

TOWN FATHERS FROUM  
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1981

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

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman Donald convened the 140th Session of the Town Fathers Forum. Chairman Donald read the following activities of the Board over the past three months:

- At the end of February, the Board authorized the borrowing of \$1,500,000 in Tax Anticipation Notes.
- A site plan for Methods Machine Tools, Union Avenue, was approved.
- The Annual Town Cleanup was held on May 2.
- The Selectmen discussed safety improvements for Dudley Road with residents and department heads, which resulted in the Town Engineer being directed to draw up layout plans for further review as soon as possible.
- The following appointments were made:
  - Stephen M. Golder to the Personnel Board;
  - An Inflammables Storage Bylaw Committee, as directed by the 1981 Annual Town Meeting, consisting of Donald Peirce, Richard Newberg, Edward Kreitsek, Francis Vanaria, and Chief Frost.
- The Board approved increased storage of inflammables for Union Carbide, Route 20.
- An Automatic Amusement Device License for Sudbury Variety was approved by the Board.
- An application for an energy implementation grant related to Article 32 in the Warrant was not approved in its initial funding recommendations. However, the application of Lincoln-Sudbury Regional did receive recommendation for funding.
- Official notification has been received that the Massachusetts Executive Office of Communities and Development has awarded the Sudbury Housing Authority \$225,000 to develop five units of Chapter 705 scattered family housing.
- The Governor's Highway Safety Bureau has awarded the Town reimbursement grants of up to \$1,000 for radar equipment and \$7,000 for a police cruiser.
- The Route 20 widening project has been reactivated and has priority status - it will be bid this fall with construction the following spring.

Chairman Donald called on the following Town officials, department heads and representatives of the various Town committees/boards:

Donald Peirce - Board of Assessors - Mr. Peirce reported that McGee and Magane has almost completed their maintenance contract for the Town. Mr. Peirce explained that the Town requested a sales analysis from the State based on calendar 1980 sales. The State's sales analysis indicated a 12% guideline for the Town's Assessors to consider. Sudbury's sales analysis, based on the same data, to arrive at Fiscal Year 1981 values indicates an increased different than 12% depending on various architectural styles.

The Assessors are in the process of determining whether or not they should update every year, as opposed to using an inflation factor, and reclassify every two years.

Responding to Selectman Cossart, Mr. Peirce stated that all the land on which a residence sits would be considered residential land (whether or not it was five or more acres), but that large property owners could receive a 75% reduction in taxes under Chapter 61B. Responding to Michael Cronin of the Finance Committee, Mr. Peirce stated that he did not feel \$488,090,000 was a reasonable total property value figure, and stated that the Assessors would probably not have a final figure for ten days to a month.

John H. Wilson - Town Accountant - Mr. Wilson referenced the warrant for the emergency special town meeting and attached information concerning the adjourned Annual Town Meeting, and reviewed the estimated 1981-82 tax rate shown on page 4. Mr. Wilson noted that the total recommended appropriations come within the Proposition 2 1/2 guidelines.

Michael Cronin - Finance Committee - On behalf of the Joseph Slomski Family and the Finance Committee, Mr. Cronin expressed appreciation for all the support and kind sympathy the Family received during the past week.

Fire Chief Josiah F. Frost - Chief Frost stated that the Department has lost a 15-year employee, who was also the Department mechanic, and he is deeply missed. The Chief stated that the Department has been meeting and discussing methods of operation under the proposed budget recommendations - especially in the area of overtime. The Chief reported that the Department recently has been involved in small fires with a minimum amount of overtime and manpower.

Police Chief Nicholas Lombardi - Chief Lombardi stated that construction on the Police Station addition was ahead of schedule. The Chief stated that large gatherings have quieted down.

Building Inspector Joseph E. Scammon - Mr. Scammon reported as follows: 19 new house permits had been issued - last year at this time 15 had been issued for a total last year of 32; additions are about the same; swimming pool permits are down a little this year; five permits have been issued on Shadow Oak Drive (off Stock Farm Road) - this is the most active area.

Wilma Lepore - Director - Goodnow Library - Mrs. Lepore introduced Aleta Cane, the new Chairman of the Goodnow Library Trustees. Mrs. Lepore stated that fines have been reinstated at the Library; the Friends of the Library will be having their annual membership meeting June 11; and the Children's Library summer reading program will be "How Sweet It Is".

Joan Irish - Conservation Commission - Mrs. Irish reported that the community gardens are off to a good start; that the Sudbury Land Trust group has been formed; that the Commission has had four Wetlands Protection Act hearing, and has received a revised copy of the new State Wetlands Protection Act rules and regulations.

Karen Rasile - Board of Health - Mrs. Rasile reported that there has been an increase in the requests for zoning variances because of the economic pressures, and that the Board of Health has been monitoring Coatings' emissions.

Chester Hamilton - Town Treasurer - Tax collections have gone very well according to the Town Treasurer. Mr. Hamilton stated the Town has earned about \$150,000 on its investments; talked about municipalities (Concord and Lexington) offering bonding to the public and the possibility of Sudbury doing so in the future; commented that he was asked to be a speaker at the annual school of the Collectors' and Treasurers' Association at the University of Massachusetts.

Dr. Joseph LoPresti - Superintendent of Sudbury Schools - Dr. LoPresti stated that four schools have been closed since he became Superintendent with only a drop of 150 students. Next year the Curtis, Noyes and Haynes Schools will remain, with the Nixon School building to house maintenance, school supplies, central school staff and media center - excessing space in the Flynn Building and the South Annex. Dr. LoPresti stated that late busses will return to Curtis next fall, also, after school sports, certain clubs and substitute teachers.

Alan H. Grathwohl, Chairman, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee - (LSRSDC) - Mr. Grathwohl reported that Springthing was very successful - \$3,000 was added to the High School's scholarship fund, allowing the School Committee to give out \$10,000 in scholarships this year. Mr. Grathwohl stated that both the Lincoln Special Town Meeting and the 1981 Sudbury Special and Annual Town Meeting will be broadcast over station WYHA; that the LSRSDC is reviewing a rental option with Digital for 8 1/2 months rental - a public hearing will be held at the High School tomorrow night; the High School will have a Superintendent vacancy on July 1, 1982; and that the Lacross Team at the High School, which is undefeated, will enter the Eastern Massachusetts Lacross Championship tomorrow in Billerica.

William A. Burns - Chairman, Veterans Advisory Committee - Mr. Burns stated that the Veterans Advisory Committee deals with the problems with young veterans on drugs and alcohol, and with the elderly in terms of getting along with the high cost of living.

The Forum was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.