

TOWN FATHERS FORUM  
119th Session  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1977

At 8:20 p.m. Chairman Powers convened the 119th session of the Town Fathers Forum and announced that tonight Chief Frost was presenting a program on various types of smoke detecting units, several of which were on display, and that he would ask, in addition to the board, committee, and department reports, that each department report on things for which they were thankful.

Chairman Powers reported, on behalf of the Selectmen, a list of things for which the Town is thankful, as follows:

- donations of work and plantings in Heritage Park;
- work done by the crews of the CETA program, which in addition to work in Heritage Park is also being done for various Town boards and committees and departments, such as the Park and Recreation Commission, the Conservation Commission and the School Departments, for which there is no regular budget money;
- the fact that two-year contracts were negotiated with the Fire and Police unions even though they will expire on June 30, 1978;
- a decrease in vandalism and the clearing up of housebreaks by the Police Department, which Chief Lombardi feels has been aided by the Neighborhood Watch Program;
- controversy among Town citizens, which indicates a high interest by the citizens in the quality of education;
- increased betterment of the roads within the Town--present problem with a portion of Peakham Road will be corrected as soon as possible;
- an increase in the number of marriages over last year by a factor of fifty;
- the dedication of Musketahquid Village which serves as the Town's housing for the elderly;
- expectation of Federal funding for the proposed sludge facility;
- arrival of the accounting machine which is installed and working reasonably well;
- acknowledgement of Sudbury for scenic travel, as Sudbury's directional roadway sign post located near the Martha Mary Chapel is being shown on a national TV ad;
- Frank Koppeis, Innkeeper, Wayside Inn, has expressed his appreciation for Sudbury's Fire and Police Departments who provide a great service without asking for favors in return and to the citizens and boards and committees of the Town for helping the Town to maintain its present character;
- initial response to the County budget indicates a decrease;

- receipt of Federal Funds - \$150,000 for rehabilitation of substandard housing and \$188,000 in Public Works funds for various road resurfacing programs and the reconstruction of the Concord Road/Lincoln Road intersection;

- economy would seem to be on the increase with great activity in the real estate market;

- the Town has been in receipt of many anonymous donations for Heritage Park for which we are very grateful. These donations totaled approximately \$8,000-\$10,000 during the last year alone.

Selectman Potell expressed his appreciation of the departments' and citizens' actions during the May 9, 1977 storm, as everyone pulled together in admirable fashion, including those without electricity for many days.

Selectman Toomey expressed his thankfulness for the Town's staff, for the CETA people whom we have received through the efforts of the Executive Secretary, for the Town Accountant, and for the Town legal department.

Chairman Powers reported that action begun four years ago, with assistance from representatives of the Women's Club, resulted in a Bicentennial project for indexing some of the cemeteries, that every grave and footstone in the Revolutionary Cemetery has been located and a master plan has been reproduced on a plaque which he displayed. Chairman Powers reported that Colonel Vollheim assumed the balance of the bill for the plaque and that the marker will be mounted in the cemetery next Spring on a stone which was the former doorstep of the Wayside Inn. Chairman Powers extended the Town's appreciation to Mrs. Walsh, representing the Women's Club, who was in attendance for the presentation.

KATHLEEN BROWN - CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mrs. Brown reported that the Commission had been continuing with the Wetland Protection Act hearings and findings and had about completed its open space study--that the final typed report will soon be available for the Park and Recreation Commission, the Planning Board, and the Selectmen to forward to the MAPC.

FRANK GRINNELL - BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Mr. Grinnell reported on changes to new houses which will be completed before December 31, 1977 for pickup for 100% valuation. On the subject of discussion at an earlier meeting relative to investigation and prosecuting Sudbury residents who register their vehicles illegally out of state, Mr. Grinnell stated that he hoped that this drive by the Town and the Registry would be successful so that the excise taxes could be picked up by the Town.

