

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1978

Present: Chairman John C. Powers 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.

Layouts for Street Acceptances--Article 7, 1978 Annual Town Meeting

Present: Highway Surveyor Robert A. Noyes, Town Engineer James V. Merloni.

The Board held a public hearing in accordance with G.L. Ch. 82 for the purpose of voting the layout of streets prepared for acceptance under Article 7 by the 1978 Annual Town Meeting, and to allow public inspection of said layouts.

The Board noted receipt of a communication dated March 16, 1978, from the Planning Board concurring with the Highway and Engineering Departments in recommending acceptance for the laying out of streets under Article 7 for the 1978 Annual Town Meeting.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson stated that Notice of Intention to Lay Out Town Ways was given on March 8, 1978, and that all appropriate abutters have been notified.

Following discussion and review of the plans it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve and sign the Layout for the following Town Ways: English Road, Hampshire Street, Hermitage Street, Canterbury Drive, Arrowhead Road, Phillips Road, and Meadowbrook Circle, and to discontinue certain portions of Meadowbrook Circle, as shown on the following plans: "Plan of English Road, Sudbury, Massachusetts as laid out by the Town of Sudbury," dated January 23, 1978; "Plan of Hampshire Street, Sudbury, Massachusetts as laid out by the Town of Sudbury," dated January 23, 1978; "Plan of Hermitage Street, Sudbury, Massachusetts as laid out by the Town of Sudbury," dated January 20, 1978; "Plan of Canterbury Drive, Sudbury, Massachusetts as laid out by the Town of Sudbury," dated January 18, 1978; "Plan of Arrowhead Road, Sudbury, Massachusetts as laid out by the Town of Sudbury," dated January 24, 1978; "Plan of Phillips Road, Sudbury, Massachusetts as laid out by the Town of Sudbury," dated January 19, 1978; and "Plan of Meadowbrook Circle, Sudbury, Massachusetts as laid out by the Town of Sudbury," dated December 16, 1977; all by the Town of Sudbury Engineering Department and as set forth in the Notice of Intention to Lay out Town Ways dated March 8, 1978, with the approval of the Town Engineer, Highway Surveyor, Planning Board and Town Counsel.

Use of Minuteman Road by Wayland for Access to Landfill

The question of granting permission for Wayland to use the portion of Minuteman Road which is in Sudbury for purposes of access to its landfill, with the understanding that the road would be one-way from Route 20 to River Road, as requested in a communication dated March 2, 1978, from Edward N. Perry, Executive Secretary of Wayland, was tabled on March 13th, the Board's last meeting, to await the results of the meeting between the Wayland Board of Selectmen and the representatives of the businesses in Waters complex. Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson stated that, as a result of that meeting, Mr. Perry reported that Mr. Waters was not agreeable to having Minuteman Road one-way from Route 20 to River Road.

Following discussion it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To respond to Mr. Edward N. Perry, Executive Secretary of Wayland, that the Board is aware of Mr. Waters' disapproval that a portion of the access road to Wayland's landfill be one-way on Minuteman Road (from Route 20 to River Road), and enclosing our copy of the approved minutes of the joint meeting on February 28, 1978, between the Sudbury and Wayland Boards of Selectmen, as recommended by the Executive Secretary, Richard E. Thompson.

Transfer Request #0765--Account 340-35

Present: Francis E. White, Building Inspector.

The Board considered a Request for Transfer from Reserve Fund (#0765) in the amount of \$850, for Account 340-35, Police Station Maintenance, needed to overhaul the generator.

Mr. Francis E. White, Building Inspector, stated that he obtained some figures on the cost of a new generator, as suggested by the Board at its previous meeting on March 13th, and gave the following information: 1) The cost of a new generator would be \$2,700 less a \$200 allowance for the old one--the adjusted cost would be \$2,500 (by public bid); and 2) It would take 2-3 months to completely secure and install the new generator. Mr. White further stated that it is his recommendation that the old generator be repaired as originally requested.

Following discussion it was on motion by Selectman Toomey unanimously

VOTED: To approve Request No. 0765 for a transfer from the Reserve Fund to Account 340-35, Police Station Maintenance, in the amount of \$850 for the purpose set forth in the numbered transfer.

Ambulance Billings--Report by Town Accountant

Present: John H. Wilson, Town Accountant.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson stated that the Board requested Mr. John H. Wilson, Town Accountant, to be present tonight to explain his Ambulance Billing Report dated March 2, 1978, especially the problem of the billing period in January, 1978.

Mr. John H. Wilson, Town Accountant, explained that since January, 1978, the Accounting Department received a new supply of customized billing statements and has mailed out an additional fifty-five bills.

