

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1977

117th Session

At 8:00 p.m., Chairman Powers convened the 117th session of the Town Fathers Forum and reported the following activities of the Board of Selectmen during the summer months:

- Approved a utility petition for Hudson Road to service Michael Moore's development.
- Approved a utility petition for Newbridge Road involving pole relocations to correct a hazardous condition.
- Received the Town ambulance which is operating under established policy. Also set a fee of \$30 for this service.
- Held Tax Possession auction on August 6 and sold six parcels with receipts of \$17,100.
- Appointed Robert Westcott, Nadine Wallack, Theresa Lukas, and Joan Maxwell to the Town Report Preparation Committee; Barbara Pryor to the Sign Review Board; David Berry as an associate member of the Board of Appeals; David Berry, Robert Hotch, and Joseph Klein to the Earth Removal Board; Edith Creter as UN Day Chairman; Josiah F. Frost as Civil Defense Director and Forest Warden; Town Election Officers; Robert Boyd to the Auxiliary Police; Patrick Manzo as Patrolman with the Police Department; and reappointed Richard W. Murphy as Labor Relations Counsel;
- Established the Archeological Preparation Committee - Haynes Garrison Site, to which Royal Haynes, Royce Kahler, and George D. Max were appointed.
- Established Landham Road Advisory Committee to which Harold Cutler, Peter Anderson, Miles Robinson, George Mercury, Robert Phelps were appointed. Karl Clough, Robert Noyes, and Jim Merloni were also appointed as ad hoc members. A public hearing concerning reconstruction of Landham Road will be held on Tuesday, September 27, at 8 p.m. in the Loring School.
- Accepted resignation of Manoli Tiliakos, Town Planner.
- Approved underground storage of home heating oil - license to James C. Weaver, 248 Old Lancaster Road.
- Set cemetery fees.
- Held hearings relative to site plan problems and approved new plan for Northern Farms, Union Avenue.
- Approved site plans for Orion Realty Trust, 80 Union Avenue and Mullen Realty Trust, 28 Union Avenue.
- Held a public hearing for alcoholic beverages licensee 99 Restaurant for change in the description of premises.

- Worked with Town Accountant on accounting machine contract.
- Executed Blue Cross/Blue Shield contract with a reduction in cost.
- Awarded bids for Town Hall emergency generator, Town buildings fuel oil and service, and painting of Loring Parsonage.
- Opposed Middlesex County Budget and the extension of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) to public employees.
- Supported suit challenging present method of financing public education.
- Working with other towns on Regional Dispatch Center agreement.
- Working with School Committee on lease of the Horse Pond Road School.
- Accepted bequest of Annie L. Thorpe, Jr., of \$5000 for the purpose of "furthering the work of the District Nurse or other health work" and the income bequest of Thomas Garfield to benefit Town cemeteries.
- Penn Central Railroad tax check received for back taxes.
- Received Offer of Grant of \$188,000 under Public Works Employment Act for Lincoln/Concord Road intersection reconstruction and various road resurfacing projects as approved by the June 1977 Special Town Meeting.

TOWN COUNSEL PAUL KENNY

Mr. Kenny reported that since August 1, in addition to a hearing before the State Legislature, there have been many court appearances--6 cases in District Court, 8 trials in Middlesex Court, and 3 hearings before the Appellate Tax Board. Mr. Kenny stated that a complaint against the Department of Corporations and Taxation with regard to an assessment has been filed in Supreme Judicial Court and that he has spent time in drafting and finalizing a lease with regard to the leasing of the Horse Pond School to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

SELECTMAN IRA POTELL

Selectman Potell called to the attention of those present the photographs placed around the Town Hall which were taken by Victor Neumeier during the Bicentennial celebration and which will be later hung in the Lower Town Hall.

CHAIRMAN JOHN C. POWERS

Chairman Powers announced that the Harmony Garden patio located at the Hosmer House is completed and that it will soon be landscaped and dedicated.

POLICE CHIEF NICHOLAS LOMBARDI

Chief Lombardi reported that the summer had been a relatively good one, that there had been no problems with parties and little vandalism. Chief Lombardi reported that the Neighborhood Watch and Identification programs were both continuing, which seems to be helpful. He also reported that the Town has had its second bank robbery and that there had been 19 arrests on criminal charges and 22 on charges of drunkenness.

