

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1979
127th Session

At 8:25 P.M. Chairman John E. Murray convened the 127th session of the Town Fathers Forum and reported the following Board activities during the last month.

-the Selectmen voted the reorganization of the new Board of Selectmen and their individual liaison assignments;

-the Board held several meetings and discussions relative to a Town dog pound site;

-the finalization and review of warrant articles has been completed;

-the Board reviewed tax limitation proposals, including that of Governor King;

-the Board met with the Coolidge Bank & Trust Co. and the Historic Districts Commission relative to the completion of the Village Green shopping center site;

-a memorandum to all departments and boards requesting energy conservation measures was issued by the Board of Selectmen;

-a site plan for 1 Union Avenue has been approved;

-the following resignations have been received:

from Anita Cohen and Thomas Blanchette from the Sudbury Housing Authority;

from Malcolm Beers from the Sign Review Board; and

from Pat Hersey from the Historical Commission;

-a State of Emergency was declared on January 25, 1979, due to an ice and flooding storm.

Representative Ann C. Gannett

Representative Ann C. Gannett stated that at a recent Middlesex County Selectmen's Association dinner which she attended with the Board of Selectmen, Senator Chester Atkins, who has been appointed Chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, addressed the issue of Tax Caps; she expressed her opinion that the general feeling toward the bill proposed by Governor King has put the "cart before the horse" because it asks cities and towns to cut back in their expenditures, when the State has no plan of reducing their own expenditures. She continued, however, to say that cities and towns across the Commonwealth do favor several good bills that limit spending on the State and local level. Mrs. Gannett said that the bill to increase the drinking age to twenty-one will be going to the Senate tomorrow, and then most likely to a Conference Committee; that there are

three bills pending regarding Civil Service pertaining to a better system of management, towns establishing a merit system, and the administration of the program.

Myron J. Fox - Board of Appeals

Chairman of the Board of Appeals, Myron J. Fox, stated that the Board is concentrating on finding a candidate for appointment to fill the vacancy on the Board of Appeals, Associate Member.

Lynne H. Remington - Conservation Commission

Chairman of the Conservation Commission, Lynne H. Remington, stated that the Commission has completed Wetlands Protection Act hearings on two different properties and issued two determinations of applicability; the Commission voted to support two 1979 Annual Town Meeting Warrant articles, Cluster Zoning and (10) Scenic Roads; the Commission was represented at an MDC meeting concerning the use of the Sudbury Reservoir as a source of water supply for the Boston area and is keeping alerted to the situation. Representative Gannett stated that she filed a bill to prohibit the MDC from taking further water from the Sudbury Reservoir, and indicated that she would contact the Commission regarding any new information on the same.

Anne W. Donald - Finance Committee

Finance Committee member Anne W. Donald stated that the Fincom has taken positions on all the 1979 Annual Town Meeting Warrant articles.

Joan C. Irish - Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

MAPC designee, Joan C. Irish, stated the election of MAPC members to the Executive Committee has been completed; that a sub-regional meeting with Wayland, Weston, Natick, Framingham and Sudbury was held relative to hazardous waste. Selectman William J. Cossart suggested that the Board of Health look into the issue of hazardous waste as it relates to the Town's industries, since there are so few, in accordance with the recommendation of Mrs. Irish. Chief Frost stated that he would be willing to participate in such an endeavor.

Alan H. Grathwohl - Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee (LSRSDC)

LSRSDC member, Alan H. Grathwohl, stated that their budget has been voted, which is up compared to last year; that there are several subcommittees working in the following areas: with the local schools relative to bussing contracts, with the community organization to form the Board of Directors of a radio station, with the faculty on early retirement benefits, planning the 25th anniversary of the LSRSDC, long-range planning; and Mr. Grathwohl expanded on the activities of the drama and athletic programs at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School.

John C. Powers - Historical Commission

Mr. John C. Powers of the Historical Commission said that they will be meeting tomorrow evening to determine their recommendations dealing with the contents of the Hosmer House. Mr. Powers expressed sorrow in the resignation of their chairman, Pat Hersey; he also publicly thanked the Woman's Club, on behalf of the Historical Commission, for their donation of \$100 to the Edwin Barrett Hosmer Fund.

Frank H. Grinnell - Board of Assessors

Assessor Frank H. Grinnell reported that negotiations are continuing with the firm who will be revaluating the Town.

John C. Cutting - Planning Board

Planning Board member John C. Cutting explained that the Planning Board has dealt with an increased number of subdivision plans and also has been meeting with various boards to explain the Cluster Zoning proposal.

Col. Paul J. Leahy - Council on Aging

Col. Paul J. Leahy of the Council on Aging stated that the weekly local shopping busses and the monthly bus to the Natick Mall are successfully filled; that the Council has held three clinics recently on mental health, the heart and nutrition; that the Fire and Police Departments helped the Council circulate vials of life, donated by Post Road Apothecary; and that a "hot line" program begun by the Council by which shut-ins can be telephoned on a daily basis (by volunteers) as a means of dealing with the needs of these elderly, perhaps handicapped, citizens, is available to anyone requiring this type of service.

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

The Chairman of MRVTSD, Donald D. Bishop, stated that for the second year out of three, Minuteman has had a championship basketball team; that the Finance Committee is recommending approval of their budget; that the MRVTSD has voted an amendment to their twelve-town regional agreement to provide for the addition of other towns, which is planned to be proposed at a special Town Meeting or 1980 Annual Town Meeting; and that the Superintendent at Minuteman has become interested in the introduction of cable television through the Lexington Board of Selectmen, from an educational standpoint.

On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary, the Board agreed to send a letter to the Selectmen of Lexington asking them to keep the Board up-to-date on this endeavor.

Eileen M. Todd - Talent Search Committee

Chairman Eileen M. Todd, Talent Search Committee, stated that the talent search list is up-to-date and new printouts have been prepared for the various committees to consult when making new appointments.

J. Owen Todd, Moderator

The Moderator stated that he is preparing a presentation for the newspaper in anticipation of Annual Town Meeting of the consent calendar articles (to be considered during the first night of the Annual Town Meeting), and a schedule of articles to be discussed on the various nights of Town Meeting.

Fire Chief Josiah F. Frost

Fire Chief Josiah F. Frost gave a final report on the ice and flood storm of January 25, 1979, during which a State of Emergency was declared in the Town of Sudbury. Chief Frost said the Fire Department pumped 145 cellars and responded to 55 other water-related emergencies; that the final loss figures submitted to Civil Defense on the storm were: \$15,000 for expenses of the Town's departments for overtime and materials, and \$200,000 for business losses. The Chief said that Sherman Bridge has been checked by the State, and that it has not yet been opened to heavier traffic.

The Chief stated that he will be attending a meeting relative to hazardous waste and stated that he will report back to the Selectmen regarding the possible problem areas relative to the same.

In regard to "Hot Line", Chief Frost said that he would like to arrange this type of system to be used in the case of a natural disaster; also that vials of life are available through the Fire Department for senior citizens.

Town Counsel Paul L. Kenny

A copy of Town Counsel's Outline of the Municipal Immunity Law, dated February 26, 1979, was distributed and reviewed, following which Town Counsel addressed some questions raised relative to the same.

The Executive Secretary recommended that a copy be forwarded to all boards, departments and committees.