

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1977

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

The statutory requirements as to notice having been fulfilled, the meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman John C. Powers.

Jurors

Present: Town Clerk Retsey M. Powers

The Board drew the names of John T. Hannan, 19 Old Forge Lane, and Richard F. Bell, 15 Old Forge Lane, to serve as jurors at Cambridge Court, and Thomas M. Lankford, 91 Pelham Island Road, to serve as juror at Lowell Court, all to commence on December 5, 1977.

Public Works Employment Grant - Project Phasing

Executive Secretary reported that he and Town Counsel had requested a project phasing plan from the Town Engineer and the Highway Surveyor in order to enable the start of the Public Works Employment Grant project within the 90-day period specified by the Federal Government. Mr. Thompson reported that response, dated October 13, 1977, had been received from the Town Engineer and Highway Surveyor which set forth their recommendations for phasing the Grant into three separate contracts in order to provide the least inconvenience during the resurfacing and intersection reconstruction projects.

The proposed schedule was read by Chairman Powers.

Selectman Potell suggested that, if possible, the Lincoln-Concord Road intersection reconstruction be delayed until the close of school in June, but it was the consensus of the Board that such a delay might not allow completion of the project within the limits of the Grant.

In response to Selectman Toomey's question as to whether or not the proposed road resurfacing schedule could be followed because of the closing in mid-November of the bituminous concrete companies, Mr. Thompson stated that time requirements for this section of the country would have to be adjusted in such a situation.

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

VOTED: To accept the recommendations of the Highway Surveyor and the Town Engineer dated October 13, 1977 for "Project Phasing" under the Public Works Employment Grant, EDA Project No. 01-51-26415 for the Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts, subject to the approval of the Federal Economic Development Administration.

Zoning Violations - Sign and Unregistered Vehicles

Present: Zoning Enforcement Agent Francis E. White

The Board of Selectmen, at their meeting on October 17, 1977, directed the Zoning Enforcement Agent to submit a report to the Board relative to his actions and recommendations for resolution of illegal signs at the Shell Service Station and

"99" restaurant and illegal storage of unregistered vehicles at property located on Maynard Road.

Zoning Enforcement Agent Francis E. White responded by letter dated October 21, 1977, and, referring to his response, he now stated that those persons needing sign approval have made application to the Sign Review Board and will be heard before that Board at its next meeting.

Mr. White reported that he had spoken with the homeowner of the property at which the unregistered vehicles are located and that the homeowner had agreed that the vehicles would be removed by mid-week. Mr. White stated that if this is not the case, he will go to District Court to have them removed.

On the subject of a recent complaint concerning the semi-annual repositioning of twenty-four chickens belonging to a resident of Haynes Road, Mr. White reported that he had spoken with the owner who had stated that the chickens would be placed on the proper side of the property by October 23, but that upon inspection today he had found that the change had not been made.

#### Obsolete Town Machinery

At the request of the Executive Secretary, the Board, at its October 17, 1977 meeting, voted to authorize the Executive Secretary to dispose of a check-signing machine and one adding machine belonging to the Treasurer's office, in accordance with Article XII, Section 1 of the Bylaws, and to table further requests of this nature until all departments could be contacted for any similar requests and subsequent receipt of the same.

The Executive Secretary reported that he had received a request, dated October 14, 1977, from the Board of Assessors asking that one Friden Calculator and one Friden Adding Machine be turned over to the care and custody of the Board of Selectmen and a request dated October 17, 1977 from the Town Engineer for similar disposition of an inoperable Monroe Calculator, the repair of which would far exceed its replacement cost.

After discussion, it was on motion by Selectman Potell unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Executive Secretary to dispose of the above-referenced pieces of machinery in the manner he sees fit.

#### Minutes

It was on motion by Selectman Potell unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the regular session of October 17, 1977 as corrected.

#### Resignations - Talent Search Committee

The Board received a communication dated October 5, 1977 from Mr. Joseph P. Levesque who tendered his resignation from the Talent Search Committee as he has moved from Sudbury.

The Board accepted Mr. Levesque's resignation with regret and directed the Executive Secretary to acknowledge Mr. Levesque's letter and to thank him for his service on that Committee.

