

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1982

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

The statutory requirements as to notice having been fulfilled, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the library of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School.

Current Items of Interest

Annual Town Meeting - Article 34

Relative to the disposition of Fairbank School, the Board confirmed its vote setting, for the purposes of the motion, the minimum price for the sale of said land to be \$250,000, and further confirmed its position to recommend the sale of the property to Mitchell Systems for \$307,000.

State Department of Food and Agriculture

Mr. Thompson referenced receipt of a communication dated April 9, 1982, from the State Department of Food and Agriculture regarding an invitation to the Selectmen (and Conservation Commission members) to attend a get-together with the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, and other State officials, in Concord (Nine Acre Corners), Saturday, April 17, 1982, (Patriot's Day Weekend) in conjunction with his tour of Sudbury farmlands projects.

Meeting

Mr. Thompson informed the Board that an invitation will be forthcoming from the Wayland Selectmen to meet with Representative Shannon on May 1.

Bid - Police Cruisers

At its March 31 meeting, the Board voted to accept the bid of the second lowest bidder for three new police cruisers on the recommendation of the Police Chief on the contention that the lowest bidder, Main St. Auto Sales & Service Inc., had given unsatisfactory service in the past.

Mr. Thompson referenced a recent communication dated April 5, 1982, from Main St. Auto defending their past service record, enclosing information to substantiate the same.

The Board briefly discussed the matter and confirmed its position not to award the bid to Main St. Auto, and further, directed the Executive Secretary to communicate accordingly to Main St. Auto.

Flood Plains

At the direction of Chairman Cossart, Mr. Thompson stated that all of the people whose property is located in the Flood Plain, approximately 50, will be notified upon passage of Article 22 (Amend Bylaws, Art. IX, I,G,A & III,E - Flood Plains).

Articles 31 & 32 - Curtis and Noyes School Roofs

Mr. Thompson distributed to the Board a one-page synopsis showing the reduction request under Articles 30 and 31, Curtis and Noyes School Roofs, which creates a reduction of \$3,000 in the bond expense cost under Debt, Account #203.

Executive Session

At 7:10 p.m. it was on motion by roll call

VOTED: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing transactions in real property where open discussion may have a detrimental effect on such transactions.

(Roll call vote: Chairman Cossart, in favor; Selectman Murray, in favor; Selectman Donald, in favor.)

Chairman Cossart announced that Public Session would reconvene following the Executive Session.

Joint Meeting - Lincoln-Sudbury West

Present: Chairman Michael J. Cronin, Stefanie W. Reponen, Susan F. Smith, Bernard J. Hennessy, David A. Wallace, William D. Wood, Lindalee A. Lawrence, William H. Maurhoff and James A. Pitts, Finance Committee; Dante Germanotta, Lynn B. Donaldson, Richard F. Brooks, Alan H. Grathwohl, Alan W. Cherish, William A. King and Joan W. Wofford, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee members, past and present; Ms. Topalian, L-S West; and approximately 20 people - Town officials and interested persons.

Mrs. Stefanie Reponen stated that she had attempted to slot figures, given to her by the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee, into a worksheet for Lincoln-Sudbury West demonstrating yearly operational expenses comparing locations (i.e., present location, at Loring School, "separated" at Lincoln-Sudbury), but that she was missing several figures and was, therefore, unable to come up with an adequate comparison for the Finance Committee to refer to in making a decision regarding placement of the Lincoln-Sudbury West alternative school for the next school year.

Mr. Richard F. Brooks stated that it is the intention of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee to amend the Selectmen's motion relative to Article 36: Disposition of Loring School, so that rather than demolishing the building, the building would be used by Lincoln-Sudbury West under a five-year plan. Mr. Brooks stated that the Regional School Committee could rent out those portions not needed by them, and apply the rental money to offset the Lincoln-Sudbury West budget. Mr. Brooks further stated that, according to John Wilson's figures, the Lincoln-Sudbury High School's budget would increase by approximately \$366,070 if the alternative school were dissolved.

Mr. Brooks further stated that an approved traffic analysis had been done regarding the impact on the Loring School neighborhood. The maximum arrivals mentioned by Mr. Brooks was 65 cars daily, and that was if Day Off for Mother shared the building.

