

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1980

At 8:10 p.m. Chairman John E. Murray convened the 135th Session of the Town Fathers Forum. Before asking for reports from the various Town Boards, Chairman Murray read the following public statement:

The Sudbury Board of Selectmen wish to issue this public statement to all the Townspeople.

Within the past two months four of our young people have needlessly lost their lives in automobiles because of unwise Drinking and Careless and Reckless driving.

The Board of Selectmen this past week has met with the Chief of Police and Safety Officer, Superintendents of both school systems, citizen groups, and individually have spoken to numerous concerned Town residents:

- 1) to try to find the causes for these unfortunate and needless deaths, and
- 2) to try and find a solution or some action on part of the Selectmen that may help prevent further such occurrences.

Immediately, we are asking the Chief of Police to implement tighter control to stop careless driving and speeding. Also, we are asking the Chief of Police to strictly enforce the State and Local Public Drinking Laws. Likewise, with the support of the Chief of Police we are going to explore expanding the role of the Auxiliary Police Force and any other Police staffing/re-alignment that would contribute toward a solution.

We know there are other efforts being made by concerned parents to do more, and we encourage such action and pledge our support to cooperate in any way possible.

Two other significant steps we intend to take or encourage now are:

- 1) support accelerating at a faster pace our effort to improve dangerous intersections and roadways;
- 2) support more educational awareness of the seriousness of drinking and drugs and driving.

We solicit the whole community's awareness of this most serious problem. Each of you can help! Make it part of your family's concern and talk about it openly with your children and friends.

In conclusion, our intentions are serious and this statement is not made to react to current public emotion on the subject...we intend to make this one of our highest continuous priorities while serving in public office.

Chairman Murray reported on the following Board activities during the last four months:

- The Selectmen issued fourteen new and annual licenses.
- The Board approved or considered the following:
 - 7 utility petitions;
 - 9 site plan applications including Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School District and Gutierrez Construction at Drake Industrial Park; and 3 storage of inflammables applications for increased storage.
- Two bids were awarded:
 - 1) for repowering of a diesel fire truck; and
 - 2) for repairing and painting the Flynn Building.
- The Selectmen accepted 17 walkway easements, including 14 on Mossman Road, and one drainage easement.
- The Board accepted:
 - grants in the amount of \$1,500 for the Council on Aging Drop-in Center; monies from Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Reed and John C. Powers toward the installation of the Revolutionary War cemetery plaque; Title I funds for Goodnow Library program; and a van from Digital Equipment Corporation for the Council on Aging.
- Borrowing of \$200,000 in Bond Anticipation Notes for the Police Station alterations and additions, and \$2,000,000 in Tax Anticipation Notes were approved.
- The Selectmen authorized a grant application to the Massachusetts Office of Energy Resources for a Technical Assistance Energy Audit in conjunction with the Permanent Building Committee.
- The Selectmen joined in the Metropolitan Boston Transit Authority Advisory Board legal action to contest assessments to towns as a result of the Governor's takeover of the MBTA; gave support to the intervention of cities and towns in the Boston Edison Rate Setting Case before the Department of Public Utilities; and rejoiced in the final settlement of the Telephone Case, also resulting in no toll charges within the boundaries of the Town.
- The Selectmen accepted the following resignations:
 - Elinor Bentley from the Council on Aging;
 - Teresa Lucas from the Conservation Commission; and
 - Patrolman Allan C. Houghton from the Sudbury Police Department.
- With few exceptions, the Board completed the Annual Appointments to boards and committees.

- Nine Reserve Police Officers were appointed.
- The Selectmen authorized stop signs at the Hemlock and Tanbark intersection and the intersection of Morse, Marlboro and Mossman Roads, and approved a schedule of parking fines in accordance with Town Meeting action.
- The Selectmen concluded collective bargaining agreements with the Engineering Association and the Firefighters Association.
- The Board held general meetings with the Permanent Landscape Committee and the Tree Warden, the Veterans' Agent and the Veterans' Advisory Committee, the Town Engineer, the Highway Surveyor, the Permanent Building Committee, the Historical Commission, the Industrial Development Commission, and the Assessors.
- The Selectmen authorized an indefinite extension of the 1:00 a.m. closing time rule on Friday and Saturday nights for restaurants holding alcoholic beverage licenses.
- The Board considered the following:
 - the Longfellow Glen Conditional Comprehensive Permit application pending before the Board of Appeals;
 - Sudbury's Housing Assistance Plan;
 - Proposition 2½ and its ramifications for Sudbury;
 - use of excess space in Town/school buildings and in conjunction signed the lease agreement between the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School District and the Sudbury School Committee for the District use of Fairbank School;
 - lease arrangements for the Dog Pound;
 - unlicensed dogs and a dog complaint;
 - fee schedules;
 - Coatings Engineering pollution control programs;
 - revaluation and tax classification;
 - water resources protection;
 - juvenile restitution;
 - state drainage plans for Route 20 reconstruction project;
 - future tax possession auction;
 - health care organization services; and
 - Bowker V problems.
- The Board met with the Police Union on several occasions relative to the Town's withdrawal from Civil Service.
- The Selectmen proclaimed National Cancer Day September 8.
- The Board implemented the Ridesharing Program.

