

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1979

Present: Chairman John E. Murray, Robert J. Hotch and William J. Cossart.

The statutory requirements as to notice having been fulfilled, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman John E. Murray.

Organization of the Board

Chairman Murray stated that, as the Board considers its reorganization, he would like to reflect upon the past months of his chairmanship. Chairman Murray pointed out some of the highlights of the past months and expressed his feelings that the Board's most important accomplishment, during that time, was the Personnel Administration Plan. Chairman Murray stated that he was glad that the Board had gained some stability this past year.

Chairman Murray stated that future plans of the Board should include addressing the Town's financial situation - he stated his opinion that Town government is run on a shoe string - such as, in the area of replacing retiring Town Officials in a year facing a 13% inflation factor.

Mr. Murray stated that his past year as Chairman was very enjoyable and thanked publicly his fellow Board members for their help, as well as, Town Officials and others who had cooperated and assisted him, as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Murray stated that:

- he would like to see the Board continue to act as a Board, and not as individuals;

- he would like to see the Chairman continue to carry out the will of the whole Board; and

- in the near future, he would like the Board to consider meeting regularly twice a month, rather than weekly, in order that the Board members would have more time to attend assigned liaison committee meetings and possibly ease the workload in the Selectmen's office.

The Board agreed that this was a busy time of year to incorporate this type of change but requested that the Executive Secretary report back to the Board on the feasibility of meeting every other week, based on what impact this might have on the office and other related circumstances.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson recommended that the Board now consider the customary reorganization of the Board of Selectmen, which involves the following: the election of a chairman, the election of a Clerk to the Board of Selectmen; and setting the time and place of the meetings.

It was on motion by Chairman Murray unanimously

VOTED: To elect Robert J. Hotch Chairman of the Board of Selectmen until the next reorganization of the Board of Selectmen.

And it was further

VOTED: To reaffirm that Richard E. Thompson continue to serve as Clerk to the Board of Selectmen.

And it was further

VOTED: To reaffirm the place, day and time of the meetings - Lower Town Hall, Monday evenings at 7:00 P.M.

Selectmen's Liaison Assignments for 1979-80

The Board reviewed a breakdown of liaison assignments for 1979-80 to be distributed to all departments, boards, committees and commissions. Following a discussion of the same, the following changes were made:

1. Selectmen Murray and Hotch changed lists so that newly-appointed Chairman Robert J. Hotch would become liaison to the major departments and the Executive Secretary, with the following exceptions: Chairman Hotch will continue to be liaison to the Permanent Building Committee and Selectman Murray will continue to be liaison to the Conservation Commission.

2. Selectman Cossart will be liaison to the Committee on Town Administration (formerly performed by Selectman Hotch) and will also be liaison to the added Town Historian(s), since this may become a more active position.

It was on motion by Chairman Hotch unanimously

VOTED: To approve the liaison assignments of the Board dated February 5, 1979, with the above-mentioned changes.

Bids - Dog Pound Facility

Following discussion, on the recommendation of Town Counsel, it was on motion by Selectman Murray unanimously

VOTED: To reject all bids (general and sub-bids) received on October 2 and October 9 for the construction of a Dog Pound Facility because the bids received were in excess of the amount appropriated at the 1979 Annual Town Meeting for said construction.

The Board concurred not to rebid incorporating a private general contractor for the construction of the Dog Pound Facility, and it was further

VOTED: To refer the matter to Town Counsel, the Town Engineer and the Town Accountant for their concurrence in determining the legalities (State bidding requirements) of using the Town's in-house labor and forced account work (Highway, etc.) and going out for public bid for materials and certain trades only in excess of \$2,000.

In addition, the Executive Secretary stated that this week he would address immediately Selectman Cossart's major concern that the invitation to bid included all phases of the construction of the Dog Pound, rather than a request for materials only (most work to be done in house), as was initially planned when Mr. White estimated the required \$10,000 for the facility.

Town Counsel confirmed that the manner of public bids on the proposed Dog Pound facility were done in compliance with state bidding law requirements for public buildings.

Appointments - Special Constables (Non-paid)

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson referenced communications from Deputy Building Inspector Earl D. Midgley and Deputy Wiring Inspector Warren E. Boyce, both dated October 10, 1979, requesting they be appointed Special Constables (Non-paid) to adequately perform their respective duties.

On question from Selectman Cossart, Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson explained to the Board that the position of Special Constable would enable these men to enter on private property, in the line of duty; also, it would provide them with identification in conjunction with the same.

Mr. Thompson responded to the Selectmen by stating that this is the first time that the Deputy Building and Wiring Inspectors have requested to be so appointed, for the reason that they are presently performing full-time field inspections, in the absence of a Building Inspector.

