

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1979

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

The statutory requirements as to notice having been fulfilled, the meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M. by Chairman Robert J. Hotch.

Joint Meeting - Council on Aging

Present: Col. Paul J. Leahy, Chairman, Marion D. Letteney, Elinor L. Bentley, Donald R. Oasis, Josephine M. Doyle, Albert S. Feinberg, and Shepard S. Johnson, Council on Aging; Daniel W. Bortle, Trustee of Sudbury Congregational Church.

Chairman Hotch welcomed the Council on Aging and apologized, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, for the late start of the meeting.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson stated that a few weeks ago the Board had planned to meet with Council on Aging but the Council requested a postponement to further negotiate and discuss among themselves/the subject of the rental of the Sudbury Congregational Church as a Drop-in Center for the elderly. Mr. Thompson stated that tonight's meeting will be to discuss the same, as well as to address a transfer requested, #0851, from the Reserve Fund to the Council on Aging, Account #518-21, dated October 23, 1979, for rent and utilities for a period from March 1, 1980, to June 30, 1980, for the old parsonage of the Sudbury Congregational Church, Concord Road. Mr. Thompson referenced a two-page information sheet, attached to the transfer request, detailing the Council's plans for the use of the parsonage, and explaining that the Congregational Church will be investing approximately \$40,000 to renovate the structure.

Col. Leahy, Chairman of the Council on Aging, remarked as follows:

-the old parsonage is a very old home, badly in need of renovations; the heating system will be converted to gas, as the church was a few years ago. The house is 15-20 feet back from Concord Road, this side of the new parsonage, and the Church will allow use of the present parking lot in the rear of the Church. A ramp is proposed to the side entrance of the building, from the parking lot, to accommodate wheelchairs. The Council is hopeful that the Highway Department will pave a walkway approximately 25-30 feet long to the door, since the present gravel walk is rather difficult for older people to negotiate.

-the Church will rent the house to be as a Drop-in Center for \$450 a month; the Council will assume the cost of utilities, which are roughly estimated to be about \$1,000 a year. The Council, in turn, plans to rent out the top floor of the house - hopefully to an elderly couple, who will pay the Council a modest rent of

approximately \$200 a month (including heat), and who will be caretakers of the building.

- the transfer of \$2,000, which the Council is requesting, is an estimated amount needed for a four-month period for rent and utilities, beginning March 1, 1980, when the contractor is expected to be finished with the renovations. The Council hopes to have the Drop-in Center open five days a week.

Chairman Hotch asked if the Council would pursue Federal funding if it is available.

Col. Leahy responded in the affirmative and stated that he is on the Board of Directors at Baypath, and, although there is no grant money available at this time, it is possible funds will be available within the next five months.

Mr. Richard Piper of 30 Rice Road stated that he had read a newspaper article indicating that the Council would teach senior citizens beano and checkers, and that about twenty-five people come to their present Drop-in Center; he concluded by stating \$35,000-40,000 is too much money to be invested by the Town for a Drop-in Center for just a few of the elderly.

Col. Leahy clarified by stating that the Church is expecting the money for the renovations.

Mr. Piper further stated his opinion that it is wasteful to spend a lot of money for only a few people; and that this community should teach people (elderly) to be useful, and not wasteful (playing beano and checkers).

Col. Leahy had mentioned earlier that Donald Oasis had handled most of the dealings with the Church and Dr. Oasis commented as follows:

- the Church's investment will include plastering of walls and ceilings, conversion of the heating system, insulation of the building and certain other things.

- since location of a Drop-in Center is of prime importance, the old parsonage is ideal since it is near the library, stores, banks, public transportation and other services.

- the first floor is conducive to all kinds of problems due to the large area of two adjoining rooms and a kitchen.

- the rental of the upper floor of the building, as well as funds from Baypath (which could help to provide hot meals through a local school food service department) will aid the Council's financial burden.

- suggested that the Council could use a person to organize programs and/or act as a Social Worker at the Drop-in Center. The number of senior citizens in Town is in excess of eight hundred.