Chairman Murray added his appreciation, on behalf of the Board, for a check from Representative Gannett in the amount of \$600 - her share of the "Halloween" pay raise, which she refused to accept for herself. Chairman Murray stated that the Board had passed the check along to the Council on Aging.

Representative Ann C. Gannett

Representative Gannett reported on some of the action taken at the Constitutional Convention: capital punishment was voted in (she voted against it); the Cohen Amendment (for a tax limitation amendment) was voted in - there were no alternatives.

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

Chairman Grathwohl reported that the LSRSDC met through the summer, unlike other years, and reported the following accomplishments: executed a lease with the Sudbury School Department for the High School's use of the Fairbank School following approval from the Board of Appeals to rent approximately 20,000 square feet of excess space at the High School; is operating a radio station at FM 88.1 between 7:00 and 11:00 p.m.; and has completed a long range planning report which is now public record.

Back-to-School Night at the High School will be October 8.

Superintendent David Levington - Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School

Superintendent Levington announced the successful opening of school; expressed regret regarding the recent tragedies involving former High School students; also, he announced the opening of the alternative school at Fairbank School, which is fully staffed and enrolled. Mr. Levington said that an orientation had been held for both students and parents of the alternative school.

Superintendent Joseph LoPresti - Sudbury Schools

Dr. LoPresti reported that, unlike last year, the Sudbury Schools opened normally with the arrival of 2,375 students! The Task Force on school reorganization has completed the preliminary reports and will report on October 1 - a decision will be made on the preliminary reports on October 15th. The Selectmen were invited to both meetings. Dr. LoPresti stated his intention to visit classrooms between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and to spend time in his office in the afternoon.

Town Treasurer Chester Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton reported that \$200,000 had been borrowed in Bond Anticipation Notes for the Police Station alteration and additions at a rate of 3 7/8%, and that due to a statutory change, he would be able to invest this money until dispersed. Mr. Hamilton stated that he anticipated this borrowing would cost the Town no more than \$2-3,000. Mr. Hamilton reported that the Town has spent \$25,000 in interest on borrowing this year. Mr. Hamilton stated that he expects the bonding Disclosure Document, funded under Article 8 of the 1980 Special Town Meeting, will cost only half the amount appropriated by the Special Town Meeting, because of the work done in the Treasurer's office. Mr. Hamilton stated that in order to provide information for the Town Audit Report and to estimate the cash flow projection, the Permanent Building Committee has advised the Treasurer's office of their projection for expenditure of certain monies.

The Treasurer's office has been advised that it will be notified 2-3 days in advance about the School Department's bills. Mr. Hamilton expressed some concern that it may become necessary for the Town to borrow again if the tax bills do not go out soon.

Janet Smith - Goodnow Library

Ms. Smith stated she had no report.

Joan Irish - Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and Conservation Commission

As MAPC representative, Mrs. Irish said she had no report but reported for the Conservation Commission as follows:

- 1) two Wetlands Protection Act hearings have been held this summer;
- 2) the Commission is closely monitoring the Sudbury River Diversion project;
and
- 3) informed the public of the tremendous amount of vandalism at the community gardens.

John C. Cutting, Chairman of Planning Board

Mr. Cutting stated that the Planning Board has been involved with two subdivisions this summer and has been informed by the engineers that there has been a lot more activity from large Sudbury land owners and to expect a flow of subdivisions! Mr. Cutting stated that the draft of the final phase of a Housing Impact Study has been completed for the Planning Board by Charles Downe Company, relative to the developing potential for privately owned parcels of over ten acres of land in Sudbury, and invited the public to attend Thursday night's meeting for a presentation of the same.

Donald Peirce - Board of Assessors

Mr. Peirce stated that we are approaching the final stages of the revaluation and informed the public of two facts which have surfaced as a result of the individual hearings:

- 1) flood plain areas had been inadvertently left off the Assessors' maps used by the revaluation firm; and
- 2) in some cases a 60,000 square foot value had been accorded to a 40,000 square foot lot. Mr. Peirce stated that the revaluation firm is working on correcting these two areas of assessments. Mr. Peirce informed the public, also, that personal property tax notices have been completed and are about to be mailed out. Mr. Peirce stated that the Assessors are in a financial bind to complete the personal property valuations of the public utilities - Boston Edison and Boston Gas. A tentative public meeting to discuss the reassessment issues is scheduled for October 9, but Mr. Peirce expressed concern about how they were going to pay for that meeting.