Mr. Wilson said that there were ten people billed in January, contrary to the statement in his report saying that the last bills were made out on December 30, 1977. He also said that of the bills sent out, probably 60-70%, as he projected last year, would be collected by June, 1978.

Following discussion regarding the uncollected bills, Mr. Powers requested Mr. Wilson to give the Board an updated report of uncollected ambulance bills prior to June 30, 1978 (the end of the first fiscal year), at which time the Board, considering the recommendations of Mr. Wilson, will decide what should be done about unpaid bills.

Supplementary Progress Report of the Commissioner of Corporations and Taxation and the State Tax Commission

The Board acknowledge receipt of a communication dated March 16, 1978, from Town Counsel enclosing a copy of the Supplementary Progress Report of the Commissioner of Corporations and Taxation and the State Tax Commission for review and comment by the Board, their comments to be included in Town Counsel's proposed motion to the Supreme Judicial Court.

Chairman Powers said that the Board will need time to digest the material and will get back to Town Counsel relative to the same.

In answer to Selectman Toomey's question, Town Counsel said that minimum progress has been made on the corrective measures for a uniform plan of reassessment throughout the Commonwealth.

Chairman Powers stated that, after hearing from the Board, Town Counsel can take the next step to ascertain further information from the Department of Corporations and Taxation relative to their "Progress Report" on the uniform plan.

Town Counsel stated that the Commissioner of Corporations and Taxation, through the Attorney General's Office, has commenced suits against those towns who have no approved plans and have not sought funds to start a re-evaluation program.

Chairman Powers further stated that it is his belief that the particular request of the Attorney General, on behalf of the Department of Corporations and Taxation (D.C.T.) addressed to the court on the question of the authority of the Department to institute their own re-evaluation of certain non-complying communities, is not necessary as the original court order stated that D.C.T. already had authority to do so.

Mr. Powers said that the Board would get back to Town Counsel with their individual comments on the Supplementary Progress Report.

Petition to Alter the Crossing on Morse Road for Walkway--Penn Central Transportation Company

The Board reviewed a communication dated March 8, 1978, from Town Counsel enclosing a petition to be signed by the Board and sent to the County for the purpose of making an alteration to the Penn Central railroad crossing for the Morse Road walkway, initially requested by Robert Noyes, Highway Surveyor.

Following discussion it was on motion by Selectman Toomey unanimously

VOTED: To approve and sign the petition to the County Commissioners to alter the crossing of the Penn Central Transportation Company at Morse Road for walkway purposes, as recommended in Town Counsel's letter of March 8, 1978.

Order of Taking on Old Lancaster Road for Walkway--Penn Central Transportation Company

Following discussion it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To execute the Order of Taking necessary for the alteration of the Old Lancaster Road/Penn Central railroad crossing for walkway purposes, as recommended by Town Counsel in his communication dated March 8, 1978.

Second Annual Awards Program for the County's Conservation Commissions

The Board received a memorandum dated January 9, 1978, from the Middlesex Conservation District, stating that they are sponsoring the Second Annual Awards Program for the county's Conservation Commissions.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson stated that the Awards Program will recognize the achievements of a Conservation Commission's goals in managing and protecting the natural resources of its community, and listed the criteria for the selection of the Award winner in its memorandum dated January 9th.

Following discussion it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To direct the Executive Secretary to send a nomination of the Sudbury Conservation Commission to the Middlesex Conservation District in connection with its Second Annual Awards Program for the county's Conservation Commissions, as set forth in their memorandum dated January 9, 1978.

Proclamation Honoring Leo Norton, Selectman of Foxboro--March of Dimes Massachusetts Man of the Year

Following discussion it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To sign a proclamation dated March 20, 1978, to honor Leo Norton, Selectman of Foxboro, as March of Dimes Massachusetts Man of the Year.

Press Release--Sudbury Board of Selectmen Supports State/Local Revenue Sharing Bill

Chairman Powers read a proposed Press Release dated March 20, 1978, stating the support of the Sudbury Board of Selectman to the State/Local Revenue Sharing Bill filed by the state's municipal associations.

Following discussion it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To support and issue the Press Release dated March 20, 1978, by the Sudbury Board of Selectmen in support of the State/Local Revenue Sharing Bill filed by the state's municipal associations.

Sudbury & District Chamber of Commerce, Sudbury, Ontario--100th Anniversary Celebration

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson read a communication dated March 3, 1978, from Mr. Ronald C. Meredith, Manager of the Sudbury & District Chamber of Commerce, Sudbury, Ontario, relative to their plans to celebrate their City's 100th Anniversary, which are to include a trip to Sudbury, Massachusetts (and surrounding areas) during either the month of May or the end of August-beginning of September.

