington, Superintendent, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District

Mr. Richard Davison, Chairman of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee (LSRSDC) stated that the Selectmen's proposed amendment to Article 5 to delete the Contingency Fund from the LSRSD's budget had been discussed at the March 31 Finance Committee's meeting and that it had been concluded that a meeting with the Selectmen was in order to discuss this matter.

Selectman Powers stated that the Board's position is to delete Sudbury's share of the Contingency Fund, that the matter had come to attention of the Board upon receipt of a copy of the Auditor's Report dated September 9, 1976 to the Regional School Committee, and that the Board had assumed that the Committee's budget would be adjusted accordingly.

Mr. Davison stated that, in his opinion, there is considerable question as to whether this is a legal question, that inclusion of a contingency fund in a regional budget is a widespread practice through-out the State, and, in his opinion, if the Selectmen had a question concerning this matter, it should have been raised at the time the auditor's report had been received.

Chairman Powers stated that the Selectmen had invited all three school committees to meet with them earlier, but that only the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School had accepted.

LSRSDC member Richard Brooks asked to whom Town Counsel's letter on the subject had been wirtten and whether the LSRSDC had received a copy.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson stated that the Selectmen had received Town Counsel's opinion on the subject dated January 6, 1977 and that a copy had been made available to the Regional School Committee last week.

Mr. Thompson stated' that the Regional School Agreement does not provide for the carrying-on of a surplus from year to year, and LSRSD Superintendent David Levington was in agreement.

Mr. Davison stated that, in his opinion, tonight's discussion should have taken place last October, which would have allowed the two boards and their counsels to meet and to resolve the issue. Mr. Davison further stated that, in his opinion, the contingency in high school budgets is not generally considered an issue and that its inclusion in the budget is the usual practice.

Mr. Levington commented that auditors, in common practice, urge, recommend, or advise a particular action, and, in this case, the auditor had only pointed out that there was no authority in the general statutes pertaining to contingency relating to budget procedures.

Selectman Potell stated that it was his opinion that this September 9, 1976 report and an earlier auditor's report had both indicated that the contingency should not be included and that its inclusion had still been continued by the Committee.

Mr. Davison again expressed his opinion that this matter should not be resolved on the Town Meeting floor.

Selectman Powers stated that he would poll the Board when all members were present, but that he was of the opinion that all members were in a locked position on this issue.

Mr. Levington stated that, if the Selectmen's amendment were to be passed by the Town Meeting, the LSRSDC would proceed with court action.

Chairman Powers expressed his opinion that this was an issue that must also be decided by the Town, and he expressed his hope that the LSRDC would agree to reduce its budget as proposed by the Selectmen's amendment.

(Selectman Toomey arrived during the above discussion.)

Highway Offsets

Present: Highway Surveyor Robert A. Noyes

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson reported that the Finance Committee had voted that all highway offsets would be transferred to certain line items and that the Committee's recommendations differed from those of the Selectmen in that the \$2,000 New Town Cemetery funds and the Chapter 825 funds should be applied to Operating Salaries.

Highway Surveyor Robert A. Noyes stated that he would be in agreement with any arrangement as long as it was legal and approved by the Town Accountant.

Selectman Toomey stated that the Board would support Mr. Noyes in any specific needs which, in his opinion, were vital to his department.

Vehicle Damage to Revolutionary Cemetery

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson reported that the Board had received a communication dated March 22, 1977 from Superintendent of Cemeteries Robert A. Noyes relative to his recent receipt of a check in the amount of \$5,000 for repair of vehicle damage to the Revolutionary Cemetery.

Mr. Thompson asked, as the cost estimate for repair of the damage was in excess of \$2,000, whether it was necessary that the item be bid.

The Board responded in the affirmative.

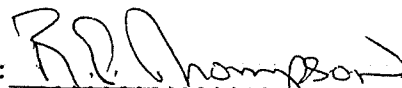
Mr. Thompson recommended that Mr. Noyes work with the Town Accountant and report back on this matter.

The Board was in agreement and directed the Executive Secretary to so inform Mr. Noyes.

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Attest:


Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary-Clerk