Resignation - Personnel Board

The Board received a communication dated October 17, 1977 from Mrs. Margaret Bonarrigo who tendered her resignation from the Personnel Board as she is moving from Sudbury.

The Board accepted Mrs. Bonarrigo's resignation with regret and directed the Executive Secretary to acknowledge Mrs. Bonarrigo's letter and to express the Board's appreciation for her service on that Board.

Resignation - Board of Appeals Alternate

The Board received a communication dated October 18, 1977 from Mr. Robert J. Hotch who tendered his resignation as an Alternate to the Board of Appeals due to expanded business commitments.

The Board accepted Mr. Hotch's resignation with regret and directed the Executive Secretary to acknowledge Mr. Hotch's letter and to express the Board's appreciation for his service on that Board.

Appointments

With regard to pending appointments to the Historical Commission, after discussion it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To table further appointments to the Historical Commission until completion of a study by the Committee on Town Administration as to the virtue of continuing with both the Historical Commission and the Historic Structures Commission.

It was further

VOTED: To make the following appointments:

John Reutlinger, 62 Stone Road, to the Permanent Building Committee for a term to expire on April 30, 1980; and

June Mawn, 37 Belcher Drive, to the Talent Search Committee for a term to expire on April 30, 1979, to fill the unexpired term of Joseph P. Levesque.

With regard to the appointments to the Board of Appeals and the Earth Removal Board, it was on motion by Selectman Potell unanimously

VOTED: To schedule interviews with interested candidates as soon as possible.

Traffic Rules and Orders - Town of Sudbury

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson reported that an amendment to the present Traffic Rules and Orders of the Town of Sudbury had been suggested by Town Clerk, as follows: by deleting the words "Highway Commission" and substituting therefor the words "Highway Surveyor" and by deleting the word "its" and substituting therefor the word "his" in the first sentence of Section 1 (a) in Article III, Traffic Signs and Signals; and by deleting the words "Highway Commission" and substituting therefor the words "Board of Selectmen" in Section 1 in Article VI, Advertising Signs on Sidewalks or Streets Must Have Permits, and Section 2. (a) in Article VI, Placing of Structures or Property in Streets Prohibited.

Assistant Town Counsel Thomas M. French reported that his office had reviewed the recommended changes and that they had found them to be appropriate.

After discussion, it was on motion by Selectman Potell unanimously

VOTED: To amend the Town of Sudbury Traffic Rules and Orders as recommended by Town Clerk as set forth above, which would bring the present regulations into line with the existing government.

Town Buildings - Insurance

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson reported that Selectman Potell, at the Board's October 17 meeting, had asked that he look into the possibility of any Federal insurance which might be available for the Town buildings in Sudbury Centre because that area has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Thompson reported that he had reviewed the Federal catalogs on Federal assistance and had discussed the matter with the Massachusetts Historical Commission and they have not been able to locate any Federal assistance with regard to insurance for local Town historic buildings.

Site Plan Application #77-183, Camp Sewataro, Liberty Ledge Trust

Present: Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Agent Francis E. White; Mark and Alba Taylor, applicants; Paul McNally, member, Planning Board.

In accordance with Article IX, Section V, Paragraph A of the Sudbury Bylaws, the Board considered the site plan application of Alba Taylor, Liberty Ledge Trust, for location at Camp Sewataro, Liberty Ledge, off Haynes Road.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson reported that all appropriate abutters and Town Departments had been notified and that the following reports had been received: from the Zoning Enforcement Agent, dated September 27, 1977, who recommended approval; from the Conservation Commission, dated October 12, 1977, which indicated no concern; and from the Planning Board, dated October 22, 1977, which unanimously voted to recommend approval, but requested that the following items be added to the plan: 1) an indication of the dirt roads leading to the buildings; 2) an indication of which building is the new one; and 3) an indication of how power gets to the building.

The site plan was displayed and Mr. Mark Taylor pointed out the proposed building, which will be primarily used for nature photography, showing movies, and teaching first aid.

