

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 1980

Present: Chairman John E. Murray, Anne W. Donald and William J. Cossart.

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman Murray convened the 134 session of the Town Fathers Forum. Chairman Murray welcomed the recipients of the 1979 Town Report student art awards, given in five categories, noting, as well, that other awards of honorable mention would be given by the Town Report Preparation Committee. Awards and checks for \$5.00 were then presented to: Jennifer Gale, Will Lukus, Cathy Buckley, Jack Keenan and Carolyn Martin. Chairman Murray announced receipt of a Certificate of Merit by the Massachusetts Municipal Association for outstanding achievement in the 1978 Town Report Contest, and congratulated the Town Report Preparation Committee for its fine efforts.

Chairman Murray welcomed Eleanor Dickman who made a presentation on behalf of the League of Women Voters on the subject of "Vandalism".

Mrs. Dickman asked the question, "What are your priorities and how would you invest a community effort that would enlist the most effect from the official leaders in this town?"

Mrs. Dickman expressed her feeling that officials and school administrators should establish priorities and policies and translate them into effective programs, and that the task of the League would be clarification and promotion of these programs. Mrs. Dickman stated one goal of the League this year, which is to form a special group, including students and people of the community, to volunteer in and support existing and new programs designed to deal with the problem of vandalism.

Chairman Murray responded that there is no easy answer to the question which Mrs. Dickman repeated at the end of her presentation and reviewed some of the on-going programs such as, the possible use of a detached social worker on a trial basis, strong steps taken by High School administrators resulting in a decrease in costs related to vandalism, and the neighborhood watch program handled through the Police Department.

Selectman Donald suggested that the League could assist by promoting the neighborhood watch program by setting up hostesses within neighborhoods for morning coffees and/or evening meetings.

Selectman Cossart reviewed some of the above-mentioned programs and added that the police Department may be granted additional funds for extra auxiliary policemen, as well as recently approved funds for three additional patrolmen, and mentioned the newly-formed Juvenile Restitution Program Committee.

Mr. Lawrence Faye suggested the creation of a teen center using excess school facilities and mentioned the date of June 19 for a meeting to further discuss this possibility.

Mrs. Judith Cope suggested publicizing to residents the cost on their tax dollars going toward vandalism-related expenses.

Following further discussion and comments, Chairman Murray thanked Mrs. Dickman for her presentation to the Forum and went on to report the following Board activities during the last few months.

- the Selectmen acknowledged the efforts of the Office of Cultural Affairs and the many volunteers who have worked long hours on the May Arts Festival, providing Sudbury with a range of events not available before.
- The Selectmen have established and appointed two new committees: the Local Arts Council and the Juvenile Restitution Program Committee.
- A majority of the annual reappointments have been made by the Board.
- The Selectmen issued an Inflammables Storage License to Hilco Supply Company.
- The Board approved the site plan applications of Methods, Inc., 65 Union Avenue, for a second story addition, and of Sperry Research Center, 100 North Road, for 2 temporary trailers.
- The Selectmen approved the expenditure of \$600 for the Heritage Park account to complete payment of improvements and install waste receptacles.
- Licenses for Bullfinch's, a restaurant to be located at Wayside Plaza, were approved by the Board.
- A Beer and Wine Package Store License for Meat King, Wayside Plaza, was approved by the Board.

Chairman Murray announced that a Special Town Meeting is scheduled for June 24th.

Representative Ann C. Gannett

Mrs. Gannett commented on the uniqueness of Sudbury in dealing with matters at hand and likewise would not fail in its efforts to curb the vandalism problems. Mrs. Gannett congratulated Anne Donald in her election to the Board of Selectmen.

Representative Gannett reported briefly on the budget on local aid (which she stated the House had passed); tax cap proposals to limit property taxes (the so-called proposition "2 1/2") and another taxation limit which will put a limit on State and Federal spending. Mrs. Gannett stated that the bill filed by the DPW to improve Route 20 has passed the house. Also, Sudbury's bill was heard today dealing with Article 12 of the 1980 Annual Town Meeting to exempt certain positions from Civil Service (plumber, gas, sealer) and was reported out favorably.

Myron J. Fox - Board of Appeals

Chairman of the Board of Appeals, Myron J. Fox, stated that two hearing dates have been scheduled - June 3 and June 10 - relative to the Longfellow Glen housing project on Route 20, and requested any questions/comments prior to the hearing.

Joseph E. Scammon - Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Agent

Mr. Scammon reported that he is working with the Board of Appeals and the Sign Review Board on various concerns and reviewed some of the activities of the Building Department since he began as Building Inspector in March.

Oscar Harrell - Park and Recreation Commissioner

Mr. Harrell stated that Park and Recreation activities are in full swing. Mr. Harrell announced a few changes in the summer swim program schedule and the summer programs at the school playgrounds. Programs now in session are tennis, softball and soccer. Plans for a track meet to be held June 8 at the High School are now being formulated.

Joseph Slomski - Finance Committee

Mr. Slomski stated that the Finance Committee is dealing with organization and has established new liaison assignments, which he read. The FinCom has created three sub-committees for various areas - education, collective bargaining and energy. Mr. Slomski reported on the Reserve Fund status and transfers, and action recently taken by the FinCom dealing with two articles to be submitted to the Special Town Meeting.

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

Mr. Bishop announced his replacement to the MRVTSC - Martin F. Craine.

Judith A. Cope - Conservation Commission

Mrs. Cope reported that the Conservation land has had its share of vandalism this year - damage to the land at Hop Brook, Lincoln Meadows and Davis Farm.

Josiah F. Frost - Fire Chief

Fire Chief Frost reported on the oil spill clean-up adjacent to the Town Hall. The Chief cautioned against the use, sale or possession of fire crackers and requested some publicity to that effect.

The Executive Secretary stated that John Wilson had planned to be present and explain what effect proposition 2 1/2 would have on individual budgets, and that this information will be forthcoming.

The following committee members were present but had no report:

- Midge Zola, Town Report Committee.
- Chester Hamilton, Town Treasurer.
- Joan C. Irish, MAPC Representative.
- Charlotte Goss, Sudbury Housing Authority.
- William R. Duckett, Board of Assessors.