

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1981

Present: Acting Chairman William J. Cossart and John E. Murray.

At 8:00 p.m. Acting Chairman Cossart convened the 141st Session of the Town Fathers Forum. Acting Chairman Cossart read the following activities of the Board over the past four months:

- The Board took action on seven site plans - notably, The Game Room, a Sperry Rand addition, a new plan for the former Skating and Tennis property and Project Management at Drake Industrial Park; eight utility petitions; two liquor licensing applications - a change in location for Colonial Spirits, and a new license for Winchester's of Sudbury, new owners of JT's restaurant property; five temporary one-day liquor licenses for various organizations; two Hawkers & Pedlars licenses; one transient vendor license and one Class II application for second-hand motor vehicles.

- The Board joined in a cooperative agreement for fuel oil supply and contracted for burner service.

- A contract was also awarded for school zone traffic signals at the Haynes and Noyes Schools under Art. 2 of the 1981 Emergency Special Town Meeting called by the Selectmen in June.

- Also in accordance with Emergency Special Town Meeting action, as authorized custodians of the excessed school buildings, namely, Horse Pond, Fairbank and Loring Schools, the Selectmen signed a lease agreement with the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District for the use of a portion of the Fairbank School for school purposes.

- An agreement was signed with Jon-Jay Associates, Inc. relative to the processing of unemployment compensation claims and, upon the recommendation of the MDC River Diversion Sub-Committee, the firm of Whitman & Howard, Inc. was hired as a consultant under Art.26 of the Annual Town Meeting.

- In personnel matters, the Selectmen signed a contract with the Supervisory Association through June 30, 1982, acted on two grievances and conducted performance reviews of department heads under the Board of Selectmen.

- In conjunction with the Conservation Commission, two municipal endorsements were signed for agricultural preservation restriction application for the Barton Land under Articles 29 and 30 of the 1981 Annual Town Meeting.

- The Selectmen held two dog hearings and issued letters to owners of unlicensed dogs, issued five proclamations and accepted two drainage easements.

- Tax Anticipation Notes were signed for \$2M due December 15 and, relative to the police station addition, renewal Bond Anticipation Notes for \$540,000 expiring November 1, 1981, were also signed.

- A \$5,300 Department of Energy Grant was accepted for the Permanent Building Committee energy conservation measures implementation program, specifically for the Curtis Middle School. Under the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau program awards were accepted of up to \$1,000 for a radar unit and \$7,000 for a police cruiser. Gifts totalling \$414 were accepted on behalf of the Council on Aging and \$35 was accepted as a donation to the Hosmer Memorial fund. Also, Western Electric Co. was thanked for its donation of excess office furniture for the police station.

- Annual appointments were made and, additionally, the Selectmen met with the Sudbury Housing Authority and jointly appointed Cheryl Rogers to the Authority to fill a vacancy.

- The Selectmen met with the Town Accountant on the subjects of leasing, unemployment compensation and classification; with the Permanent Building Committee relative to the Police Station addition/alterations; with members of the Police Auxiliary and the Police Chief relative to the Auxiliary; with the Historical Commission for a report on the Hosmer fund-raising yard sale; with the Historic Districts Commission regarding Village Green; with the Town Facilities Committee relative to the excess buildings; with the Library Trustees regarding Trust fund expenditures; with the Highway Surveyor relative to the Landfill and equipment; and held general meetings recently with the Operational Review Committee for the Wayland/Sudbury Disposal Facility; the Planning Board, Treasurer, Town Report Preparation Committee and the Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee.

- Reminder: non-monied warrant articles are due in approximately a month.

- Everyone is invited to attend an open house at the Police Station on Sunday, November 8, from 1 to 4 p.m. Ribbon-cutting ceremony is at one o'clock.

Acting Chairman Cossart called on the following Town Officials, department heads and representatives of the various Town committees/boards:

Karen D. Rasile - Board of Health

Mrs. Rasile reported that the Board of Health will be doing some organic testing on streams, and the Water District Commission has offered to pay for any testing done in the areas of Town wells.

A public hearing will be held relative to revising stable regulations for stable permits.

The Board of Health has taken a position not to issue any further permits for private wells to future homeowners in the MacNeill development, Brimstone Lane, but will recommend that Town water be installed. This will be a matter of discussion at the next Water District Annual Meeting in February of 1982.

Representative Lucile Hicks

Representative Lucile Hicks reported that things are very busy "on the Hill", such as:

- major legislation passed relative to automobile insurance;
- a civil service reform bill is expected to pass;
- Representative Gerald Cohen presented a major new tax package, but a consensus was that there is not enough "heat" to do anything on it right now; and
- there is some new legislation which will affect regional school budgets, especially in regional schools with several districts, such as, the Minuteman Regional School.

Representative Hicks stated the deadline for filing legislation for next year/next session is approximately five weeks from now (December 1).

Selectman Murray asked where some of the home rule legislation addresses Proposition 2 1/2. Representative Hicks stated that the piece of legislation which made the most modifications is in the Senate Ways and Means right now, and that she felt it had a good chance of passing.

Michael Cronin - Finance Committee

Mr. Cronin reported that the Finance Committee is happy to have three, well-qualified, new members. Working under the restraints of Proposition 2 1/2, Mr. Cronin stated that the Finance Committee voted to request all Town Boards/Committees to submit FY83 budgets 100% equal to FY82 budgets - including all anticipated salary increases, and they will be receiving guidelines for the same right away from the Finance Committee.