Following discussion it was on motion by Selectman Toomey unanimously

VOTED: To direct the Executive Secretary to respond to Mr. Ronald C. Meredith, Manager of the Sudbury & District Chamber of Commerce, Sudbury, Ontario, discouraging a spring tour because of our Annual Town Meeting, but encouraging a fall tour; and further encouraging them to contact the South Middlesex Chamber of Commerce relative to their plans to celebrate their City's 100th Anniversary.

Hosmer House

Present: Francis E. White, Building Inspector.

The Board reviewed a communication dated March 13, 1978, from the Building Inspector relative to an update of the first phase of a preventative maintenance program for the Hosmer House which includes maintenance costs and estimates for alarm systems.

Mr. Francis E. White, Building Inspector, stated that the "ultimate" alarm system would cost \$9,000 and includes: 1) fire alarm system to the Fire Station, 2) loss of heat alarm; and 3) movement (burglar) alarm.

Mr. White further stated that he has requested an increase from \$500 to \$2,500 per year for in-building maintenance problems such as: insulating, doors and windows repaired, etc., and that he would like to install an exterior fire alarm using a transfer from the Reserve Fund in the amount of \$800. Mr. White said that this temporary alarm system will later be connected to the fire station as part of the final and over-all alarm system.

Following discussion it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To direct the Building Inspector to prepare a request for a transfer of funds from the Reserve Fund in the amount of \$800 to the Hosmer House Maintenance Account, to begin a preventative maintenance program which includes the installation of an exterior fire alarm system, which will later be connected to the fire station, and to authorize the Executive Secretary to prepare a motion to increase the line item of the Town Buildings Maintenance Account from \$500 to \$2,500 as requested in a communication dated March 13, 1978, by Francis E. White, Building Inspector.

Hosmer House--Art Work

Chairman Powers reported that the Hosmer House contains approximately 250 paintings of various sizes which are now the property of the Town of Sudbury under the will of Miss Florence Hosmer, and that the total worth of said paintings is probably in excess of the value of the Hosmer House structure.

The Board received, as requested, a Proposal for Documenting Art Work of the Hosmer Estate dated March 13, 1978, from Victor L. Neumeier, Photographer, and following discussion it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To direct the Executive Secretary to prepare a possible motion for the 1978 Annual Town Meeting relative to the appropriation of funds for Documenting Art Work of the Hosmer Estate, as set forth in a Proposal dated March 13, 1978, from Victor L. Neumeier, Photographer.

Minutes

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Town Fathers Forum of February 27, 1978, the executive session of March 6, 1978, and the regular session of March 13, 1978, as submitted.

Chairman Powers recessed the meeting for ten minutes at 8:20 p.m.; the meeting was reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

Interview Candidate for Appointment to the Board of Appeals (Associate Members) and the Earth Removal Board

Present: Robert Savoy, Board of Appeals, Maryann K. Clark, candidate.

Chairman Powers stated that at the Board's last meeting on March 13, 1978, Ms. Maryann K. Clark, 118 Nobscot Road, was suggested by Selectman Ira M. Potell for appointment to the Board of Appeals (Associate Members) and the Earth Removal Board. Chairman Powers further stated that the Board, along with Mr. Robert Savoy, Board of Appeals, will interview Ms. Maryann K. Clark, who is present tonight.

Following the interview, Mr. Powers thanked Ms. Clark for attending tonight's meeting, and stated that no action will be taken on the appointment tonight, but that the Board and Mr. Savoy will review the well-qualified list of candidates and make an appointment to the Board of Appeals (Associate Members) and the Earth Removal Board in the near future when the Board will again take up the matter of appointments.

Sudbury Special Police Bill

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson reported that he had received a telephone call from Senator Atkins' office informing him that there was a problem in refileing Sudbury's Special Police bill which had been approved by the 1977 Annual Town Meeting under Article 18, and that it was Senator Atkins' contention that the bill, not passed by the 1977 legislative session, would have to be brought once again before a Sudbury Town Meeting before being submitted at another legislative session. Mr. Thompson stated that written confirmation of this position would be forthcoming from Senator Atkins' office.

Channel 4--Films of Sudbury "We're Four"

Mr. Richard E. Thompson, Executive Secretary, reported that Channel 4, "We're 4" films of Sudbury are available to the Town at a purchase price of \$280. Mr. Thompson recommended the purchase, if funds are available, but said that he would call Channel 4 for further information regarding the sale of the films.

Presentation of Gift to Chairman Powers by Selectman Toomey

Selectman Toomey presented Chairman John C. Powers with an engraved gavel in recognition of his years on the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Powers thanked Selectman Toomey and expressed his deep appreciation.

