

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
MONDAY, MAY 24, 1982

Present: Chairman William J. Cossart and Anne W. Donald.

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman Cossart convened the 145th Session of the Town Fathers Forum and reported the activities of the Board of Selectmen during the past month, as follows:

- Perhaps the most time consuming and difficult on-going project has been reviewing the proposals solicited for disposition of the excessed schools and formulating a decision relative to such disposition. As you know, ATM vote has allowed sale of the South Annex; we are currently in the process of consummating the sale with an abutter. The transfer by sale of the Horse Pond School to the Massachusetts Fire Fighting Academy approved by Town Meeting hinges on funding by the Legislature. The disposition of Loring and Fairbank Schools has been complicated by the question of leasing to the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional District to provide space for L-S West, and deeply rooted neighborhood feelings concerning the disposition. Future action will involve: 1) a decision whether or not to seek Town Meeting approval to demolish one or both schools, if at all; 2) a decision whether or not to seek Town Meeting approval for the renovation of Fairbank School as a community center, possibly incorporating classroom area for L-S West, as proposed by the Permanent Building Committee; and 3) negotiation of a satisfactory lease, if any, relative to L-S West. In the meantime, we are planning to meet on June 8 with the Lincoln Board of Selectmen relative to L-S West and are awaiting a lease proposal from the District Committee.
- In addition to preparations for Town Meeting and meetings with the Finance Committee relative to the same, the Board held meetings with:
 - the Committee on Town Administration relative to future studies;
 - the Assessors relating to budget and space requirements;
 - the Insurance Advisory Committee and the Town Accountant on the subject of bidding an insurance package and the self-funding of health insurance;
 - the Highway Surveyor and Board of Health relative to the Landfill;
 - the Police Chief regarding vehicles and budget considerations;
 - the new Boston Edison Public Relations Manager relative to Boston Edison concerns, particularly the proposed federal imposition of a fee on imported oil and its effect on New England; and
 - with the Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School District Committee, representatives of Lincoln-Sudbury West and the Permanent Building Committee relative to excessed schools future use.
- At this time the Board is pursuing the exchange of land with Wayland to accommodate a change in boundaries which will allow residents to legally reside in the town of their choice.

- In licensing action, the Board denied an application by Coatings Engineering Corporation to store above-ground 2,000 gallons of Class A Chemicals, until such time as violations of air and water pollution standards have been corrected. We understand that this action had been appealed to the State Fire Marshall. The Board has also established rules and regulations in conjunction with alcoholic beverage pouring licenses.
- Relative to employee concerns, the Board is actively involved in the collective bargaining process, has added a grievance policy to the Selectmen's Policies and Procedures for non-union employees, and has contracted with three additional health maintenance organizations which provide varied health care options.
- To implement Town Meeting direction, the Board has contracted with William M. Mercer Incorporated for an actuarial study of the Town's future pension costs, with Laventhal & Howarth for a three-year financial audit required by Federal Revenue Sharing regulations, and has signed Orders of Taking relative to this year's street acceptance articles. Also, a co-holders agreement and Agricultural Preservation Restriction has been concluded on the 84-acre Garber parcel off Route 117 and are being processed on the 12 acre Sperry Rand parcel, also off Route 117. Legislative approval which is in process is the only remaining step before closing on the 36 acre "Shick" parcel off Lincoln Road. The bill has passed both houses and is awaiting final engrossing.
- Two site plans have been concluded: one for a new location for The Colonial Spirits at 474 Boston Post Road, the present location of the building housing Cumberland Farms; and the other for a professional office near Town Center.
- Cable television licensing applications were received by the April 1 deadline from Adams-Russell of Waltham, Community Cablevision of Framingham, and Commonwealth Cable Systems of Dallas, Pennsylvania. Commonwealth Cable Systems has since withdrawn its application. The Selectmen have met with the Cable Advisory Committee and with the Massachusetts Cable Television Commission representatives relative to licensing procedures.
- Earth Week was designated as May 9-16 and, thanks to the efforts of Jan Silva, the Selectmen's Administrative Secretary who coordinated the annual roadside cleanup, townspeople proved that every litter bit helps!
- Awards were made for three police cruisers and an engineering van. Reimbursement under the Governor's Highway Safety Program was received in the amount of \$7,000 for the Highway Safety cruiser and \$1,000 for a radar unit.
- The Selectmen accepted a Bay Path Title III grant for the Council on Aging van in the amount of \$1,700 and received miscellaneous donations on behalf of the Council for van transportation.
- Most of the annual appointments have been made. We regret to note that Gordon DeWolf (Permanent Landscape Committee), Leah Sheets and Marion Letteney (Council on Aging), Myron Fox (Board of Appeals), Eileen Reutlinger, Tamar Knoff, Harold Jacobi (Earth Removal Board/Board of Appeals Associates), Martha Clough and Joan Grathwohl (Local Arts Council), James Warner (Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee), Richard Hill (Historical Commission) and Roger Bump (Memorial Day Committee) have indicated that they are unable to continue serving the Town as members of those boards and committees.

Chairman Cossart asked for reports from those boards and committees that were present.

James Vanar - Town Accountant

Mr. Vanar reported the Accounting Department activities, as follows:

- a new accounting clerk is being trained; in the past there has only been one person familiar enough with the system to do the payroll.
- he feels the equipment can be more fully utilized and is looking into putting the General Ledger, Schedule A and the Balance Sheet on the computer.
- the Department is looking into bi-weekly vs. weekly payroll; right now there are certain Town employees who are paid weekly, while the majority are paid bi-weekly, and it would be easier if everyone were paid on the same schedule.
- the Department plans to enforce the procedure whereby all original contracts are kept in the Accounting Department.

