

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
115th Session
MONDAY, MAY 23, 1977

At 8:00 p.m., Chairman Powers convened the 115th session of the Town Fathers Forum, and he asked for a report from Civil Defense Director Josiah F. Frost on the subject of the May 9 storm damage.

Chief Frost reported as follows:

The snow storm of May 9, 1977, although a surprise to most of us, did not seem to be a threat to the Town until Monday evening when the build-up on the wires and trees indicated to Fire and Highway personnel that it might be a storm to be reckoned with.

The first power outage occurred at 8:34 P.M., and by midnight, 30% of the Town was without power. The Fire Department, alone, had investigated over 20 calls of wires down or arcing wires as a result of the tremendous tree damage.

By 8:00 A.M. on May 10th, 75% of the Town was without electricity, the fire alarm system was out of service, there was no school and the Fire Department had investigated another 17 calls for arcing wires and wires in the street, as well as extinguishing a cellar fire that caused an estimated \$3,000 damage as a result of an electrical problem generated by the storm.

All day Tuesday the Fire and Police were kept busy investigating arcing wires, downed wires, services pulled from houses and trees across the roads. Due to the magnitude of storm damage, the power company could not keep up with our request for assistance. Consequently, at 6:00 P.M. we were still plagued with live wires burning in the streets and still 70 to 80% of the Town was without power.

Again on Wednesday there was no school and the loss of power and lack of Edison people called for some drastic steps to be taken.

These were the following:

1. The Civil Defense Director notified Area #1 of the conditions in Sudbury and requested stand-by aid.
2. The Selectmen's office, Fire and Police Chiefs placed many calls to Edison officials requesting a speed-up in aid.
3. The Town Hall was readied for families who needed warm shelter.
4. The radio stations were notified and their help was requested in notifying the residents that the fire alarm system was out of service and that accommodations were available at the Town Hall.
5. All building owners who have buildings with fire protection systems tied into Fire Headquarters by municipal fire alarm were notified by registered mail that our system was out of service.

6. Fire Alarm Headquarters was set up to receive all calls for assistance.
7. A program was established for pumping cellars that were flooded by the storm and for home owners who had no power to operate their own pumps.
8. The number one priority of the Fire Alarm Superintendent was to get the Housing for the Elderly back into the fire alarm system. This was accomplished by 6:00 P.M.

By noon on Wednesday, we had made contact with an Edison Command Post in Wayland and received some token assistance with downed 13,800 volt lines that were destroying portions of Mossman and Willis Roads. By 4:00 P.M. the Selectmen's office and Fire Chief had been in contact with Fred Roth of Edison and some additional help was sent from Maynard to handle only the most critical incidents. At 8:00 P.M. wires were still arcing, trees still coming down and still 70% of the Town was without electricity, food was spoiling, cellars flooding and the Fire, Police and Highway crews were still handling storm-related emergencies.

Wednesday night at 8:00 P.M. brought the Red Cross into Sudbury to assist at the Town Hall. The Civil Defense Director had made arrangements with families of elderly, dependent people to have them housed at the Sudbury Pines Nursing Home and to have a quadraplegic transported to Emerson Hospital. At 11:00 P.M. we surveyed the Town and felt that although there were three Edison crews working in Sudbury and part of the businesses on Route 20 had power, there was still 70% of the Town without power. At this point, Mr. Roth was again contacted and agreed to meet with the Civil Defense Director at 9:00 A.M. on May 12th.

Thursday, May 12th, found schools in session, some without heat or power, and 60% of the Town without electricity. At 9:00 A.M. on Thursday morning, we met with Mr. Roth of Edison and requested that a command post be set up in Sudbury and additional crews be sent into the Town.

At 9:30 A.M. a meeting of all Department Heads was held which included Executive Secretary Ed Thompson, Selectmen John Powers and Ira Potell, Board of Health Director John Sullivan, Highway Surveyor Bob Noyes, Police Chief Nick Lombardi, Building Inspector Fran White and Public Health Nursing Director Gloria Powaza. An update of each Department's needs was discussed and a plan of action was established. A public statement was developed by those present and printed in cooperation with the Selectmen's office for distribution that day to the homes of all students. (See copy attached)

At 1:30 P.M. on Thursday, an Edison Command Center was established in the Fire Chief's Office with 6 Edison men under the command of Mr. John Caulfield. This command center consisted of circuit controllers, circuit map boards, tree supervisors, dispatchers and time keepers.

At 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, 25 power company and tree crews were working in Sudbury.