Dr. Oasis explained the Council's feeling of a commitment toward the Church to have a lease longer than four months. The Executive Secretary explained that every lease which the Town enters into has a clause stating that it is subject to Town Meeting appropriation.

Mr. Bortle commented, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Sudbury Congregational Church, that in view of the seemingly unique situation of the use of the parsonage for a Drop-in Center, the Church would like to negotiate a long-term lease with the Town, on behalf of the Council of Aging.

Responding to Chairman Hotch, Town Counsel stated that general liability would be covered under our Town liability insurance.

Mr. Piper questioned the \$2,000 transfer request before the Selectmen tonight; both Selectmen Hotch and Cossart responded that the Finance Committee, at a subsequent hearing, would have the final say on the transfer, if the Selectmen endorse the same tonight.

Dr. Oasis stated that the Council will be glad to return unused funds at the end of the four-month period (June 30, 1980).

Selectman Cossart informed the Council that the Board of Selectman had been approached by the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee regarding alternate uses for about 4,000 square feet of excess space at the High School, and asked if the Council could use any of this space, since the High School offers a medical facility, a library, food preparation, unlimited numbers of professionals, utilities, parking, snow removal etc.

Following a lengthy discussion, during which many Council members commented, it was a consensus that, although the High School was adequate in the many ways Selectman Cossart had pointed out, it was inadequate for the following main reasons:

- location;
- parking areas are a long distance from the school entrances; involves interference of school buses and traffic;
- atmosphere not home-like; elderly feel intimidated, at times, by students.

Following further discussion it was on motion by Selectman Murry unanimously

VOTED: To endorse Request #0851, dated October 23, 1979, for a transfer from the Reserve Fund to Council on Aging, General Expense, Account #518-21, in the amount of \$2,000 for the purpose of providing funds for the use of the Old Parsonage of the Sudbury Congregational Church, Concord Road, (for rent and utilities), for a Drop-in Center for the period of March 1, 1980 - June 30, 1980, and to forward a copy of this vote to the Finance Committee.

Joint Meeting - Town Clerk and Board of Registrars

Present: Betsey M. Powers, Town Clerk; and Jean A. Griffin, Board of Registrars.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson stated that tonight's meeting with the Town Clerk and the Board of Registrars is in keeping with the Board's policy to meet on a periodic basis with all boards, commissions and elected officials. Mr. Thompson informed the Town Clerk that Selectman Cossart had personally commended her at a

recent Board meeting on her communication relative to the pending legislation dealing with disclosure of personal information by candidates for local election.

Mr. Thompson suggested that the Town Clerk inform the Board as to the scope of involvement of the Board of Registrars in regard to elections.

Town Clerk Betsey M. Powers introduced Jean A. Griffin of the Board of Registrars. Mrs. Powers explained some of the duties of the Board of Registrars, such as; being responsible for preparing the list of persons (census taking), determining eligibility of people to vote, and being in charge of recount, if required.

Mrs. Powers noted in discussion relating to maintenance of voting machines that she schedules professional inspections of the voting machines every four years.

Mr. Thompson commented on the upcoming task of Federal census taking, and referenced a recent conference he attended, pointing out some of the highlights of a particular session dealing with Federal census taking; specifically pointing out the ramifications of new Federal/State aid being on the 1980 Federal census.

Presidential Primaries

In response to a request dated October 25, 1979, from the Town Clerk, it was on motion by Selectman Cossart unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Town Clerk to group precincts for voting in the Noyes School auditorium for the presidential primaries, as allowed by Section 70C, Chapter 53 of the General Laws.

Chairman Hotch thanked Mrs. Powers and Mrs. Griffin for attending tonight's meeting.

Town Audit

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson referenced a letter of client representation, dated October 23, 1979, provided for the Selectmen by the auditing firm of Laventhol & Horwath. Mr Thompson explained that the wording of the letter, with some exceptions, was worked out by Laventhol & Horwath, and that the Town Accountant has signed the letter and verified the figures in the report.

