

TOWN FATHERS FORUM - 125th SESSION  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1978

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman John E. Murray convened the 125th session of the Town Fathers Forum and reported, on behalf of the Selectmen, the following activities and events during the past month.

- The following appointments were made:

Bradley Reed to the Historic Districts Commission;  
Robert A. Gottberg to the Operational Review Committee;  
Robert A. Noyes as Assistant Civil Defense Director;  
David Horn as a full member of the Board of Appeals; and  
Beverly Brenner and Frederick P. Armstrong to the Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee.

- The following resignations were received:

William F. Toomey from the Board of Selectmen;  
Michele Singer, former chairman of the Town Report Preparation Committee (the new chairman is D. Nadine Wallack); and  
Benjamin Goodwin, Jr., from the Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee.

- Special Town Election called for January 22, 1979. The deadline for filing intentions and taking out papers is December 14.

- Legislation:

The Selectmen took a position against supporting the King Amendment.  
The Selectmen opposed a proposed bill of Marlborough's calling for State takeover of local and regional educational operating costs.  
The Selectmen supported Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School in its efforts to receive its full entitlement under the local aid formula for Fiscal Year 1978-79.

- The Board has been meeting with the Personnel Board and the Finance Committee to finalize the Personnel Administration Plan and Classification and Salary Plans for the 1979 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Copies of the same have been distributed to those departments which will be affected. Chairman Murray asked that the Executive Secretary be contacted if there are any questions relative to the same.

- The Selectmen met with the Permanent Building Committee and the Police and Fire Chiefs regarding the construction of a Police/Fire Headquarters and renovation of the Town Hall.

- The Board met with the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee (LSRSDC) and the Lincoln Selectmen and Finance Committees of both Sudbury and Lincoln relative to the LSRSDC's plans to submit an article relative to authorization of a contingency fund. (The LSRSDC will not pursue the issue of parking fees at the High School.)

- The Board acknowledged receipt of a petition from the Newbridge Road area residents requesting acceptance of Newbridge Road as a public way; and the matter is being worked on for 1979 Annual Town Meeting acceptance.

- The Board met with the Committee on Town Administration regarding its study of the Tax Collector and the Town Treasurer positions.

- The Selectmen met with the Highway Surveyor regarding the Town's Landfill and Drainage projects.

Chairman Murray introduced the Chairman of the League of Women Voters, Susan F. Abrams, for a presentation of the activities of the League.

Mrs. Abrams distributed a pamphlet entitled, "Local Support Positions", prepared by the League of Women Voters stating positions which the League has established over the past year. Mrs. Abrams explained how the League reaches a consensus of those issues they wish to take a position on at their annual meeting, and how the position is reached by its members through research and information gathered by League members. Mrs. Abrams also said that the League members attend the various Town board, department and/or committee meetings and report back to the whole League on the action taken and information learned at those meetings; in addition, the League updates its positions by an annual review.

Mrs. Abrams said that some issues being discussed presently are as follows: on the local level, the five-member Board of Selectmen; on the state level, the fiscal policy; and on the national level, the urban situation. Mrs. Abrams asked for comments and/or questions.

Town Treasurer William E. Downing expressed his opinion that a combined position of Town Treasurer/Tax Collector would not work in this Town for many reasons, some of which he expressed, but stated that his previous objections to either position being appointed has softened and that it might be a good thing for the Town in the future. He asked that a member of the League of Women Voters stop into his office some day to further discuss the combined position.

In answer to Selectman Robert J. Hotch, Mrs. Abrams said that the League collects money through dues, through state and national funding, and through the committee's finance drives. She said that at the present time, the League has a booklet on sale for \$1.50, available in the Town Clerk's office, which includes a map of and information about the Town of Sudbury.

Chairman Murray thanked Mrs. Abrams for her presentation and stated that, following a presentation by Fire Chief Josiah F. Frost and professional fire protection engineer, Harold R. Cutler, any board, department or committee who would like to report their month's activities will have a chance to do so.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson stated that if anyone would like more information after hearing Chief Frost's report regarding the Master Plan, they should contact the Selectmen's office for a review or copy of information submitted by the Fire Chief dated November 16, 1978, relative to the same.

Chief Frost stated that there is a need for more effective fire prevention and emergency service (EMS) in our growing Town, and the Harold R. Cutler, his only "call man", would explain master planning and fire service, as a qualified professional fire protection engineer; he noted that the League, in the past, has supported the master planning concept.

Mr. Cutler said that master planning includes a wide range of areas in which the Town can take care of its fire protection. Mr. Cutler explained that fires are expensive to the Town due to fire losses and resulting fire insurance costs, and that Sudbury should be looking for more cost-effective ways to prevent fire loss.

Mr. Cutler stated that the Federal Government has prepared a set of guidelines for more effective master planning for those interested and to which master planning would be relevant. Mr. Cutler suggested some areas that master planning would address that apply specifically to Sudbury residents; such as, protecting against misuse of mini-bikes, gasoline storage and woodstoves.

Mr. Cutler also suggested some possible future fire prevention measures:

1. Sudbury could adopt a bylaw requiring private companies in Town to install certain fire protection devices or systems;
2. Sudbury could offer a tax credit to those same companies to encourage the installation of fire prevention equipment;
3. Sudbury could suggest a reverse action regarding increased water rates due to installation of company water sprinkler systems; and
4. Sudbury could adopt a formal method of communication relative to residents requiring emergency medical assistance.