At 7:00 P.M. at an emergency meeting of the Selectmen with Chief Frost and Highway Surveyor Bob Noyes, an emergency transfer request was voted in the amount of \$15,000 - \$7,500 for fire alarm repair and \$7,500 for tree and brush removal. This transfer request was brought before the Finance Committee at 8:30 P.M. and approved.

At 10:00 P.M. on Thursday, those who were without power had been reduced to 35% of the homes and businesses.

At 12:00 midnight, those without power were reduced to 25% and also the Fire Alarm Superintendent and the men of the Sudbury Fire Department had repaired approximately 60% of the fire alarm circuits.

On Friday morning at 7:00 A.M. the Edison Command Post reported only 50 homes without power.

At 8:00 A.M. the State announced that the burning of brush would be allowed through May 31st.

At 9:00 A.M. the Command Post was still functioning with 10 Edison crews still in Sudbury. All schools were in session with heat and electricity, all fire alarm master boxes were back in service on all Town buildings, and churches with the exception of the Regional High School and Horse Pond School.

At 3:30 P.M. Edison Command Post reported on 22 homes still without power.

At 4:00 P.M. the Regional High School fire alarm master box was back in service.

At 9:00 P.M. on Friday, all electricity was back on and the Command Post closed.

During the operation of the Edison Command Post, the power and tree crews responded to the following individual calls:

77 High Voltage Repairs
38 Low Voltage Repairs
255 House Service Repairs
129 Tree Problems
Replaced 3 Broken Poles

The above was in addition to connecting, checking and energizing the circuitry of the Town's electrical system to put power back into all areas.

Due to the magnitude of this storm and the damages that resulted, I, as Civil Defense Director, would be remiss in my duties if I didn't commend the Highway and Tree Departments for a job well done under adverse conditions and for their cooperation with both the Fire and Police in blocking off streets and around fallen wires. All members of the Fire and Police Departments are to be congratulated for their coolness and professional response to the hazards that were apparent and the needs of the Town's citizens during this blizzard of 1977.

During the period of May 10 - 13, the Fire and Police dispatchers answered over 2,000 telephone calls in each office, logged over 300 radio messages and made numerous calls to the Edison emergency numbers.

The Fire Department responded during this period to a total of 65 calls for arcing wires, 3 structural fires, 2 automobile accidents, 11 medical emergencies and pumped 18 cellars.

SUDBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

PUBLIC STATEMENT

The problems of the recent storm (downed trees and power failures) may not be completely cleaned up or fixed within the next few days. Therefore, the Board of Selectmen, in conjunction with other town departments, is asking that you read carefully the statements made below:

1. Anyone needing water should go to their nearest fire station or call Fire Headquarters (443-2239).
2. Anyone with basement flooding should contact Fire Headquarters (443-2239).
3. If you intend to leave your house for any extended period of time, call Police Headquarters (443-8862).
4. Check food carefully for spoilage before eating. If any questions, call the the Board of Health (443-8891).
5. Please check on any elderly neighbors. If any problems, call the Sudbury Public Health Nursing Office (443-2545), or the Fire Department (443-2239) at night.
6. If electric wires connected to house are down, call the Fire Department.
7. Don't pull branches or fallen trees off electric wires.
8. If power still is out, unplug all utilities...freezers, refrigerators, etc., so when power does come back on, it doesn't damage motors or compressors.
9. Place all cut-up brush near the roadway (the town will attempt to pick up as soon as possible) or take to the Sudbury Sanitary Landfill. The three-foot length rule has been suspended for ten (10) days.
10. The upper Town Hall is available for sleeping, if necessary; call Fire Department (443-2239). Cots and blankets will be provided.
11. If you are still without power Friday, May 13, please call the Fire Headquarters (443-2239).
12. All emergencies should be reported to the Police and Fire Departments immediately.

May 12, 1977

At the conclusion of his report, Chief Frost stated that valuable lessons to be learned from the storm would include the use of the schools to distribute Townwide notices, as had been done on May 12, and that it was necessary to meet with Boston Edison to try to arrange for a liaison man.

Chairman Powers then called on other department heads for their storm-related reports.

Police Chief Nicholas Lombardi stated that his department had had very little trouble handling anything, that several auxiliaries had been called in to stand by downed wires, and that, other than the first night, his department had worked with its own crews.

Board of Health Chairman William Cooper reported that that Board was quite concerned about food spoilage, but that the local supermarkets had responded to the power outage with refrigerated trucks and dry ice, and that no problems arose. Dr. Cooper reported that their inspections through all restaurants indicated everything in good order.