FRANK GRINNELL - VETERANS OFFICER

Mr. Grinnell reported that veteran Thomas Carpenter had recently been buried in the portion of the cemetery reserved for such persons.

PHILIP FELLEMAN - FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Felleman reported that the Finance Committee is preparing for its annual busy season which starts next week concerning warrant articles. He expressed his personal thankfulness for a very hard-working Finance Committee and the present state of the Reserve Fund.

LEE TODD - TALENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Mrs. Todd reported that the Committee had recently placed an ad in Bentley's "Calendar" from which they had received six responses and that those names will be included in the Committee's printout.

TOWN ACCOUNTANT JOHN H. WILSON

Mr. Wilson expressed his thanks for the people in his department, for the fact that the new accounting machine has arrived, and he stated that he will be even more thankful when the machine runs properly.

TOWN ACCOUNTANT JOHN H. WILSON - INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Wilson reported that the Insurance Advisory Committee had met earlier tonight and was thankful that no major disasters in the Town had occurred.

BUILDING INSPECTOR/ZONING ENFORCEMENT AGENT FRANCIS E. WHITE

Mr. White reported that new construction is continuing to increase and is up by 23% at this time over last year--68 permits versus 45 last year. He expressed his hope that he will be thankful when the Village Green Shopping Center is completed in the near future.

POLICE CHIEF NICHOLAS LOMBARDI

Chief Lombardi thanked Chairman Powers for his earlier comments concerning the Neighborhood Watch Program, but stated that this week there have been six house breaks and two store breaks. He stated that this is a bad time of year and that everyone would do well to join the Neighborhood Watch Program. Chief Lombardi stated that he was thankful that the Sign Review Board had not been able to locate its community informational sign on the Town property at the Police Station.

REPRESENTATIVE GANNETT - PRECINCTS 2, 3, and 4

Representative Gannett stated that she was grateful for the Town of Sudbury--that its very controversy keeps it alive in a participatory democracy. She stated that the Town Fathers should be thankful they were not on Beacon Hill. She reported that, today, the House had started on its version of court reform, that the Senate bill is a far better bill, whereas the House's version is a completely political bill and a perversion of the bill Professor Cox's Committee put together. She stated that the bill might have an effect on the property tax system, however, and expressed her interest in legislation that would no longer exempt the MDC from the Wetlands Protection Act, and she asked for the Town's reaction to such legislation.

Representative Gannett stated that the ethics code is completed and that the State's plan to withhold registration of vehicles for nonpayment of excise taxes is two years behind.

Selectman Toomey stated that the Board is thankful for some of Representative Gannett's votes against State-mandated programs while the State is blaming cities and towns for spending too much money.

Mrs. Brown asked Representative Gannett about the status of the agricultural rights bill and how much funding was contained therein. Representative Gannett stated that it was her belief that the bill was on the Governor's desk and the funding involved was \$5 million.

FIRE CHIEF JOSIAH F. FROST

Chief Frost stated that he was most thankful that the Town had had no fire-related deaths in the past three years and stated that he would suggest that every family that does not presently have an early-warning device or smoke detector in its home give itself such a system as a Christmas present.

Chief Frost displayed and discussed different types of smoke detectors--photoelectric and ionization--as well as recommendations for locations for their installation. He stated that the photoelectric detector operates with a light force that indicates smoke and the ionization system detector operates with radioactive particles that detect particles of combustion. Chief Frost stated that either type is available on battery or AC powers, and he emphasized that, if AC is used to power the detector, it is very important that it not be plugged into an outlet operated by a switchplate as it may inadvertently be turned off.

Chief Frost stated that if any citizen had any questions concerning further information about the detectors he call the Fire Department for information and that he or the Fire Alarm Superintendent would be glad to come over to any home to locate a place for installation.

Chairman Powers thanked Chief Frost for his interesting presentation, and he adjourned the Forum at 9:00 p.m. for a brief period for coffee and informal conversation.