The Planning Board's requests were discussed with that Board's member Paul McNally and answers to the questions were verbally indicated by Mr. Taylor. Mr. White stated that the proposed building will be serviced by an extension of the existing electrical service.

After discussion during which it was agreed that the applicants and Mr. White would retire briefly to make the above-referenced additions to the plan, it was on motion by Selectman Potell unanimously

VOTED: To take the site plan application under advisement until the plan is

amended and returned.

Later in the evening, Mr. White and the applicants returned and, after the Board's review of the amended plan, it was on motion by Selectman Potell unanimously

VOTED: To approve site plan application #77-183, of Alba Taylor, Liberty Ledge Trust, for Camp Sewataro, Liberty Ledge, off Haynes Road, dated January 1972.

Senate Bill 1825 - Minuteman Educational Development Corporation

The Board received a newsletter from Superintendent Ronald Fitzgerald of the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District (MRVTSD) relative to the progress of Senate Bill 1825, the Minuteman Educational Development Corporation petition, which stated that the bill has been referred to the Ways and Means Committees of the General Court and which stated that any board interested in taking action for or against the bill should immediately contact the appropriate local legislators.

Selectman Potell stated that the Board, at its May 16, 1977 meeting with the proponents of the bill, had expressed several concerns with the legislation which were to have been discussed at the May 17, 1977 meeting of the MRVTSD and a subsequent report sent to the Board. Selectman Potell reported that he had not since seen any resolution of the Board's concerns, and he suggested that the Board contact the local legislators to express the Selectmen's opposition to the bill.

Chairman Powers stated that the Board had been assured by the proponents that it would have some answers to the questions raised at the May 16 meeting, and that, if the Board was not then happy, the legislation would be withdrawn. Chairman Powers asked whether it could be determined from Town Counsel whether or not any communication from the proponents had been received dealing with the Board's concerns.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson stated that he and Town Counsel had followed the matter up and did appear before a hearing of the Committee on Education on August 15, 1977, at which time the matter was discussed, but that to his knowledge the MRVTSD Counsel had not at that time responded to Town Counsel's memo of July 11, 1977 and that, in his opinion, the MRVTSD Superintendent and Committee did not support the changes suggested by Sudbury.

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

VOTED: To advise Sudbury's local representatives that, until clarification of the Board's questions raised in Town Counsel's memo of July 11, 1977 relative to the proposed legislation of the Minuteman School, it was the Selectmen's position to oppose Senate Bill 1825.

Area Dispatch Center

Referring to the October 12, 1977 minutes of the meeting of the Regional Dispatch Review Committee, which had been received and reviewed by the Board, Selectman Toomey commented that it would appear that Sudbury's Assistant Town Counsel Thomas French had been doing and would continue to do much of the work on

the agreement, and he suggested that the work be shared by the other towns in the region.

Chairman Powers reported that the agreement is approximately 85% on paper and that recent discussion has concerned the costing formula, the matter of who will control the dispatching equipment, and technicalities as to how the equipment will run. Chairman Powers stated that he will make a full report on the agreement when the package is put together.

Annual Joint Meeting of Massachusetts League of Cities and Towns and  
Massachusetts Selectmen's Association

Selectman Potell reported that with regard to discussion relative to Senate Bill 1924, compulsory and binding arbitration legislation, discussion at the Annual Joint Meeting of the Massachusetts League of Cities and Towns and the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association indicated that everybody agreed that the method in which the legislation was filed left a lot to be desired and that answers given as to the necessity for the speed of this action were not satisfactory. Selectman Potell stated that it was his understanding that the legislation was to be amended for the right of appeal.

Receipt of Communications Relative to the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School

The Board, at its October 17 meeting, authorized Chairman Powers to contact two individuals relative to receipt of a threatening letter as to their feeling that the Board refer the offending letter to the press and the members of the clergy.

Chairman Powers stated that he had drafted a letter in this regard to be forwarded to the recipients, but that he had not yet spoken with them.

Selectman Toomey suggested that, if the recipients concur with the Selectmen's proposed action, the letter be released immediately.

Selectman Potell was in agreement.