Chairman Powers reported that Building/Wiring Inspector Francis E. White had been very busy and extremely helpful in coordinating and speeding up restoration of electricity for elderly people whose problem was not the responsibility of Boston Edison.

Tree Warden Allan Snow reported that the clean-up of trees was a very slow process and the lack of available equipment was contributing to the slow progress.

Chairman Powers reported that the material removed chipped per day equalled 180 truckloads of raw brush.

Mr. Snow reported that approximately three-quarters of the Town still had brush to be picked up.

Town Accountant John Wilson reported that \$15,000 had been requested of and granted by the Finance Committee from the Reserve Fund to help in this emergency, which was informally divided into \$7,500 for restoration of the Town fire alarm system and \$7,500 for outside help for tree and brush removal. Mr. Wilson reported that the Highway has spent \$8,000 from its own budget for this purpose and that the Highway budget may offset some \$4,000-\$5,000 of further storm-related expenses. Mr. Wilson stated that the approximate cost of the storm to the Town would be \$24,000.

Chairman Powers stated that it would be necessary to go back to the Finance Committee to finish the brush job, and he expressed appreciation to Highway Surveyor Robert Noyes, who, with his department, had worked through Monday night to keep most of the streets in the Town open.

Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Committee Member Richard Davison reported that, essentially, there had been no damage at the Regional High School and no problems other than those mentioned by Chief Frost.

Chairman Powers reported that there had been a very good relationship between the department heads in terms of determining the problems, and that the biggest problem was the complete inability to get information from Boston Edison. Chairman Powers stated that, in his opinion, it was inexcusable that certain things should not have been made known to the Town, and he further stated that it did not help the public to be told on Tuesday that the power would be back at 5 o'clock that night and that no public information statement or words had been available from Edison.

Chairman Powers reported there had been difficulty in obtaining sufficient liaison to get a clear view as to which Edison command post should be used by Sudbury, as incorrect information was given to us; that, out of all their available equipment, Sudbury did not receive one piece of standby equipment for the purpose of shutting off live wires; that, at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, there were still live wires in several areas of Town, which would indicate that we needed at least one truck; that, during the delay between Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon, before a proper command post was manned, there were stories of Edison trucks being in Town, which was not the case.

Chairman Powers again stated that the Town should have been given the proper information the first day, particularly the Board of Health, and he commended Board of Health Director John Sullivan for his work. Chairman Powers reported that, even by Thursday afternoon, Edison did not have a survey of what problems they still had to face when they sent out the trucks and that he wished to thank the Fire, Police, and Engineering Departments who helped the repair crews find the various locations.

Chairman Powers reported that, on a positive note, the Town had a firm commitment from Boston Edison, which will be put into writing, that Sudbury will have a municipal representative to Boston Edison, who will "live in the back pocket" of the Civil Defense Director and Boston Edison in any similar situation.

Representative Ann Gannett stated that she had attended a meeting last week with municipal officials, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Public Works, in which they outlined the storm damage and requested that the State take some action with regard to equipment that could come to the aid of the hard-hit cities and towns. Representative Gannett reported that Wayland had not received their power back until Friday night, and she stated that she would congratulate all the Sudbury Town departments for the job that they did.

Representative Gannett reported that she had spoken with Mr. Roth, expressing her opinion that a big step forward would have been made with underground wires, and she stated that it was her intent to get the facts as they concerned Edison's plan for Wayland. Representative Gannett expressed her opinion that Edison did not know its real problems and was not properly equipped with a plan.

Representative Gannett stated that those that attended the meeting were told that they would get somewhere with State officials, but that nothing has come of it as yet.

Highway Surveyor Robert Noyes reported that Highway Department work done on the storm has set his planned projects back at least a week, but that they were doing their best to clear all the brush. Mr. Noyes reported that most of their concentration, this week, will be in cleaning up the parade route along Concord Road and the cemeteries in preparation for Memorial Day observances.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson reported that Boston Edison did underestimate Sudbury's problem, but once their command post was established on Thursday, May 12, work had progressed quite well. Mr. Thompson reported that the department heads had met again on May 13 to further assess the situation, after which a second public statement on the subject of the brush clean-up had been prepared.

Mr. Thompson read the statement, and he requested that it be published by the press and aired on the local radio stations on May 24.

It was on motion by Selectman Toomey unanimously

VOTED: To release the statement, as read by the Executive Secretary, to the press and to the local radio stations on May 24.