Chairman Hotch pointed out that the authority of a Special Constable will allow the Deputies to issue, and post on buildings, such notices as "cease and desist" orders, if necessary.

Town Counsel responded to Selectman Cossart that it would not be financially, or otherwise, practical to have other elected Constables handle these situations, although it could be done in that way, rather than to appoint the Deputies as Special Constables.

Following further discussion it was on motion by Selectman Murray unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Earl D. Midgley, 37 Grindstone Lane, and Warren E. Boyce, 28 Stock Farm Road, as Special Constables (Non-paid), for terms to expire April 30, 1980, in accordance with requests, both dated October 10, 1979, from Messrs. Midgley and Boyce.

Minutes

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the regular and Executive Sessions of October 9, 1979, as amended.

General Meeting - Council on Aging

The Board agreed to table and reschedule to October 29th a general meeting with the Council on Aging, at their request, and acknowledged notice of a Finance

Committee meeting to be held on November 1 with the Council on Aging, to which the Selectmen have been invited to attend.

High School Student as Town Historian

At the request of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Superintendent David Levington, it was agreed to table a meeting with him and a student candidate for appointment as Town Historian.

General Meeting - Historic Districts Commission (HDC)

The HDC being informed, the Board tabled a meeting with them for general discussion, until a later date can be arranged.

CETA - Advisory Manpower Planning Board - Resignation of John H. Wilson

The Board acknowledged a communication dated October 9, 1979, from Patricia A. Pagano, Advisory Manpower Planning Board Chairperson for the Marlborough CETA Consortium, commending John H. Wilson for his past services on the Advisory Manpower Planning Board as a member for five years and Chairman this past year.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson referenced another letter dated October 9, 1979, to John H. Wilson, from Patricia A. Pagano, on behalf of the Advisory Manpower Planning Board, and a letter dated October 15, 1979, from the Mayor of Marlborough, both reflecting their appreciation for the caliber of Mr. Wilson's work.

Resolution - Francis E. White

The Executive Secretary read a Resolution, which he had prepared, in honor of Francis E. White, retiring Building Inspector, following which it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To sign a proclamation declaring October 28, 1979, Francis E. White Day in the Town of Sudbury.

Mr. Thompson distributed tickets, for the Selectmen to sell, to an affair to be held on October 28, 1979, in honor of Mr. White, at the Wayside Inn, 1800 Ballroom, from 6:30-8:30 P.M.

Current Items of Interest

Landham Road

Selectman Murray suggested that a portion of Landham Road be closed (open to residents only), between Pelham Island Road and Route 20, and informed the Board that it would be 3-5 weeks before the Boston Edison Company and New England Telephone Company complete the necessary removal and replacement of utility poles, which were the subject of concern in a letter from the Highway Surveyor, dated October 15.

Selectman Murray stated that Town Counsel was in concurrence with this recommendation, following their drive together on Landham Road today.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson referenced an editorial recently published in The Middlesex News, and noted that two weeks prior to that editorial, the Board had requested that the road be barricaded.

Following further discussion, with the concurrence of Town Counsel, it was on motion by Selectman Murray unanimously

VOTED: To request the Highway Surveyor to close a portion of Landham Road, in both directions, between Pelham Island Road and Route 20, (open to residents only) until further notice, due to unsafe driving conditions.

And, on the recommendation of Selectman Murray, it was further

VOTED: To direct the Executive Secretary to send a letter to the Boston Edison Company and New England Telephone and Telegraph Company expressing the Board's strong concerns, which are supported by Town Counsel, and requesting that they expedite removal and replacement of the utility poles as quickly as possible, in accordance with a communication dated October 15 from the Highway Surveyor, a copy of said letter to be sent to the State Department of Public Utilities enclosing a copy of the Highway Surveyor's letter of October 15 to the Board of Selectmen.

Mosquito Control Study Committee

Selectman Cossart reported that the Mosquito Control Study Committee held a meeting on October 4th representatives of many civic and youth groups. Selectman Cossart stated that the Committee received a great deal of support, and as a result of that meeting, there will be a Town-wide Bug Day in the Spring, prior to Annual Town Meeting. (He requested that the Executive Secretary schedule Bug Day for March 22, if possible, and that the date be widely publicized early so that youth groups could arrange their spring schedules accordingly.)

Selectman Cossart stated that the idea behind Bug Day is the concept of people doing things to help themselves - working together to reduce gypsy moths and mosquitos. Some of the plans for the program, which will be done prior to Bug Day, include:

- making kits with sprays and other necessary materials for treating gypsy moth nests before they hatch available to people;
- educate people to clean up streams behind their homes where mosquitos usually breed;
- demonstrations to be held at the Landfill on burning, or otherwise destroying, gypsy moths; and
- prior to Annual Town Meeting, the Committee will issue and distribute a position paper with a recommended program of gypsy moth and mosquito prevention methods.

