

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1977

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

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Sudbury Special Police Bill

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson reported that he and Assistant Town Counsel Thomas French had met with Senator Atkins and the Senate Counsel relative to Sudbury's Special Police Bill. Mr. Thompson stated that the bill had been discharged from committee, but that they have asked for the Selectmen's support of an amendment relative to equal opportunity employment and non-discrimination which will be forwarded to the Supreme Judicial Court for an advisory opinion as to constitutionality.

Offer of Grant - \$188,000

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson reported that he, Assistant Town Counsel Thomas French, and Highway Surveyor Robert Noyes had met with area representatives relative to the recently accepted Offer of Grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. Mr. Thompson reported that Federal law requires that 10% of the grant amount goes to minority businesses and that there is no extension of the 90-day limit within which construction of the project must begin.

Minutes

It was on motion by Selectman Potell unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the regular session and the Town Fathers Forum summary of September 26, 1977.

In related discussion, on motion by Selectman Toomey, it was unanimously

VOTED: To request the Executive Secretary to remind all Town boards and committees that minutes of all meetings must be kept.

Plaque - Alan Foster Flynn Building

After discussion, it was on motion by Selectman Potell unanimously

VOTED: To authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$84 from Account 501-21, Selectmen's General Expense, for a plaque for the Alan Foster Flynn Building.

Disposal of Town Property - Goodnow Library Director's Desk

The Board received a communication dated September 28, 1977 from

Library Director Helen Lowenthal asking the Board's approval of her request to sell the Library Director's desk because, in her opinion, the desk is not practical.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson reported that Miss Lowenthal had hoped to use the money from the sale of the desk, which was custom made by a local carpenter at a cost of \$585 five years ago, to purchase two different desks, but that she is now aware that any money so received would go into the General Fund and that she has since appeared before the Finance Committee requesting a transfer for this purpose. Mr. Thompson further reported that Miss Lowenthal had made the Library Trustees aware of her plans.

Chairman Powers stated that the Library Trustees, rather than the Library Director, should sell the desk, and his statement was confirmed by Town Counsel.

After discussion, it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the disposal of personal Town property as requested by the Library Director in her communication dated September 28, 1977, in accordance with Article XII, Section 1 of the Town Bylaws, subject to a vote of concurrence of the Goodnow Library Trustees.

Future Agenda

The Executive Secretary reported that Selectman Toomey will be unable to attend the Board's meeting on October 11, 1977, and he asked whether the meeting with the Insurance Advisory Committee scheduled for that evening should be rescheduled for October 17. The Board was in agreement.

The Executive Secretary also reported that Town Counsel Paul Kenny will be unable to attend the Board's October 24 meeting because of a conflict, and it was agreed that arrangements would be made with the Assistant Town Counsel to attend that meeting.

Collective Bargaining Initiative Referendum Petition Drive

After a brief report by Chairman Powers relative to the Municipal Associations supposed recent compromise concerning the establishment of a panel to review and judge on impasses of matters to go to final and binding arbitration, it was on his motion unanimously

VOTED: To defer discussion relative to the Board's plans for a successful Collective Bargaining Initiative Referendum Petition Drive until after the upcoming meeting of the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association's Legislative Committee.

The Executive Secretary reported that the Town still has not received the petitions which will be distributed for signatures.

Department Heads - Monthly Reports

Selectman Potell asked the Executive Secretary to remind all persons

attending his October 6 meeting with department heads that they have been extremely remiss in submitting their monthly reports.

Mr. Thompson reported that this subject is on his agenda for that meeting.

CETA Title VI Project Contract

Selectman Toomey stated that he had a number of questions relating to the CETA Title VI Project Contract which he would like to have Town Counsel review and report back on, and he asked for the Board's concurrence in this regard.

The Board was in agreement.

Selectman Potell asked whether, until some clarification is received from Town Counsel, it was the opinion of the Board that some of the projects undertaken should be held off.

Selectman Toomey responded that he did not want to stop any projects, but only wished clarification from Town Counsel that the program was proceeding in accordance with the contract and that he would like such a report at the next Selectmen's meeting at which he would be in attendance.

Landham Road Reconstruction

Selectman Potell stated that, after the September 27 public meeting concerning the reconstruction of Landham Road, he had asked the Highway Surveyor if he would send the Board an informational report, stating which trees on Landham Road should come down whether or not the road is reconstructed.

Chairman Powers stated that information dealing with "scenic roadways" is also needed, and he suggested that the Town Engineer determine from the old layout of the road which trees were already on Town property before the new layout of the road was drawn, that the trees be designated "good" or "bad" and broken down property by property, and that the plan indicate which trees should come down anyway.

Selectman Potell also asked that information be obtained from the Town Engineer as to how long in terms of months or years it would take to get Landham Road designated as a "scenic roadway" and how long it would take to obtain a plan from the State.