In response to Mr. Connors' question concerning the need for special permits for burning, Fire Chief Frost stated that special permits were necessary, that residents could pick up a permit at the Fire Department for the burning period and then call in each day on which they wished to burn.

Chairman Powers stated that, when the Board requested the \$15,000 from the Reserve Fund, it had asked the Finance Committee to reserve another \$10,000 for further storm-related expenses. Chairman Powers asked the Town Accountant to begin to get the storm cost figures together.

Selectman Toomey stated that he had been out of Town during the storm, but that he had had an opportunity to speak with the electrical crews in the Worcester area, whose average overtime was six hours. Selectman Toomey requested that the Civil Defense Director and the Executive Secretary ask Mr. Roth why these crews, who were available, weren't called, and crews from Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York were brought in.

Chairman Powers asked that the legislators take a look at regulating utility companies.

Representative Gannett stated that an investigation concerning this utility company has already been begun.

Selectman Potell expressed his thanks to the Townspeople for the way in which they reacted to the situation caused by the storm.

Chairman Powers reported the following actions of the Board which had occurred since the February Town Fathers Forum:

-Signed Tax Anticipation Notes for \$1,000,000 at interest rates ranging from 1.79% to 2.15%.

- Approved a program for patrol of Town-owned land by the Auxiliaries.
- Have kept in close review and contact with State representatives regarding bills pending, particularly those dealing with the selection of jurors, the MBTA, compulsory and binding arbitration, school committee autonomy, and limitation of State legislature's authority to impose unfunded laws upon cities and towns.
- Approved a package goods license for the sale of wines and malt beverages for Northern Farms Farmstand and Country Store, Union Avenue.
- Met with all parties and boards regarding Northern Farms site plan concerning boundary problems.
- Answered in the negative an inquiry of the Town of Stow to see if Sudbury's landfill could be made available to them on a temporary basis.
- Denied renewal of The Package Store's liquor license, on Route 117, due to renovations not being completed.
- Approved a utility petition for buried cable to service a development off Dakin Road.
- Supported The First Parish of Sudbury's application for matching funds for a sprinkler system through the National Register of Historic Places funding.
- Proclaimed Lincoln-Sudbury High School Basketball Team Day - March 19, 1977.
Proclaimed Lincoln-Sudbury Scholarship Day - May 14, 1977.
- Held Town Spring Roadside Clean-up on April 30.
- Filed application for CETA program funding to develop parks, conservation lands and public ways.
- Accepted resignation of Gregory Malkasian from the Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee.
- Approved an application for corporation transfer - Pizza Alla Pietra, First National Shopping Center.
- Approved a summer meeting schedule, which has been posted and distributed.
- Also approved liaison assignments for the Board, which will be distributed this week.
- Met with the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical High School concerning its incorporation as a non-profit organization and expect a report back from our representative relating to a recent meeting.
- Approved a restricted license for bus transportation of CETA employees and trainees through Sudbury.

- Denied without prejudice Pitcairn Realty Trust site plans, 50 North Road, to be refiled after certain conditions are met.

- Granted Class II Used Car License to Stephen Bankuti, Station Road.

REPRESENTATIVE ANN GANNETT - PRECINCTS 2, 3, and 4

Representative Gannett stated that she had seen a new budget today at 4:00 P.M., that no one on the Ways and Means Committee, except the Chairman, really knew what was in the budget, which was as planned, and that the Chairman had informed his Committee members, with only five minutes notice, that he was going to announce a 7% relief on the surcharge on the income tax. Representative Gannett stated that they did recommend \$30 million in local aid via the system of the lottery distribution, which would bring back to Sudbury \$38,800 of the \$100,000 lost by the Town. Representative Gannett stated that it was her understanding that the Senate has an entirely different budget and may recommend more local aid. Representative Gannett also stated that the budget is \$402,000 larger than last year, which is a little less than that recommended by the Governor.

Representative Gannett stated that the compulsory and binding arbitration bill comes before the House on May 24.

Representative Gannett reported on the redistricting proposal which would reduce the House by 80 people, and she stated that it is proposed that Sudbury, Wayland, and Lincoln will be put into a district. Representative Gannett stated that, in her opinion, we would not have as big a voice in the reduced legislature.

EDWARD CONNORS - PLANNING BOARD

Planning Board Chairman Edward Connors reported that the Planning Board has recently been concerned with two subdivisions: a twenty-one-lot subdivision off Stock Farm Road, and a five-lot subdivision off Dudley Road. Mr. Connors also reported that the Planning Board would hold a Housing Policy Study meeting on June 13 relative to Article 26, Establish Sudbury Housing Policy, which was passed by the 1977 Annual Town Meeting.