MODERATOR OWEN TODD

Mr. Todd reported that he had made all necessary appointments and had been attending Finance Committee meetings.

ALAN GRATHWOHL - FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Alan Grathwohl reported that the Finance Committee's liaison has been actively participating in the activities of the Landham Road Advisory Committee and that the Committee has been involved in observing Sudbury School negotiations, is waiting to see if it will be involved with the Regional negotiations, and is waiting to be involved with Minuteman's negotiations.

RICHARD DAVISON - LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Mr. Davison reported that the opening of Regional had gone smoothly and that the school population is less than last year.

LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT DAVID L. LEVINGTON

In response to Selectman Toomey, Superintendent Levington responded to a recent article in The Boston Globe which concerned an increased use of drugs in schools and which cited, as an example, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional. Mr. Levington stated that, the article stated that the use of drugs in Massachusetts is increasing, that it mentioned Lincoln-Sudbury and quoted him accurately as saying that he did not feel that hard drugs were the problem at the school that they had been in the past, but that we still have a drug use problem with young people. Mr. Levington stated that the article also stated that administrators in high school either refuse to see the problem or don't talk about it.

Mr. Levington stated that, in his opinion, this information was misleading, if not inaccurate, that there is still a serious problem with drug use in the high school, which the Chief might wish to comment on. Mr. Levington stated that he would say that it has changed in two ways--still serious, but changed from five years ago--so-called hard drugs are not experimented with as they once were. They are not available and the students are skeptical of them. Minors that do use them are troubled kids and, in his judgment, hard drugs are not a big problem. Mr. Levington stated that young people do not consider marijuana dangerous--they consider it in the same category as alcohol. Use of marijuana is illegal and therefore it is not condoned. The school is trying to educate the students against the use of marijuana and of alcohol. Marijuana is readily available and no support or understanding from the young people of its dangers is received. Mr. Levington stated that what he had tried to say to the reporter is that the situation is changed, that the students do not see marijuana as a danger and that they think it is hypocritical when we urge them against marijuana and alcohol. He again stated that the problem has changed, but is still serious.

Mr. Levington concluded by saying that he had told the reporter that the situation relative to hard drugs is not nearly as bad as it was before and that the student had told the reporter that it was a serious problem. Mr. Levington stated that he was embarrassed, that he had investigated the situation and had spoken with the faculty and students whose general reaction had been that his assessment of the situation was correct.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT A. NOYES

Mr. Noyes stated that his department had been busy this summer with routine cemetery maintenance, that the cover material was recently removed at the Sanitary Landfill to start a new cell. His further report included the following items:

- Elsbeth Road had been completed on August 18.
- Driveway construction at the Library has been underway and will be completed as soon as a berm machine has been acquired.
- Fourteen miles of road have been paved this summer.
- The Old Lancaster Road walkway is being held up because of the displeasure of several abutters, so that work is now proceeding on the Morse Road Walkway.
- Fall webworm and poison ivy spraying have been done on public ways.
- Wayland has asked for an extension until 1980 of the use of their sanitary landfill. Mr. Noyes asked what this would do with respect to the proposed Wayland-Sudbury sludge facility, and he reported that recently Dr. Cooper, John Lindgren, Peter Gossels, and he had gone to Islip, Long Island, to look at two treatment plants and that what is planned for Wayland-Sudbury is a combination of the two. Mr. Noyes stated that the Towns are still waiting for the Federal grant for the facility.

Mr. Thompson stated that the Town Engineer and he had in the past year attended several meetings of the Wayland Sanitary Landfill Committee, and Selectman Toomey reported that Wayland is now negotiating for an access road to their proposed new landfill area adjacent to the Waters Manufacturing Co. which is of great concern to the Selectmen as it relates to traffic and safety problems along Route 20.

BUILDING INSPECTOR FRANCIS E. WHITE

Mr. White reported that, since the beginning of September, thirteen single dwelling permits had been taken out and that since the beginning of the year there have been fifty-eight new housing starts, which compares with forty-one at this time last year.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION - KATHLEEN BROWN

Mrs. Brown reported that the Open Land Study Group has held one public meeting to formulate its open space plan, that the Commission has also participated in a meeting concerning the Marlborough Easterly Water Treatment Plant's plan to suspend treatment of nitrates which is opposed by the Commission, and has been working with the Planning Board on housing issues.