Representative Lucile Hicks

Representative Hicks reported as follows:

- House Bill #6076 (Shick Property) is in the House and will be going into the Senate later this week.
- Sudbury will be getting an increase in local aid (Wayland's will go down).
- Transportation costs for the mentally retarded, as of January 1, 1983, will be picked up by the Department of Mental Health.
- The House and Senate did approve a version of the Tregor Bill which is not expected to be signed by the Governor.
- Legislators will recess for summer and after the September Primary will vote on the salary increase.
- She explained that constitutional amendments have to be approved by two constitutional conventions (House and Senate) at two different sessions.
- Legislators are interested in many things, such as: aid to parochial schools; tax limiting provisions (will be meeting on June 11); death penalty (has been approved once and needs a second approval for a referendum question for the ballot in the fall); and human rights.

Albert S. Feinberg, Sudbury Housing Authority

Mr. Feinberg reported that the Authority has signed a purchase and sale agreement under Chapter 705 housing. Under Chapter 705 housing, the Authority was granted \$225,000 for the purchase of five houses, which is very unrealistic in Sudbury. The Authority has therefore negotiated for the purchase of one home for \$60,000. (Mr. Feinberg commented that the Authority recently came across a possible second house.) Appraisals for the home have come in higher than the purchase price. "Pay-

ment in lieu of taxes" would have to be worked out with the Town of Sudbury and the Department of Community Affairs. Mr. Feinberg also reported that the Musketahquid Village sign has been recovered and will be reinstalled as quickly as possible.

Joseph E. Scammon - Building Inspector

Mr. Scammon reported the following comparisons:

This Year		Last Year (same period)
10	New home permits	19
41	Alteration permits	48
7	Swimming pool permits	6
22	Wood stove permits	43
7	Solar installation	9

Mr. Scammon reported on the following maintenance activities of his department: repainting exterior areas at the Town Hall; replacing new section of roof on the Flynn Building; there are plans for interior work on the Loring Parsonage; looking at estimates for floor tiles for the lower Town Hall; plans to replace the posts on the Town Common.

Fire Chief Josiah F. Frost

The brush fires are about one hundred lower than the amount reported last year for the same period because of the rainy spring we have had. Chief Frost also stated that his top two men on the captain's list are now at the National Academy for two weeks taking courses in Fire Department Administration (one man attended on his own time). Chief Frost stated that the Department has been down two men because of operations and further reported that if everything goes well over the next four weeks, it will be the first time he has not had to ask the Finance Committee for a transfer for this period.

Donald P. Peirce-- Board of Assessors

Mr. Peirce stated that FY83 is a year of recertification of Town values and that the plan had been submitted to the State and it had been approved, and the Assessors are in the process of implementing that plan. Mr. Peirce introduced the newest member of the Board of Assessors, David M. Collins.

Alan H. Grathwohl - Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee

Mr. Grathwohl reported that this June 4th marks the 25th anniversary of the first graduation class of Lincoln-Sudbury; there are 375 seniors. On other items, Mr. Grathwohl reported that "Our Town" was successful last weekend; the School Committee is starting to work on its '83-84 budget and will work over the summer and hopefully will meet with the Finance Committee prior to September/early October - (he stated that the budget will be lower than this year); they are continually meeting with Sudbury Elementary System on shared services, including bidding on such items as milk and books for better prices, and are looking into the possibility of a shared superintendent.

Isabelle K. Stone - Collector of Taxes

Mrs. Stone reported, in real estate taxes, \$11,403,996 committed to the Town; \$10,265,781 collected or 90%; in personal property taxes, \$471,958 committed; \$453,788 collected or 96%; and stated that collections are not much different from other years.

Richard O. Bell - Conservation Commission

Mr. Bell reported that most of the Commission's activity has been Wetlands Protection Act hearings - Longfellow Glen, Pheasant Meadows, Barton parcels; that the Boy Scouts have been assisting the Park and Recreation Commission in cutting trails on the Barton Land; and that the Community Gardens are now operating successfully (responding to Chairman Cossart, Mr. Bell stated he would look into the safety issue in conjunction with exiting in that area).

James A. Pitts - Finance Committee

Mr. Pitts, new Chairman of the Finance Committee, named the newest members to that Committee: Bettie H. Crawford; Thomas G. Dignan, Jr. and Marjorie R. Wallace.

Aleta F. Cane, Goodnow Library Trustees

Mrs. Cane reported the following:

- adult circulation was 13,000 - up 19% from March;
- children's circulation was 11,000 - up 15% from March.
- they are currently involved in a change of library hours - asking patrons to fill out forms regarding those hours so that they can find out when they can partially close to save electricity;
- concert held last Friday by Friends of the Library;
- the Friends of the Library have rented a display of illustrations of children's books for exhibit at Goodnow from October 18-30.
- \$11,171.16 collected in fines since July 1, 1981.

Russell E. Gessner - Park and Recreation Commissioner

Mr. Gessner reported on the following activities the Park and Recreation Commission: they are working on the Fourth of July parade, combining the summer swim program with the Town of Concord, and a long range sub-committee is looking into the needs of maintenance of facilities and equipment and on programs that are more recreationally than athletically oriented.

Chairman Cossart recessed the Town Fathers Forum at 8:45 p.m. for coffee and conversation.