Ambulance Operations

After a brief review of figures indicating Fire and Police Department vehicular and personnel coverage of ambulance calls since July 1, 1977, the Board requested that the two departments recheck, correlate, and list all such calls and that the figures be prepared for the Board's review at its October 17 meeting. It was also requested that, if police cars are numbered as fire vehicles are, these numbers be used to identify responding police vehicles.

Selectman Toomey requested that, in addition to the scheduled attendance of the Fire Chief and the Police Chief later this evening for review of ambulance operations relative to policies and procedures, the members of the Ambulance Task Force also be invited and that the review be rescheduled at a later date for this reason.

After discussion, it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To reschedule the review of the Ambulance Operations on October 17 at 8 p.m.

It was further

VOTED: To request that members of the Ambulance Task Force attend the October 17 meeting for the above-stated purpose.

The Executive Secretary was directed to contact the Fire Chief immediately, as his attendance tonight would not be necessary. (The Police Chief was scheduled later in the evening for other discussion.)

It was further

VOTED: To also defer until the October 17 meeting consideration of the July 26, 1977 report from Fire Chief Josiah F. Frost and the July 19, 1977 report from Police Chief Nicholas Lombardi relative to a motor vehicle accident which occurred on July 15, 1977 at Boston Post Road and Stone Road.

South Middlesex News

Selectman Toomey reported that he had received a call from a reporter from the South Middlesex News who asked for the contents of the agenda for tonight's meeting and that the reporter had written in a subsequent article that Selectman Toomey had commented that fireworks might be expected during the discussion relating to the review of the ambulance operations.

Selectman Toomey stated that he had mentioned this subject in response to the reporter's question as to whether there was anything of specific interest on the agenda, but that, other than this response and the reading of the agenda, he had made no other comments. Selectman Toomey expressed his concern with the reporting of the discussion and stated that he had wished to make known to the Board what had taken place.

The press was urged to be very careful in the manner of its reporting, and Chairman Powers asked that the Selectmen not be called at their homes on Sunday night with questions relating to the agenda.

The Executive Secretary stated that copies of agenda for upcoming meetings are available for the press at the Town Hall on the Friday before each week's meeting.

Talent Search Committee

Present: Eileen Todd, Chairman, and Patricia Harding, Member, Talent Search Committee

Mrs. Eileen Todd, Chairman, and Mrs. Patricia Harding, member of the Talent Search Committee met with the Selectmen to discuss the future operation

and funding of that committee.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson reported that the Board had earlier received a communication dated March 24, 1977 from committee members William and Patricia Harding relative to confusion and problems with the membership and operation of the Talent Search Committee and its lack of an operating budget for FY1978. Mr. Thompson further reported that he had, at that time, suggested that, rather than to establish a budget for this committee at the 1977 Annual Town Meeting, its expenses for twice-yearly publication of its advertisement for talent be absorbed by other accounts and that the Board had voted, at that time, to refer the matters set forth in the above communication to the Executive Secretary for discussion with the Talent Search Committee and to await his further report.

Mr. Thompson stated that, in his opinion, there is sufficient money in the Selectmen's General Expense, Account 501-21, to place an ad in Bentley's "Calendar".

On the subject of the lack of the budget, Finance Committee member Linda Glass reported that no budget had been submitted and that the Finance Committee had received no written or verbal input on the matter.

Mrs. Harding stated that she wished to know the Board's opinion as to the committee's function, other than to meet periodically, and she stated that they now have only three members.

Chairman Powers stated that the function of the Talent Search Committee has varied from time to time and that some of the committees have screened candidates for appointment to various boards and committees.

Mrs. Harding stated that, in her opinion, the Board did not wish the committee to perform the screening function.

Chairman Powers suggested that one of the committee's main jobs is to inform new citizens that there are things in local government that they can do, and he further suggested that the committee work through the League of Women Voters or any one of the many other organizations in the Town in this regard.

Selectman Potell commented that the last Talent Search list he had seen was several years old, and he suggested that the list be updated and matched against the current voting list to remove those names of people no longer living in Sudbury, as well as those people who are no longer available to serve because of previous appointments or changed time commitments.

Mrs. Harding asked that the Board inform the committee of any information received by the Board concerning anyone who is no longer available.

Selectman Potell suggested that the committee, sometime in the future, talk with the Town Accountant concerning the possibility of eventually transferring the data base to the new accounting machine.

Chairman Powers stated that the Selectmen were anxious to assure the members of the need of the committee and their wish that it continue.

Mr. Thompson again recommended that the committee use the Selectmen's General Expense account to fund the twice-yearly ads.

Selectman Potell suggested that perhaps an application blank requesting new talent could be inserted in the warrant.

Mr. Thompson stated that because of its particular printing setup the warrant usually contains several blank pages, one of which could be used for this purpose, and the Board was in agreement.