PHILIP FELLEMAN - FINANCE COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Chairman Philip Felleman stated that the Finance Committee presently consists of seven members and that it is expected that its two remaining members will soon be appointed. Mr. Felleman reported that \$37,000 was left in the reserve fund, that the Committee anticipates five incoming transfers and that the balance will be pretty close by the end of the year.

POLICE CHIEF NICHOLAS LOMBARDI

Police Chief Lombardi stated that he very reluctantly would report that three more fatalities had occurred this week and that four had occurred this year on Route 20. Chief Lombardi stated that the Town does not have much control on Route 20, but that it is one of the most poorly lit sections of State road.

Chief Lombardi reported that the graduating class has not yet had its big night (Senior Night) and that they are doing everything they can to hold it down, but that this is a problem they are faced with every year.

RONALD ADOLPH - BOARD OF APPEALS

Mr. Adolph reported that the Board of Appeals would be meeting on May 24 with Town Counsel relative to Chapter 808 and that they were awaiting appointments for associate members.

JOHN H. WILSON - TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Mr. Wilson reported that he was going out to bid on the new accounting machine on May 24 and that bids would be opened on June 7.

The Executive Secretary stated that he did have with him tonight the specifications for the new accounting machine and that these specifications will be available in the Town Accountant's office. Mr. Thompson stated that, if anyone had additional comments, an addendum could be made up.

JOHN H. WILSON - INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Wilson reported that an important meeting of the Insurance Advisory Committee had been scheduled for tonight, but that the other remaining member had not been available this evening.

Mr. Wilson reported that they will review the policy and hope to make a report at the next meeting on the subject, as well as to give the Board recommendations for the Committee's third member.

Chairman Powers asked if the Insurance Advisory Committee would review the liability requirement which has been blocking the availability of the small equipment companies and advise the Board concerning a waiver for a reduction of the liability.

Mr. Wilson responded that that subject was one of their items which had been scheduled for discussion tonight.

RICHARD H. DAVISON - LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Davison reported that the Regional will end, as scheduled, on June 28, but will begin earlier in the Fall.

On the subject of Senior Night, Mr. Davison commented that, because the Town and the Regional School Committee had allowed past Senior Nights to happen, it had been interpreted by the students to be condoned by the Town. Mr. Davison stated that, by June of the students' senior year, approximately half of them have reached the legal drinking age, which was a problem. Mr. Davison stated that the Committee was very concerned as to the elimination of Senior Night, but were of the opinion that it should not continue in its present form and that the students' energies could be directed in another manner.

FRANK GRINNELL - BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Mr. Grinnell stated that the Assessors were still picking up everything possible with which to keep the tax rate down.

JOAN IRISH - CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mrs. Irish reported that not much storm damage had been done to the Town's conservation lands, with the exception of Nobscot Mountain, which had been badly hit.

Mrs. Irish reported that recent land management activities included a nature walk and a bird walk which was co-sponsored by Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Mrs. Irish further reported that work has begun in Sudbury Community Gardens and that a Wetlands Protection Act hearing on the Pike application for property on the Post Road would be held at 8:00 p.m., May 25.

WILLIAM COOPER - WAYLAND-SUDBURY SEPTAGE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

Dr. Cooper reported that, after months of idleness, there was activity concerning the septage disposal facility. Dr. Cooper stated that, last summer, it had become known to the Committee that the project would qualify for State and Federal reimbursement and that the Committee, at that time, decided to go in that direction and had revised some of its previous work and had brought tonight a draft report, which he then submitted to the Selectmen.

Dr. Cooper stated that there would be a public hearing on June 9 on the subject in the Senior Citizen Center in the Old Wayland Junior High School.

Dr. Cooper stated that he had excerpted some bottom line figures from the report which show estimated figures for 1978 construction, as well as those figures earlier estimated for 1975 construction and reimbursement figures:

	1975	1978
Construction Costs:	563,000	727,900
Total Project	702,000	1,024,900
Estimated EPA Contribution	None	879,200
Net Cost to Wayland and Sudbury	702,000	145,700
Net Cost to Sudbury	351,000	72,850

ROBERT A. NOYES - HIGHWAY SURVEYOR

Mr. Noyes reported that the street sweeping project was approximately 80% completed, that the routine maintenance for the street sealing program has been slowed down because of the storm, and that the cemeteries were being readied for Memorial Day.

At 9:15 p.m., Chairman Powers adjourned the Forum for coffee and informal conversation.