

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
118th Session
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1977

At 8:30 p.m., Chairman Powers convened the 118th session of the Town Fathers Forum, and he reported the following activities of the Board during the past month:

- Appointments of Myron Fox to the Board of Appeals, Edward Rawson to the Permanent Building Committee, and James Pitts to the Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee.

- Edward Lapal hired as a part-time Rehabilitation Specialist to administer the recently awarded HUD grant.

- Dedicated the Harmony Gardens Patio Bandstand and celebrated Miss Florence Hosmer's 97th birthday on October 20, presenting her with the Boston Post Cane as she is Sudbury's oldest citizen. Miss Hosmer received letters from Senator Kennedy and President Carter, and those present were entertained by instrumentalists from the High School. Chairman Powers thanked Mrs. Linda White, companion to Miss Hosmer, and the Sudbury Public Health Nursing Association for their help with the dedication, and he conveyed Miss Hosmer's appreciation and warm feelings toward the Town.

- Plaques have been affixed to the Hosmer House and Harmony Gardens Patio Bandstand.

- Clerical study voted at Town Meeting is now under way and those departments and committees which received position description questionnaires relative to clerical positions are reminded that they are now due.

- Reviewed extensive recommendations of the Insurance Advisory Committee and made major revisions to Town insurance policies and have further data coming on other phases. The recommendations should save the Town money. The Board is concerned that the advent of the Town ambulance will increase costs.

- Presently working with representatives and senator on getting Special Police bill, approved by 1977 ATM, passed by Legislature.

- Plans are proceeding in carrying out the work authorized under the Public Works Employment Act grant of \$188,000 - road resurfacing and Lincoln Road/Concord Road intersection reconstruction. Board acted earlier this evening on the project phasing.

- Research is continuing with regard to Landham Road reconstruction and we are awaiting clarification on a number of points.

- Reviewed ambulance operations and procedures for the first three months of operation with both the Fire and Police Chiefs and will have a second review in three months.

- Approved purchase of Auxiliary patrol vehicle.

- Held a very interesting meeting with Massachusetts League of Cities & Town's staff member, Al Vigderman with regard to litigation on financing of public education.

Chairman Powers reported that the Board last weekend had attended the joint meeting of the Massachusetts League of Cities & Towns, the Massachusetts

Selectmen's Association, and the Association of Town Finance Committees held in Hyannis. Chairman Powers reported Selectman Potell's concern with how the \$2,000 item for the car which had been voted out of the budget was reinstated without a vote of the Budget Committee, and Chairman Powers further reported discussion relating to recent trends on Sudbury's Cherry Sheet with the following facts:

- 1) Up until the mid-seventies, the term "estimated receipts" as shown on the Cherry Sheet, offsets and assessments, amounted to an average cost of only about 18% and the remaining 82% was for the municipality.
- 2) In the mid-seventies the gross receipts began a trend toward leveling, but the offsets and assessments increased to an average 33% of the total--leaving 67% for the municipality.
- 3) Additionally, in the mid-seventies, Chapter 766 funds were added to the Cherry Sheet; however, the cost of the 766 program has been two to four times greater than the Cherry Sheet return to the Town.
- 4) In 1977-78 the gap between gross receipts and net receipts was down to 50%--funds were added to Chapter 766, but Chapter 70 estimates decreased by twice as much.

Chairman Powers reported that the Municipal Associations are attempting to get back more local aid to cities and towns and that the last vote of the Legislature was only 11 votes shy of supporting their position, and he expressed the need for citizens to contact local representatives in an effort to have this pass.

- The Board has recently received resignations, some of which were acted upon tonight, and he expressed the need for people of the same high calibre as those resigning and requested citizens' dedicated help.

- The Sudbury assessment case is before the Court. On Wednesday, October 19, there was a hearing before the Supreme Judicial Court on a motion by Town Counsel. The Town's position is that the Department of Corporations and Taxation has had a year in which to act on the Court's decision and why has nothing been done. The first motion was to order a supplemental report from the Department of Corporations and Taxation (DC&T) by February 1978 as to how they would comply with the court order--that matter is still pending.

Selectman Toomey added that the DC&T had sent a form to the cities and towns asking the municipalities for their plans for revaluation, that the Sudbury Board of Assessors had responded with its plan and was later informed that its plan was unacceptable.

Chairman Powers reported that the DC&T gave the Town no reason for not accepting its plan and has since refused to answer our questions as to what would make it acceptable; he further reported that the Assessors and the Town are standing firm.