Joseph E. Scammon - Building Inspector

Mr. Scammon compared building permits issued so far this year to last year, concluding that house permits ("starts") are up significantly (32 last year versus 50), alteration permits are about the same, and wood stove permits are slightly lower. The newest subdivision is a six-lot subdivision on Wildwood Lane.

Fire Chief Josiah F. Frost

The Chief reported as follows:

- the Department lost one man to Framingham;
- he will have severe problems with the Finance Committee's budget recommendations for FY83, especially with facing a new contract. (The Chief expressed concern about how the new school settlements will affect his contract negotiations.)

Responding to a question raised by Selectman Murray regarding a weekend advertisement in The Middlesex News about the use of kerosene heaters, the Chief stated that the use of the same is banned in buildings for human habitation in Massachusetts. There is a \$100 fine for the purchase of one for such use. A real danger, the Chief said, is in the transporting of these so-called portable heaters when they are filled with the fuel.

Also, responding to Selectman Murray, the Chief stated that the Inflammables Storage By-Law Committee will be submitting an article for the 1982 Annual Town Meeting relative to changing the regulations for underground storage tanks; the Chief will also submit an article dealing with mandatory installation of smoke detectors in buildings of three or more apartments - thinking of Sudbury's future.

Town Treasurer Chester Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton reported on the recent sale of municipal bonds, and gave an update of the Town's borrowing status. An "A" rating has been maintained. Last year's borrowing of two million dollars cost the town \$22,300 in interest. This year the Town borrowed two million dollars in September, which will cost the Town \$42,500 or approximately \$500 daily. Mr. Hamilton stated that if the tax bills had gone out by October 1, the interest would have been one-tenth that amount, because the borrowing would have been less and for a shorter period of time. Mr. Hamilton stated that 50-60% of the total taxes are collected within six-weeks after tax bills go out.

Mr. Hamilton stated that it will be necessary for him to request a transfer to the 200-201 account, short-term interest, since less than \$20,000 will be remaining in his budget after Bond Anticipation Notes are paid off.

Donald Peirce - Board of Assessors

Mr. Peirce stated the Town will be able to mail out tax bills as soon as the State approves the tax rates submitted to them earlier in October by the Assessors. Mr. Thompson indicated that the Selectmen's office had been encouraged today by a somewhat positive response from the State Department of Revenue to assist the Town.

Albert S. Feinberg - Sudbury Housing Authority

Mr. Feinberg reported that the Authority recently completed this year's annual recertification of the sixty-four tenants at the Village.

Mr. Feinberg stated that the Authority has a problem in that there is a lack of response for Chapter 705 houses, and that the Authority feels the State may exceed the \$45,000 limit. State funding is available for approximately 5 houses in the \$45,000 range.

Jonathan Sirota - Sudbury School Committee

Mr. Sirota stated that things are going very well following the School Committee's action to consolidate and vacate certain schools. Also, Mr. Sirota stated that developing the concept of a central office to be shared by the two school systems is working well.

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

Mr. Grathwohl expressed regret in the loss of Ronald Blecher. Linda Glass was appointed by joint vote of the Lincoln and Sudbury Board of Selectmen Chairmen and the Regional School Committee to fill his vacancy on the LSRSDC.

Mr. Grathwohl reported that Brad Sargent was appointed Assistant Principal; a three-year contract has been signed by the Teacher's Union. Mr. Grathwohl commented on the loss of electricity at the High School last week for two days.

Stephen M. Golder - Personnel Board

Mr. Golder stated that he is the new Chairman of the Personnel Board.

Joan Irish - Conservation Commission

Mrs. Irish reported on the following:

- an application has been filed under the Agricultural Preservation Restriction Act relative to Articles 29 and 30 of the 1981 Annual Town Meeting - portions of the Barton Land;

- three Wetlands Protection Act hearings were held over the summer;

- about fifty hunting licenses were issued - expressed thanks to Jack Braim for marking the hunting areas;

- the gate at Lincoln Meadows has been successful in keeping out vandals; and

- numerous meetings have been held relative to the MDC Sudbury River Diversion project.

William Reed - Insurance Advisory Committee

Mr. Reed stated that there are two vacancies on the Insurance Advisory Committee at the present time and two possible applicants.

Martin Craine - Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School District

Mr. Craine stated that Minuteman is still growing, with 60 students over last year! The Town of Dover has now joined the district for a total of 15 communities. Mr. Craine stated that they like to maintain an enrollment of approximately 1,200-1,300 students.

Mr. Craine commented briefly on the following:

- new legislation may allow Metco students to attend Minuteman directly without going through a member community;

- a temporary permit for the windmill has been issued - there is approximately three more months of data to be compiled before it can be permanent;

- the solar system is working well; they have seen a decrease in utility bills;

- talked briefly about some of the courses.

Wilma Lepore, Director, Goodnow Library

Ms. Lepore announced that as of next week she will have been the Director of the Goodnow Library for one year.

Ms. Lepore stated that use of the adult library increased since last May as follows:

May, circulation increased by 2%;
June, by 5%;
July, 16% higher;

A record on July 5 exceeded by 3 (a total of 794 items circulated) the day after the Blizzard of 1977; July 20th, one-day record, 910 items circulated;

August, up 20%;
September was up 8%, but open 70% fewer days for an average of 31% higher.

Ms. Lepore stated that Goodnow Library was written up in the Library Journal, a national magazine, relative to the effects of reinstating fines.

At the conclusion of the Town Fathers Forum, Acting Chairman Cossart commented that it was gratifying to see the exchange of questions and participation during the Forum.

Selectman Murray referenced a prevention manual on drug abuse entitled "Before It's Too Late", published for the public's use by the Chief of Police; several copies were available at the Forum.