Joseph E. Scammon - Building Inspector

Mr. Scammon stated through August, 24 new house permits were issued compared to 29 last year, for a total collection of \$1,184,000. The total evaluation is \$2,110,000 compared to last year's total of \$2,506,000, which Mr. Scammon stated we may approach this year. Mr. Scammon said that more work is being done in various subdivisions, which he mentioned, and added that about once a week, he receives questions regarding odd lots, which people are interested in building on in various parts of Town, partially due to the revaluation. Mr. Scammon also reported 47 stove installations.

Fire Chief Josiah F. Frost

Fire Chief Frost reported a very busy summer, explained the repairs of rebuilding Engine #1, which will be completed in October, and his work with the Engineers regarding roof problems. At the start of a new heating season, Chief Frost cautioned homeowners to use wood stoves in accordance with manufacturers' instructions, and local Building and Fire Prevention Regulations. Chief Frost reported that one of his firefighters had resigned, and that he had appointed the top man on the list, who will start the beginning of October. The Chief stated that Proposition 2 1/2 has Department members concerned.

Police Chief Nicholas Lombardi

Chief Lombardi reported the six-month figures through June, 1980, as follows:

Robbery decreased 50%;
Assault decreased 37%;
Breaking and entering down 21%;
Larceny down 10%; and
Theft decreased 50%.
Total crime down 18%.

The value of property stolen was 30%;
Property recovered was 60%.

The Chief gave a breakdown of breaking and entering figures for 1979 and 1980 (first six months). Also, the Chief reported that for the first six months this year, of 200 accidents investigated, there was only one fatality.

Later in the evening Selectman Cossart requested the Executive Secretary to get a copy of these statistics.

William Reed - Insurance Advisory Committee

Mr. Reed commented on the Selectmen's recent authorization for the Insurance Advisory board to increase their membership from three to five members. Mr. Reed also announced one vacancy due to the resignation of Mr. Howard Austen, who moved out-of-state. The Board has completed a study at the request of Mr. Levington and turned the report over to him. The Board is now doing a survey of the Town's insurance programs.

John H. Wilson - Town Accountant

Mr. Wilson stated that he is in the process of finalizing all reports for 1979-80; approximately \$200,000 has been returned to the General Fund from 1979 Annual Town Meeting unexpended funds, mostly from the Highway Department due to the mild winter and also from motor vehicle excise taxes collected, as a result of them being processed in bunches through the State.

John V. Sullivan - Health Director

Mr. Sullivan commented that Governor King had designated September as "Clean Air Month", and that Sudbury has designated this week as "Clean Air Week". Mr. Sullivan explained that literature and posters will be available displayed in the schools.

Bruce Langmuir, Chairman, Permanent Building Committee

Mr. Langmuir reported that plans for the Police Station addition/alterations are progressing on schedule - all drawings, specifications and bid documents have been completed. Sub-bids were opened on September 16 for plumbing, electrical, heating, roofing, glass and glazing, painting and masonry. General bids will open on September 25, and will be awarded by the middle of October. Ground breaking will be in November. Also, Mr. Langmuir reported that the PBC is looking for a clerk stenographer. Mr. Langmuir explained the status of the application for funding for our Technical Assistance Audit.

Dr. William W. Cooper, Chairman, Operational Review Committee

Dr. Cooper reported on the following items of progress on the Wayland/Sudbury Septage Facility:

- insurances are about halfway completed;
- designs will be completed by the end of November;
- construction is to begin next spring;
- the applications to the Environmental Protection Agency and the DEQE have been approved; and
- a grant application has been approved for 1.9 million dollars.

Lee Todd - Talent Search Committee

Mrs. Todd reported that former member Patricia Harding had access to a computer but that now there is not one available to the Talent Search Committee, through its membership, to computerize additional applicants to various town boards/committees/commissions. Mr. Thompson commented that the problem is being worked on.

Myron Fox - Board of Appeals

Mr. Fox introduced State Representative, Democratic Candidate Ginny Allen. Mr. Fox commented on the busy summer the Board of Appeals had; they heard the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School proposal to sublet excess space at the High School. Mr. Fox further commented that the Longfellow Glen project conditions

will be further discussed, and the Board will vote on each of the conditions one at a time. The Board has solicited comments from various Town boards on the conditions related to those various boards.

There being no further reports, Chairman Murray recessed the Town Fathers Forum at 9:00 p.m. for coffee and conversation. The meeting was called back to order at 9:15 p.m.

Attest: _____

Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary-Clerk