Selectman Potell reported that during the Board's October 17 meeting with Senator Atkins relating to the Special Police Bill, the Senator invited the Board to attend the session of the Legislature at which he "would go down in

flames" presenting the bill which, in his opinion, will be defeated, as it is felt it is unconstitutional. Selectman Potell reported that the Board had accepted Senator Atkins' invitation.

ASSISTANT TOWN COUNSEL THOMAS FRENCH

Assistant Town Counsel Thomas French reported that Town Counsel's office has drafted a full report of Town Counsel's activities for the calendar year which will be submitted to the Selectmen in the very near future.

TOWN ACCOUNTANT JOHN WILSON

Town Accountant John H. Wilson stated that the Insurance Advisory Committee had met several times recently to propose and make recommendations to the Selectmen relative to Town insurance which should save approximately \$15,000 this year. Mr. Wilson stated that the Committee had made a survey relating to how many automobile accidents have occurred with various Town vehicles and had determined that cost savings should result by increasing the deductible to \$1,000 on all Town vehicles except those belonging to the Police Department, and he commented that it was the Committee's hope that their experiment continues successfully.

ALAN GRATHWOHL - FINANCE COMMITTEE

Finance Committee member Alan Grathwohl reported that the Finance Committee is presently observing negotiations at the High School, that the budget packages are out, and that three departments have been asked to do program budgeting, those departments being Engineering, Library, and Building.

EDWARD CONNORS - PLANNING BOARD

Planning Board Chairman Edward Connors reported that the Planning Board has been updating the Town Planner's Job Description and that the Housing Issues Committee has been meeting regularly as per 1977 Annual Town Meeting vote on housing policy, that the Open Space Committee has been and still is meeting regularly with the former Town Planner; that Chapter 40A amendments to the Town's Zoning Bylaws appear to be technical corrections; and that a new eleven-lot subdivision located off Pelham Island Road has been filed by Mr. Beckett.

FIRE CHIEF JOSIAH F. FROST

Chief Frost reported that a fire prevention activities program with the kindergartens started in October; that seven fire personnel have completed a refresher course in Emergency Medical Training and that four are presently in EMT school; that successful tests of the Class A pumps have been completed; that to date there have been 128 more emergency calls this year, that the calls show more structural fires, but that the total loss does not seem to be out of proportion.

JOHN SULLIVAN - BOARD OF HEALTH DIRECTOR

Board of Health Director John Sullivan reported that the flu immunization program will run from November 3-7 for those over 65 years of age, those with chronic diseases- and the fire, police, and teaching staff; the Board of Health

expects the flu season to begin between Thanksgiving and Christmas and continue until March and will notify the different agencies of the exact time of the clinics.

KATHLEEN BROWN - CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Conservation Commission Chairman Kathleen Brown reported that the Commission is concerned with WPA filings; that it has issued approximately 70 hunting permits; that the Open Space Plan is its main concern; and that meetings and work sessions in this regard are being held almost every Tuesday night. She further reported that the MAPC 208 Study has gone out and that they have some very serious concerns for Sudbury; there are two upcoming meetings--one on November 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Assabet Regional Technical Vocational School (208 Study) and a second meeting on November 8 when the MAPC is holding a public meeting in Wayland on the subject of regional plans in open space for this area and a semi-proposal for Nobscot Hill.

EILEEN TODD - TALENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Mrs. Eileen Todd, Chairman, Talent Search Committee introduced fellow committee members Patricia Harding and June Mawn; she reported that the Committee is updating the print-out, removing the names of those who have moved, and that Mrs. Harding has met with the Town Accountant regarding the possibility of transferring data to the new machine; that the Committee will soon run an ad requesting response from citizens interested in serving on boards and committees, after which the names will be added to the file.

BUILDING INSPECTOR FRANCIS E. WHITE

Building Inspector Francis E. White presented a report on the subject of safety, use, and proper installation of several types of wood-burning stoves, and he distributed information concerning the problem of the build-up of creosote in chimneys, an accumulation of which leads to chimney fires.

On the same subject, Fire Chief Frost reported that there are very few approved wood-burning stoves and that the Fire Department is concerned about the use of 55-gallon drums which are improperly used and improperly installed.

FLOYD STILES - COMMITTEE ON TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Town Administration Chairman Floyd Stiles reported that the Committee is looking at two subjects: 1) the overall conduct of Town Meeting about which the Committee would meet later tonight with the Selectmen with regard to putting out a voter survey, and 2) the elected administrative officials vs. the appointed officials, a subject on which they hope to have a report in 1978.