General Meeting - Committee on Town Administration

Present: Raymond P. Clark, Chairman, Floyd Stiles and Anne D. Bigelow, Committee on Town Administration (CTA).

In keeping with the Board's policy to meet during each year with the various Town boards, committees and commissions, Chairman Hotch welcomed members of the Committee on Town Administration (CTA) for a general meeting with the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Clark stated that unlike other Boards, the CTA has no specific responsibilities; it addresses issues suggested to them, or chooses those which the Committee feels are appropriate or beneficial to the Town. Some of those issues are: a study of recall for Town elected officials; guidelines dealing with non-binding public advisory opinion questions on the local ballot; and extending the Highway Surveyor's term of office.

Mr. Clark stated that the Committee has not begun a study on recall of Town-elected officials; however, they have been asked by the Finance Committee to look into salaries and responsibilities of elected Town officials and plan to report back to them.

Mr. Clark stated that the Committee has taken it upon themselves, as a result of its recent survey, to evaluate how to improve the Town Meeting process and the Warrant. The Committee feels that Town Meeting could be more efficient; that the length of Town Meeting should be addressed; that there are problems with some of the presentations; and the Warrant should be more meaningful. Mr. Clark informed the Board that Mr. Stiles is heading a sub-committee dealing specifically with the issue.

Mr. Stiles mentioned that the committee is talking about: placing more emphasis on the use of the Warrant for descriptions/clarifications of articles; avoiding last minute passouts and changes in articles at and on Town Meeting floor; and improvement of presentations at Town Meeting, all of which affect the length and efficiency of Town Meeting. Mr. Stiles stated that the Committee would like to come back and further discuss their study with the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Clark suggested the possibility of addressing different articles at different times of the year - or having seasonal Town Meetings. He noted, however, that the CTA was formed to look into administrative affairs, rather than legislative affairs, of the Town. He added, however, that CTA could be the community board to explain what a "for" and "against" vote means on each article. Mr. Stiles pointed out the time problem - not enough time - between the Warrant closing and printing.

Chairman Hotch suggested that perhaps an impartial explanation, aside from the financial aspect of the article, explained by the Finance Committee in the Warrant, could also be placed in the Warrant to inform the public of what their vote would mean.

Mr. Clark responded to Selectman Cossart his opinion that the Highway Surveyor should be elected for three years, rather than for a one year term of office.

Responding to Chairman Hotch, the Executive Secretary said that non-binding public advisory opinion questions are allowed by vote of the Board of Selectmen or after the required signatures are obtained by the petitioners, if the Selectmen vote in the negative.

Mrs. Bigelow asked the Selectmen what their priorities were.

Selectman Murray replied that he would like the CTA to meet with the league of Women Voters on the topic of "a provision in the Town Bylaws for recall of Town elected officials" and suggested contracting the legislature for public information on the same.

Selectman Cossart answered that he would be interested in hearing recommendations for extending the Highway Surveyor's term of office, salaries of elected Town officials and any suggestions for improving Town Meeting.

Chairman Hotch responded that he was also interested in the salary study and Town Meeting restructure.

Mrs. Bigelow questioned the involvement of the CTA with the State Ethics Committee's proposed legislation dealing with financial disclosure for local officials, but felt, at this point, it would be sufficient for the CTA just to receive copies of the letters sent by the Town Boards and Committees opposed to such legislation, so that they will be knowledgeable of the facts, if inquiries were made through the CTA on that subject.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Hotch thanked the members of the CTA for attending tonight's meeting.

Current Items of Interest

Storage License Fee - Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School (LSRHS)

Following a brief discussion it was on motion by Chairman Hotch unanimously

VOTED: To waive the hearing and license fee of \$50.00 for the license approved by the Board on October 2, 1979 to store inflammables at the LSRHS, in accordance with a request dated August 1, 1979, from Ralph E. Brooks, Business Manager of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School District.

Meeting on Energy Conservation

The Executive Secretary informed the Board of the Framingham Board of Selectmen's area-wide energy meeting to be held on October 23, 1979, at the Memorial Building in Framingham at 7:30 P.M. The Board concurred with the Executive Secretary's recommendation to designate the Fire Chief to attend to represent Sudbury.

Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School (LSRHS) Surplus Space

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson referenced a communication dated October 10, 1979, from Richard H. Davison, Chairman of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee, relative to surplus classroom space at the High School.

Coatings Engineering Corp.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson referenced a notice from the State Water Resources Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of a period for public comment (November 5 - December 5, 1979) dealing with application to discharge wastewater by Coatings Engineering Corp.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Attest:

Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary-Clerk