

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1979
130th Session

At 8:00 P.M. Chairman Robert J. Hotch convened the 130th session of the Town Fathers Forum and reported the following Board activities during the last month.

-the Board reorganized, electing a new Chairman and keeping the same meeting schedule. At the same time, there were a few changes to liaison assignments which will be distributed to the appropriated committees;

-the Board made the following appointments:

Betsy DeWallace as Dog Officer
Donna Mahlowitz as Assistant Dog Officer
James V. Merloni as Acting Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Agent
Charles Quinn to the Sudbury Police Force
James Becker and James Warner to the Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee
Patricia Drobinski and Barbara Meehan to the Town Report Preparation Committee
Deputy Building Inspector and Deputy Wiring Inspector as Special Constables;

-the following licenses and permits were approved:

a License to store 35,500 gallons of fuel oil at the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School
a Utility Petition for one pole and conduit on Pelham Island Road at Beckwith Street;

-the Board disapproved a site plan for the establishment of Wendy's;

-the following Proclamations were issued:

to enlist financial support to keep the portraits of Martha and George Washington in New England
United Nations Day - October 24, 1979
Francis E. White Day - October 28, 1979;

-the Board met with:

the Sudbury Public Health Nursing Association and the Board of Health - discussion included providing any assistance necessary during winter months due to heating and fuel problems
the Town Report Preparation Committee
the Sudbury Nonprofit Housing Corporation
the Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee;

-the Selectmen signed an agreement with the Massachusetts Historical Commission implementing a grant to provide a preservation Plan Historic Structures Report for the Hosmer House;

- a petition was received to have Forest Steet accepted as a Town Way;
- the Board approved borrowing of \$240,000 for Landham Road construction, and \$1,000,000 in Tax Anticipation Notes;
- Josiah F. Frost, Civil Defense Director, was designated as coordinator in conjunction with the Governor's Winter Planning Group, dealing with fuel supplies;
- the Board sent out requests for proposals for water quality studies for Sudbury;
- bids (totaling \$51,350) for dog pound construction, which far exceeded the appropriation, were rejected;
- the Board requested the Highway Surveyor to close a portion of Landham Road until utility poles are removed;
- the Selectmen imposed building code labelling requirements for solid fuel burning appliances (wood stoves) and factory-built chimneys in Sudbury until 1980; and
- Chairman Hotch noted that Boards should begin preparation of their Annual Town Meeting articles, budgets and Capital Improvement Program plans, and reports for the Annual Town Report.

Dr. Joseph D. LoPresti-Superintendent of Sudbury Public Schools

Dr. LoPresti reported that business is returning to normal following the bus confusion during school opening this year; noted an enjoyable time working with the Finance Committee and stated his opinion they will have a good working relationship this year; has forwarded a bus chronology to the Selectmen and plans to meet with Town Counsel with regard to the new bus contract; and concluded by publicly thanking the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School District Committee for its cooperation which resulted in an agreement for temporary bus service with the Wellesley Motor Coach Company and Sudbury Public Schools.

Edward L. Glazer - Finance Committee

Mr. Glazer reported that Frederic T. Hersey had been elected to the Finance Committee to fill a vacancy and Joseph J. Slomski elected Vice Chairman; budget packages have been distributed and any committees with questions should contact their Finance Committee liaison (some liaison assignments have been reassigned); two transfers have been approved - Hosmer House and Building Department salaries.

Representative Ann C. Gannett

Representative Gannett congratulated Chairman Hotch as the new Chairman of the Board of Selectmen; expressed embarrassment concerning the stand-off between the House and the Senate, resulting in delays in addressing bills; mentioned Senate Bill 1924, which might be of interest to the Town, which is an "act to make the prevailing wages for construction work the same throughout the State",

and recommended that cities and towns voice objection to this legislation; requested that citizens, through their leadership in the Senate and House, voice their opinion regarding the energy bill.

Frank H. Grinnell - Board of Assessors

Mr. Grinnell stated that there will be a minimum of two more weeks wait for notification from the State regarding our tax rate. Responding to Selectman Cossart, Mr. Grinnell stated that the revaluation, in progress now, will affect Fiscal Year 1981 real estate tax bills.

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

Mr. Bishop stated that, thanks to the Selectmen, MRVTSD received an adjustment in State aid - there has been a \$300,000 reduced assessment for the twelve towns of which Sudbury will receive a small portion; reported that they will begin working on their new budget shortly after the first of November.

Fire Chief Josiah F. Frost

Chief Frost reported that the Fire Department has completed removing and re-installing the fire alarms and cable on Landham Road; in-service inspections of all the elementary schools have been completed; he has been working with new development in North Sudbury to install fire alarms; he plans to attend the energy meeting held by the Framingham Board of Selectmen in Framingham.