LYNNE REMINGTON - CONSERVATION COMMISSION - LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP

Mrs. Remington reported that the Conservation Commission is now accepting hunting permit requests and that they are working with the CETA people with regard to the clearing of the Davis Land.

CAROL HULL - GOODNOW LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Miss Hull reported that Sunday openings at the Goodnow Library have begun, that the Sunday just past had been very successful, and it was felt that it would be a useful thing.

STATUS REPORT FROM CETA PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP ON PARKS, CONSERVATION, AND PUBLIC WAYS PROJECTS

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson reported on the CETA Work Program on the parks, conservation, and public ways project, which is being funded by a \$156,000 grant under the direction of the CETA Planning & Development Group whose members consist the Executive Secretary as Chairman, the Chairman of the Land Management Committee of the Conservation Commission, the Town Engineer, the Highway Surveyor, and the Maintenance Foreman for the Park and Recreation Commission. Mr. Thompson stated that this group will develop definitive plans for carrying out the program and will coordinate all activities under the grant.

Mr. Thompson introduced Michael Lochiatto, CETA Supervisor, who then gave a brief report on the present status of the CETA projects, as follows:

- the construction of a stone wall and cutting and removal of brush in Heritage Park;
- all shrubbery trimmed and cleaned out at the Town Hall, Flynn Building, Hosmer House, and the Public Library;
- all boiler rooms at Nixon and Haynes Schools cleaned and painted;
- room at High School cleaned;
- all combinations on lockers at Junior High changed;
- cleaned out bunker and cemented all vents at Lincoln Meadows;
- painted room in Town Hall and refinished floor.
- clearing on Davis Land.

Mr. Noyes reported that CETA crews had also been involved with cutting back brush along the edges of the road.

Mr. Levington stated that a permanent addition of an outdoor classroom at the High School will be constructed by CETA workers.

Mr. Thompson stated that the program also involves the Park and Recreation Commission, and he thanked the Regional High School for making available a room for the CETA crews during inclement weather, who will then build outdoor furniture and signs for Town departments.

Chairman Powers reminded those present that the funding for the CETA program is 100% Federal money in a commitment for one year, and he stated that the Board is very pleased with the way the program is going and the high caliber of the people who are a credit to the Supervisor.

REPRESENTATIVE GANNETT - PRECINCTS 2, 3, and 4

Representative Gannett reported on the following subjects:

- The Middlesex County budget was passed this afternoon and every amendment offered by the Advisory Board members had been accepted.
- The House has been arguing about the "in-house" cuts.
- Raises for State employees have been passed along with the money for abortions and school breakfasts.
- Attempts are being made to obtain the State Aid to Cities and Towns money which was impounded by President Nixon.

Representative Gannett stated that Representative Counihan had expressed her regrets that she was unable to attend tonight's Forum.

Chairman Powers announced that the Massachusetts Municipal Association, which includes in part the Massachusetts League of Cities and Towns, and the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association, is embarking on an initiative petition whereby any decision with regard to municipal police and firefighters which is final and binding, can, on motion by union or management, be placed on a ballot for the voters in the next municipal or annual election and, if the award receives approval of less than a majority of those voters in such an election, the issues in dispute shall be returned to the parties for future bargaining. Chairman Powers stated that the Association is looking for 56,000 names on the petition in the sixty days between September 30 and November 30--4,000 signatures from the Town of Sudbury.

Selectman Potell reported that the last Annual Town Meeting had passed a resolution to direct our elected State representatives and senator to vote to terminate compulsory and binding arbitration as of June 30, 1977, the termination date of the original legislation, so that final authority for determining local expenditures could be returned to Town Meeting, and that the Town's message had been in Senator Atkins' office for the past five months unheeded.

Chairman Powers explained that Senator Atkins had voted against the termination of final and binding arbitration.

Representative Gannett stated that she had suggested to Senator Atkins that he attend tonight's Forum, and she reported that the Senate Counsel is having problems with the Sudbury Special Police bill and is concerned about its constitutionality. She suggested that perhaps the Selectmen might meet with the Senate Counsel to discuss the issue. The Board directed the Executive Secretary to pursue the matter.

At 8:50 p.m., Chairman Powers adjourned the Forum for coffee and informal conversation.