Town Fathers Forum - 118th Session

At 8:30 p.m., Chairman Powers convened the 118th session of the Town Fathers Forum, a summary of which is attached and is a part of these minutes.

Committee on Town Administration - Town Meeting Survey

Present: Floyd L. Stiles, Chairman, and Anne Bigelow, member of the Committee on Town Administration; J. Owen Todd, Moderator

Members of the Committee on Town Administration and the Moderator met with the Board relative to their plan to survey the residents of the Town with regard to the present form of Town Meeting and to request funds (\$500) for this purpose from the Selectmen's Surveys and Studies Account.

Committee on Town Administration Chairman Floyd L. Stiles reported that, at the request of the Moderator, the Committee would like to look at the general subject of Town Meeting, timing, and difficulties with its present form in an

effort to determine what would be most beneficial to Sudbury, and he further reported that the Committee is working on a design for the questionnaire, and that it was their present feeling that they would probably use a postage prepaid sheet folded so that the return portion also contained prepaid postage. Mr. Stiles stated that the voters would be asked questions regarding items such as whether they attend Town Meetings, if so, how often, and if not, why not; timing--whether there should be a longer period of time between the Town Election and Town Meeting, and the possibility of combining the Town Election with a general Fall election. Also discussed was a plan to include check boxes on the questionnaire for individual answers by more than one voter at a single address.

Chairman Powers asked whether the Committee was familiar with the fact that the League of Women Voters did a similar survey a few years ago which the Committee might want to review as to form and structure, and he informed them that the survey material is also available; he also suggested that the Committee might consider the possibility of using at no cost, one of the pollsters for format and presentation.

Mr. Stiles reported that before the Committee made a decision as to what form their survey would take, it would come back with a draft for the Board's input and suggestions.

Chairman Powers asked whether there were sufficient funds in the Surveys and Studies Account.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson reported that \$1,100 remains in the account, that there is a commitment of \$500 of those funds for the printing of the Capital Improvement Plan, and that the cost of a Townwide mailing would be \$315 plus the postage for those surveys returned, plus printing costs.

Mr. Thompson suggested that the questionnaire be put in the Warrant as it usually contains several blank pages, and he commented that the Townwide mailing would be too costly for the remaining funds in the account.

Selectman Potell commented on the inaccurate results of surveys, citing in particular the survey which indicated that SudbuS was going to be a great success, and Chairman Powers further commented on previous surveys which indicated that more people had attended Town Meetings than there were registered voters in the Town.

Selectman Potell stated that Mrs. Sally VonBenken had looked at this subject in 1972 and that she might still have some information and some suggestions which would benefit the Committee.

Chairman Powers suggested that the Committee also consider random sample interviews.

Moderator J. Owen Todd stated that, in his opinion, this survey would have a dual function: to gain information and to empower the voters with a certain feeling of involvement and a greater awareness of the Town Meeting and their responsibility to attend.

Mr. Stiles stated that the Committee has also considered an ad in Bentley's "Calendar" and delivering the questionnaire in the Town Report, but had determined that a mailing would put the questionnaire into more hands; he further stated that, if the Committee had decided on the survey earlier, it would have asked for

budget funds for this purpose.

Selectman Toomey suggested that, if the Selectmen do not have sufficient funds for the survey, the Board endorse in theory the Committee's suggestion, and it was agreed by the Board to so endorse the Committee's plan to survey the citizens of the Town.

Mr. Stiles stated that the Committee would return to the Board with a draft questionnaire, and he asked about the possibility of requesting a transfer from the Reserve Fund for this purpose.

Finance Committee member Alan Grathwohl stated that, in his opinion, he would like to see the Committee on Town Administration approach the Finance Committee with such a request.

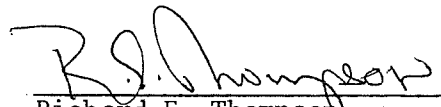
On another subject, the Selectmen asked the Committee to look at the virtue of continuing both the Historical Commission and the Historic Structures Commission and to report back to the Board on the matter.

The Committee was in agreement.

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 10 p.m.

Attest:

  
Richard E. Thompson  
Executive Secretary - Clerk