On recommendation of the Executive Secretary, it was on motion by Chairman Hotch unanimously.

VOTED: Sign a letter of client representation, dated October 23, 1979, to be forwarded to the firm of Laventhol & Horwath, following the signing of the same by the Town Treasurer and the Tax Collector.

MBTA Funding

Present: Clifford J. Hughes, MBTA Designee.

Chairman Hotch referenced a communication dated October 15, 1979, addressed to Governor King and Members of the MBTA Advisory Board from James L. Sullivan, City Manager of Cambridge, requesting comments on his proposal for a special assessment district to fund the MBTA.

MBTA Designee Clifford J. Hughes stated that, while he supports the proposal, he did not feel it was practical, as a new tax system would have to be instituted for the MBTA.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson stated his opinion that State and communities cannot afford to keep the MBTA with a rising deficit each year.

Mr. Hughes expressed his opinion, with respect to the proposal, that industries would not be willing to have their payrolls assessed for MBTA subsidy; and that it was not reasonable to assess according to business location; i.e. those businesses located outside a given area would be assessed a lesser amount than those businesses located closer to the MBTA service; also smaller industries would be exempt from the tax.

Mr. Hughes explained that Boston controls 30% of the votes of the communities included in the MBTA District - Sudbury has one vote compared to Boston's 59.

Mr. Hughes referenced the MBTA's 1980 budget, pointing out inconsistencies such as: Sudbury will be charged \$176,000 in 1980 - a 4% decrease from 1979; however, Boston went from thirty-five million to \$33,800,000 - a 5% decrease. The reason for the decrease, although it is not easy to understand why Boston's decrease is more than Sudbury's, is due to Federal assistance in the amount of \$30,000,000.

Mr. Hughes supported the idea of doubling the fare but does not feel that Boston will support it.

The Selectmen expressed frustration of the overall situation. Town Counsel informed the Board that there is one court case pending, to his knowledge, relative to a Town's dissatisfaction of an MBTA assessment. Town Counsel later responded to Mr. Hughes that it would be very time-consuming for the Town to bring the matter of its assessment to Court, but if the Selectmen make a determination that this is the manner in which they want to proceed, he recommended that it would be for the purpose of restricting further assessment, rather than to seek reimbursements for past assessments.

The Executive Secretary and Mr. Hughes responded to Mr. Richard Piper of 30 Rice Road that the assessment to communities is based on a very complicated formula.

Mr. Hughes replied to Selectman Murray that he did not know anyone from Sudbury who rode the MBTA.

It was suggested by Selectman Cossart that Town Counsel and Mr. Hughes

review the method by which Sudbury is assessed, in order for the Selectmen to deal with this matter "once and for all"; also, on the recommendation of Chairman Hotch, Mr. Hughes was requested to compile a list of inequities with other towns and report back to the Board. Town Counsel stated that he would report back to the Board at the beginning of December, following his meeting with Mr. Hughes.

Chairman Hotch thanked Mr. Hughes for attending and for his consideration in this matter.

Special Holiday - Pope John Paul II's Visit to Boston

Following a brief discussion it was on motion by Selectman Cossart unanimously

VOTED: To disapprove holiday pay to the Fire and Police Departments for the Special Holiday in honor of Pope John Paul II's visit to Boston on October 1, 1979, in accordance with a communication dated October 11, 1979, from Attys. Murphy, Lamere and Murphy, subject to Labor Relations Counsel Richard W. Murphy's concurrence in writing, following his review of both the Fire and Police Union contracts.

Petition for Town Ways - Ridge Hill and Hunt Roads

The Board acknowledged receipt of communications dated October 19, 1979, and October 24, 1979, from Perry F. Steinberg and Raoul Pettai, respectively, requested that Ridge Hill and Hunt Roads be accepted as Town Ways.

On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary, it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To forward the above-mentioned communications to both the Town Engineer and the Highway Surveyor, as well as the Planning Board for a hearing prior to the 1980 Annual Town Meeting, and to direct the Executive Secretary to officially respond to the petitioners as to the Board's action.