Judith A. Cope - Conservation Commission

Mrs. Cope stated that the Conservation Commission is administering the Wetland Protection Act in conjunction with the conservation duty to protect the water quality of the Town; working with the Selectmen on a water quality study for the Town; in light of the upcoming Annual Town Meeting, the Commission is thinking about new land acquisition, while at the same time, considering vandalism of conservation land and abutter objections to conservation land; cautioned residents that by State law there is no hunting allowed on Sundays and talked about the difficulties involved in patrolling the posted areas (wildlife areas). Representative Gannett stated that she has received calls, on several occasions, from residents reporting hunters in the wildlife preserves.

Richard H. Davison, Chairman, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee

Mr. Davison reported that Friday evening, October 26, at the Regional High School, there will be a "fund run" in honor of Diana Golden, to raise money for her trip to Colorado, where she will practice with a team, for which she was selected to participate in the United States Handicap Olympics; Saturday, October 27, is the day for the Senior auction, an annual event to raise money for the senior class' gift to the school; the Regional School Committee and Teacher's Association are negotiating for the third year of a 3-year contract.

Eileen M. Todd, Chairman - Talent Search Committee

Mrs. Todd stated that a Talent Search Committee advertisement in the Bentley

Calendar last week resulted in one application received; the Committee is working on a program to have the Talent Search list put on the Town computer.

J. Owen Todd - Moderator

Mr. Todd reported that both Richard C. Hill and Leona C. Johnson have resigned from the Ancient Documents Committee and their replacements are Eleanor Dickman and W. James Lyons.

Russell P. Kirby, Chairman - Ancient Documents Committee

Mr. Kirby reported that the Records Management Program is completely installed; Selectman Cossart suggested that the Selectmen officially endorse the program.

Joan C. Irish - Mosquito Control Study Committee

Mrs. Irish reported that the Mosquito Control Study Committee met recently with various youth counselors and have scheduled "Bug Day" in the Town of Sudbury for March 22, 1980; in conjunction with Bug Day, she will attend a meeting on the subject of pesticides and methods of insect control of the Massachusetts Audubon Society in November.

John A. Wilson - Town Accountant

Mr. Wilson updated the Town Fathers Forum on the Town's financial position explaining anticipated transfers from the Reserve Fund and 1980 shortfalls and ways for the Town to manage financially between now and the 1980 Annual Town Meeting.

The following information sheets were distributed:

1979-1980 Cash Position
Projected 1979-1980 Deficits
Net \$ to be Raised - 1978-1979 vs. 1979-1980.

Mr. Wilson pointed out that anticipated deficits amounting to \$398,000 include fuel and busing transfers, as well as the need to borrow due to the delay in tax bills going out and consequently the delay in tax monies coming in; also, it is not yet determined what impact the October 1st holiday for the Pope's visit will have.

In reviewing the Town's cash position, Mr. Wilson noted that Available Funds is estimated to be \$409,519 at the commencement of the 1980 ATM, which will not allow much assistance in offsetting next year's budget.

Mr. Wilson concluded that \$10,680,744 must be raised this year compared to \$10,578,151 last year.

Representative Gannett asked if the Board were aware of any cities or towns which might be getting together to sue the State because of the money it is costing the cities and towns as a result of the State's delay in issuing tax figures, and suggested that the Executive Secretary, along with the Massachusetts Municipal

Association, put together a list of problems between towns and the State, for determining whether any action should be taken against the Commonwealth.

Town Fathers Forum adjourned at 9:00 p.m.; Chairman Hotch recessed the meeting for coffee and conversation - the meeting was called back to order at 9:15 p.m.

Nancy D. Lewis, Chairman, Park and Recreation Commission

Ms. Lewis explained to the Selectmen that she was unable to attend the Town Fathers Forum because of another commitment, but at the end of the Selectmen's meeting asked for an opportunity to report, on behalf of the Park and Recreation Commission.

Ms. Lewis reported that the Commission now has a new Secretary, Agnes Brooks, to replace Joan Lawhorn; and evaluation was made on the summer playground and swim programs - it was decided that next summer there would be central pick-up points for children, as the bus ride to Walden Pond was too long; announced the November 4 opening for an Exercise Course (Parcourse) at Hop Brook Marsh; have plans to put in two more soccer fields at Haskell Land with the balance of funds reserved for the development of the Haskell Land; the Commission will be involved with "First Night" New Year's Eve celebration.

Ms. Lewis stated that the Commission would like to discuss with the Selectmen, at some future time, the possibility of providing the Town with a horseback riding ring, especially for the use of the 4-H Club, which depends on this activity annually for the purpose of raising funds to keep their program going. Ms. Lewis stated that the Park and Recreation Commission has discussed the use of the Parkinson Land and certain conservation land and suggested discussing their plans, jointly with the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen, at a mutually convenient time. The Selectmen concurred.

Attest: _____

Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary-Clerk