After further discussion, it was on motion by Selectman Toomey unanimously

VOTED: To authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$100 from Account 501-21, Selectmen's General Expense, for the use of the Talent Search Committee.

Mrs. Harding stated that the committee had recently received a letter with regard to the need of listing all documents and records, which she thought was not applicable to her committee, and Chairman Powers suggested that she contact the Town Clerk in this regard.

Sudbury Auxiliary Police - Five-Year Plan

Present: Police Chief Nicholas Lombardi; Patrolman Alan Houghton; Lieutenant Edward J. Murphy and Member John Sklenak of the Sudbury Auxiliary Police

Messrs. Edward J. Murphy and John Sklenak of the Sudbury Auxiliary Police met with the Board to discuss a proposal to deviate from that unit's five-year plan by the purchase of a patrol vehicle in FY1978 rather than FY1979 because, in the opinion of the Auxiliary, there is sufficient money within the present allocation and a prime vehicle is available.

Mr. Murphy stated that there is \$1,400 available in their budget and that the car under consideration, a police-equipped, former navy vehicle, is available for approximately \$750 and is, in the opinion of those Auxiliaries who have seen it, well worth its cost.

The plan, which was set forth in a communication dated August 19, 1977 from Mr. Murphy to the Police Chief, stated the need for the Town to provide insurance and registration on this vehicle and that the Police Chief would supply the cruiser with gas, oil, and tires.

Chief Lombardi stated that he wished to correct a mistaken impression with regard to supplying the Auxiliary cruiser with gas, oil, and tires. Chief Lombardi stated that he had agreed to carry these items in his budget if funding could be provided, but that he could not supply these items.

Selectman Toomey stated that the money appropriated at Town Meeting would have to be applied to all Auxiliary expenses which would include insurance, gas, tires, and oil as well as items discussed under the budget line item at Town Meeting.

Chairman Powers stated that there is only a certain number of dollars available and that it would be necessary to compile the costs of equipping, insuring, and operating the vehicle between now and June 30 in order to determine whether the balance between these costs and the appropriation was sufficient to cover all other expenses.

In response to questions from Selectman Toomey, Mr. Murphy reported that there are thirteen members in the Auxiliary, that four men patrol with the regular police on Friday and Saturday nights, and that each man serves approximately two nights per month per man.

Selectman Toomey asked if perhaps the Auxiliary might be a little premature, with its short manpower, in extending its duties.

Chief Lombardi expressed his great support of the Auxiliaries, stating that these men only serve on Fridays and Saturdays because that is all that is asked of them, and he expressed his opinion that they would be more than willing to increase their services.

The Proceedings of the 1977 Annual Town Meeting were reviewed relative to discussion of the items to be covered for the \$1,500 appropriation during fiscal 1978. The following items had been mentioned: patrol of conservation land, Town buildings, cemeteries, schools and other areas where their visibility would reduce the incidence of vandalism, replacement of some uniforms, purchase of quality police radio equipment, lighting equipment for night patrol, office supplies, first-aid equipment and supplies, and storage facilities.

It was the consensus of the Board that, with the expenses involved with the aforementioned items, there would not be sufficient money to also purchase a car, gas, tires, and outside repairs, and to cover the necessary insurance.

Chairman Powers asked whether the Police Chief could give the Board any cost figures relative to the costs of the operation and maintenance of the vehicle.

Chief Lombardi stated that he did not have these figures tonight, but that one of his men provides almost all the maintenance on the police cars. Chairman Powers asked that the cost figures be given to the Selectmen when available.

Mrs. Glass expressed her opinion that, whereas the Town Meeting was told that the money would be used for certain items and if the money were not then used for those items, problems could be encountered with future allocations.

Chairman Powers asked that the transcript of the Town Meeting be checked and that all facts and figures regarding all costs be compiled and that a report be put together as to how the purchase of a car this year would affect the Auxiliary's operation for the remainder of the year for review by the Selectmen.

After further discussion, it was on motion by Selectman Toomey unanimously

VOTED: To table further discussion of the Auxiliary's above-referenced proposal until further information is received;

and it is further

VOTED: To direct the Executive Secretary to review the transcript of the Town Meeting for the above-stated purpose.

Longe Range Capital Expenditures Committee - Interview

As the candidate scheduled earlier for interview by the Board relative to his interest in serving on the Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee had not appeared, it was on motion by Selectman Potell unanimously

VOTED: To reschedule the interview at a later time.

(It was later learned that Mr. Robert Bozeman would be unavailable to serve on the above committee as he was moving from Sudbury.)

Executive Session

At 9:15 p.m., it was on motion unanimously

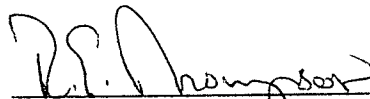
VOTED: To enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing transactions in real property where open discussion may have a detrimental effect on such transactions.

Chairman Powers announced that the public session would not resume after the executive session.

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Attest:


Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary-Clerk