Mr. Cutler explained that two phases were being proposed for the master planning project:

1. During Fiscal 1978/79 the Fire Department and possibly other agencies would perform basic fact-finding concerning fire loss activities and emergency medical service problems, which will identify specific fire problems in Town and analyze Fire Department records to clarify the nature of the fire loss control and EMS situation and the effectiveness of our present system of coping with the same.
2. During Fiscal 1979/80 a committee of Town officials, businessmen and citizens would be formed to review data gathered during phase one, compile additional data as necessary, and set methods and timetables for solving identified problems.

In concluding his presentation Mr. Cutler stated that an appropriation of \$500 was sought for Fiscal 1979/80 to permit the committee formed under phase two to retain secretarial help, purchase planning aids, and publish its findings.

The Executive Secretary suggested and the Board indicated concurrence that the \$500 sought for Fiscal 1979/80 for this Master Fire Plan Program be absorbed by departments involved, with no separate appropriation.

Chairman Murray thanked Fire Chief Frost and Mr. Cutler for their presentation of the Master Planning Program and stated the Board's support in this endeavor.

Board of Health - William W. Cooper

Dr. William W. Cooper, Board of Health Chairman and Chairman of the Operational Review Committee for the Wayland/Sudbury Septage Disposal Facility, stated that the Wayland/Sudbury Septage Disposal Facility grant application is proceeding well through the state and federal governments; and that as a result of the review process, the Towns of Wayland and Sudbury were requested to amend the inter-town agreement adopting the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) guidelines for user charges.

Dr. Cooper explained that the provisions in the state law require a charge to the homeowner or users of the facility to cover operating costs and stated that the Board of Health feels that to encourage use of a facility of this type the cost to the homeowner should be minimized. In this regard the Board of Health has contacted Representative Ann Gannett requesting her support in a slight change in the wording of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111 s.31D regarding the same. Dr. Cooper stated that the Board will discuss both these issues at up-coming Board of Health hearings.

Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District (MRVTSD) - Donald D. Bishop

Mr. Donald D. Bishop, MRVTSD representative, informed the Forum that their budget hearings have started; that there is an interest on the part of the Committee to have a Regional Finance Committee; that Sudbury is usually better represented than most of the other eleven towns at most committee meetings; that Sudbury's assessment will probably go up; that Minuteman is looking for a five-year accreditation this year; that Minuteman's clerical employees are trying to make a decision as to whether or not to form a union; and that the school district is making inquiries to various state and federal agencies concerning a possible alternative exit road for the school to alleviate the present hazardous traffic situation.

Conservation Commission - Judith A. Cope

Mrs. Judith A. Cope of the Conservation Commission stated that the \$6,000 appropriated at the 1978 Annual Town Meeting under Article 26 has been successfully utilized to complete a study giving an evaluation and classification of the wetlands in Town.

Finance Committee - Linda E. Glass

Finance Committee Chairman Linda E. Glass stated that the Finance Committee met with the Personnel Board and the Selectmen to help finalize the Personnel Administration Plan, the Salary Plans and the Clerical Study; and in addition, a sub-committee has been formed to research the possible establishment of a local retirement system. Mrs. Glass also stated that the Finance Committee is requesting that all boards, committees and departments do not exceed 4% of their last year's operating budget.

Board of Appeals - Robert P. Savoy

Mr. Robert P. Savoy of the Board of Appeals acknowledged, on behalf of the Board, the appointment of David Horn by the Selectmen. Mr. Savoy indicated that the Board is having a great deal of difficulty with its budget this year.

Mr. Savoy told the Selectmen that the Board will soon submit recommendations to them for an appointment to fill the vacancy on the Board of Appeals Associates.

Superintendent David Levington - Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School (LSRHS)

Superintendent David Levington reported that the School's budget process is somewhat more difficult than in previous years, and that on December 4, 5 and 6, there will be a review of the entire budget; he encouraged people to attend these scheduled meetings. Mr. Levington indicated that the Committee will finalize at their meeting tomorrow night what articles to submit (contingency fund, roof repair) for the 1979 Town Meeting Warrant.

Conservation Commission - Joan C. Irish

Conservation Commission member Joan C. Irish informed those present that the Conservation Commission is preparing an article relative to "scenic roads" for submission to the 1979 Annual Town Meeting. Mrs. Irish said that, as a representative to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), she attended her first MAPC meeting and that there is an abundance of available material which she will try to circulate to the appropriate boards, departments and committees.

Committee on Town Administration - Floyd Stiles, Jr.

Committee member Floyd Stiles, Jr., stated that the Committee on Town Administration (CTA) voted to submit three articles as follows:

1. To see whether the Town will vote to increase the number of Selectmen from three to five members.
2. To see whether the Town will vote to have the position of Town Treasurer appointed rather than elected; and
3. To see whether the Town will vote to have the position of Tax Collector appointed rather than elected.

There being no further reports to come before the Board, the meeting was recessed for coffee, refreshments provided by the League of Women Voters, and conversation at 9:10 p.m.