Chairman Powers recessed the meeting for ten minutes at 8:50 p.m.; the meeting was reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

Review of Town Finances and Budget Options

Present: David F. Grunebaum, John E. Murray, Joan Irish, Lynne Remington, Judith Cope, and W. James Hodder, Conservation Commission; Philip Felleman, Chairman, Anne Donald, Carol McKinley, Robert Norling, Linda Glass and Alan Grathwohl,

Finance Committee; William R. Firth, Planning Board; Frank H. Grinnell and Donald P. Peirce, Board of Assessors; Josiah F. Frost, Fire Chief; Francis E. White, Building Inspector; James V. Merloni, Town Engineer; and Robert Noyes, Highway Surveyor.

Chairman Powers asked the Executive Secretary to read the Board's letter dated March 7, 1978, which requested attendance of the various boards at tonight's meeting, and which enclosed a copy of a report dated February 28, 1978, prepared by the Town Accountant.

Chairman Powers stated that the purpose of tonight's meeting is to collectively seek concurrence of methods to stabilize Sudbury's tax rate by examining the possibilities of bonding and other budgetary reductions as set forth in Town Accountant's report dated February 28, 1978.

Mr. John H. Wilson, Town Accountant, explained that he had developed some charts last year and has updated them using available figures from the Finance Committee's recommendations relative to the budget and the special monied articles for the Annual Town Meeting. The charts explained such things as: Spiraling Tax Rate, Sudbury Operating Budgets, Total Property Value, Stabilized Town Population, Declining School Population and Town of Sudbury Cherry Sheet Comparisons.

In addition, Mr. Wilson said that he drafted three estimated 1978-79 tax rate sheets depicting a variety of rates based on the following alternatives: 1) tax rate of \$61.63, based on appropriating funds for the budget as recommended by the Finance Committee and all articles except #29; 2) tax rate of \$59.23, based on appropriating funds as mentioned in alternative 1 (above) but including bonding of Landham Road Reconstruction (Art. 11) and Surface Drains (Art. 15) and using \$40,000 from Overlay Reserve; \$57.26, based on the bonding and offsets shown in alternative 2 (above), but including the following budget reductions:

Local Schools		\$50,000
Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School		50,000
Conservation Fund		48,000
Fire Overtime		20,000
Police Overtime		10,000
Town Building Maintenance		2,000
Engineering		12,000
Casualty Insurance		12,000
Unemployment Compensation		20,000
Walkways	(appropriate \$25,000)	75,000
Pantry Road		12,000 (Defer)
Property Values	(appropriate funds 1/2 this year & 1/2 in FY 79-80)	40,000

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson stated that these reductions are a serious attempt to stabilize the tax rate and that, being a collective package, no one should feel that they are being singled out.

Mr. Thompson further stated that information has been received that the County assessment will be \$39,000 less, and we are also aware that there will be additional regional school aid, both of which should reduce the impact of cutting the budgets as suggested.

Mr. Cutting raised the question of the impact on the Town if the state took over the cost of county government.

Mr. Thompson responded that at the present time, there is no way to estimate that cost because of pending action, or inaction, on the part of legislators.

Mr. John E. Murray, Conservation Commission, expressed the interest of the Conservation Commission to cooperatively discuss the budget reductions as presented, but stated that they were not in agreement to reduce the budget for land acquisition at this time.

Mr. Philip Felleman, Chairman, Finance Committee, stated that his committee has met to discuss the Board's proposals and has taken no official position, but they would bring the alternatives to the attention of the Town Meeting body. Mr. Felleman added that his committee would continue to look into the possibilities of a lower tax rate between now and Town Meeting, especially in the area of bonding, and further budget reductions, as presented by Mr. Wilson.

Ms. Linda Glass, Finance Committee member, agreed that we all have a serious tax rate problem, but unless we have some feed-back from the two school committees, which is the major reduction projection, we are getting nowhere.

Mr. Powers agreed that the School Committees were conspicuous by their absence tonight.

Selectman Toomey suggested the possibility of calling a special meeting in order to hear from the school committees regarding their collective concurrences to the budget reductions.

Chairman Powers asked everyone present whether they could not agree, assuming that everyone else agreed, to go along with the reductions. Mr. Powers indicated there appeared to be a consensus that everyone would be willing if it were done collectively; however, the school committees' concurrence would be a major factor to any successful proposal to keep the tax rate at a minimum increase.

Chairman Powers thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and assured those present the Board would keep them informed of any new expected revenue resource that might diminish further budget reductions from those already voted by the Finance Committee.

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Attest: _____

Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary-Clerk