Responding to Chairman Hotch, the Executive Secretary stated that he will report back to the Board on the status of a new official Town Map, dealing with recent accepted streets and way. Selectman Hotch was especially concerned that the School Departments receive new maps prior to developing new busing schedules for next fall.

Utility Petition #79-99 - Boston Editson Company and New England Telephone & Telegraph Company for Concord Road

It was on motion by Chairman Hotch unanimously

VOTED: To acknowledge receipt of, and file with the Town Clerk, Utility Petition #79-99 of the Boston Edison Company and the New England Telephone & Telegraph Company, stating that one pole located along Concord Road, northwesterly side approximately 170 feet northeast of Hudson Road, has been removed and the location abandoned, as shown on plan by Boston Editson Company Engineering and Construction Department, dated August 22, 1979.

Water Supply Plan

On the recommendation of Chairman Hotch, the Executive Secretary was directed to request the Water District to complete a questionnaire to be submitted to the Water Resources Commission (WRC) relative to a basic water supply plan for Sudbury in compliance with the WRC's Water Planning Regulations, to be entitled "Outline of Municipal Water Resources Management Plan - Water Supply Element", which is due December 31, 1979. The Board will address the same following the Water District's completion of the questionnaire.

Minutes

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept the minutes of the Regular Session of October 22, 1979, as drafted.

Current Items of Interest

Water Supply/Chemical Waste

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson informed the Board that he had received the videotape of the Channel 2 series on chemical waste. Selectman Cossart suggested that perhaps a program could be organized for the Town on water supply and pollution, whereby the use of this tape would put this into perspective. The program could possibly be held at the High School.

Mr. Clifford Hughes referenced a letter from the Public Works Department of the Town of Bedford regarding sodium content in the Town's water, and indicating a jump in their water charges from \$4 a month to \$25. Selectman Cossart pointed out that in the past two years, there have lost the major losses of water in communities - 24 communities have lost the major portion on their water supplies through pollution.

Dog Pound

The Executive Secretary referenced Town Counsel's letter of October 29, 1979, furnishing a timetable for advertising specifications for the sub-trade work for the construction of a town dog pound immediately. Chairman Hotch suggested that the various boards be notified immediately.

Hauling of Gravel - Route 27

Mr. Richard Piper of 30 Rice Road confronted the Board with what he believes to be an intolerable situation - the hauling of gravel over Route 27 in Sudbury by an excessive amount of 16-wheel trailer trucks. Mr Piper said that he once counted ten trucks in one hour.

Selectman Hotch asked if there was a means to restrict these trucks and if there was a means to limit weight or size of trucks. Responding to Chairman Hotch, Town Counsel stated that the Town cannot place restrictions on a county road - the police cannot stop commercial vehicles from using county roads, and a truck is allowed to carry a load according to the capacity specified on his registration.

Selectman Hotch explained to Mr. Piper that the Board could not continue to discuss the matter at this time because of another scheduled meeting, but that if he wishes to pursue it, he could communicate through Town Counsel's office.

Executive Session

It was on motion by roll call unanimously

VOTED: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the reputation and character, physical condition or mental health, rather than the professional competence, of a single individual; to discuss strategy for collective bargaining or litigation where open discussion of the same may have a detrimental effect; and to discuss the Charity Fund.

(Roll call vote; Chairman Hotch in favor; Selectman Cossart in favor; and Chairman Murray in Favor.)

Chairman Hotch stated that Public Session would not reconvene following the Executive Session.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson referenced a communication dated October 25, 1979, from the Selectmen's office explaining reasons for entering Executive Session to discuss the grievance filed by the International Brotherhood of Police Officers on behalf of Patrick J. Manzo.

Chairman Hotch recessed the meeting at 8:20 P.M. for a coffee break; the meeting was call back to order at 8:30 P.M.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 P.M.

Attest: _____
Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary-Clerk