Mr. Brooks explained that Day Off For Mother had offered to pay \$200 monthly per room on a 12-month basis, and that they needed five rooms starting in September.

Mr. Brooks expressed his opinion that the Loring School should be rented out because it is a valuable building and should not be torn down, and requested the support of the Finance Committee and also the Selectmen for this approach.

Responding to Mr. Cronin, Mr. Grathwohl stated that there was \$9,000 for transportation and \$17,000 for building operations in the Lincoln-Sudbury West budget but that they are assuming operations at Loring School will be higher. It is also assumed that they will have approximately \$20,000 in rent coming in.

Responding to Selectman Cossart, Ms. Sandy Topalian stated that only one or two students from outside Sudbury are expected to attend Lincoln-Sudbury West next fall; at the present time there is one student from Concord-Carlisle attending. Mr. Grathwohl commented that the additional student would generate \$8,000-9,000 additional income.

Responding to Mr. Cronin's question regarding the five-year lease request, Mr. Brooks stated that the intention was to offer a five-year commitment to show stability but that the Regional School Committee would be willing to consider a shorter period, if necessary.

Mrs. Reponen expressed her personal apprehension regarding the relocation of Lincoln-Sudbury West to Loring School referencing budgetary problems and questioning whether alternatives had been explored and what would happen if Lincoln-Sudbury West were dissolved.

Mr. Brooks pointed out that the Regional School Committee has been looking into several alternatives, i.e. they have approached the Sudbury School Committee regarding use of a portion of Nixon School and the Selectmen regarding use of a portion of the Flynn Building and expressed his opinion that there was still room for further negotiating in these areas.

Responding to Mr. Wood of the Finance Committee, Mr. Grathwohl stated that the additional bottom line figures to operate Lincoln-Sudbury West at Loring School instead of at Fairbank School is approximately \$12,000 more.

Mr. Grathwohl stated that transportation will be more and it will cost more to heat and light the entire building. Right now, the Selectmen pay half of those bills, but under lease the Regional School budget will handle the entire thing. Also, with rental money, the actual net gain savings is \$8,000.

Responding to Chairman Cossart regarding enrollment, Ms. Topalian stated that 42 is considered a stable population of sophomores, juniors and seniors, and that if Lincoln-Sudbury West were dissolved, approximately 1/3 of the students would be placed in out-of-district placement and the remaining would be absorbed by LSRHS. Ms. Topalian stated that, although fifteen students will be graduating, there is a waiting list, including some freshmen who have already been identified as candidates to enter Lincoln-Sudbury West as sophomores next fall. All of the students attending are core evaluated by a team of administrators, teachers and guidance counselors, and that the alternative school is operating under an educational plan filed with the State.

Also responding to Chairman Cossart, Mr. Brooks stated that Special Ed is a huge problem evident by the 1/2 million dollars Sudbury spends on it every year. He further commented that, although other methods of educating these Lincoln-Sudbury West type students have failed, Lincoln-Sudbury West has been successful.

Selectman Donald stated that the problem before them at Town Meeting is space and not whether Lincoln-Sudbury West is appropriate, necessary or whatever else - the Town has an excess of space and it is costing us money to protect it. It is important to decide whether the Town should be asked to keep the property and spend money on it, or sell it and spend money on the education of our children.

Mr. Grathwohl expressed personal confusion about the issue of space stating that everyone is talking about tearing down a building when there are proposals for its use that will bear no costs to the Town. The Selectmen commented on the obvious major repairs which will be necessary now or in the immediate future to the roof and boiler.

Chairman Cossart commented that the cost to the Town for Lincoln-Sudbury West is the same whether it is in the Lincoln-Sudbury budget or somewhere else.

Mr. Cronin stated that, from the financial point of view, he can understand why the Selectmen have reached their recommendation and that, considering the alternatives to Lincoln-Sudbury West, there are some financial considerations for Lincoln-Sudbury.

Selectman Murray commented that the Selectmen turned down the bids received for the Loring School because the land alone was worth more than the bids received, and that the Selectmen could not see spending \$25,000-30,000 yearly on that building for any long period of time.

There was some general discussion from abutters and interested persons in attendance regarding the pros and cons of the suggested disposition(s) of the Loring School. At the conclusion of discussion, the Finance Committee agreed that it would be necessary for them to further review the situation before taking a final position.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Attest:

Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary-Clerk