

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1982

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman Cossart convened the 147th Session of the Town Fathers Forum, and reported on the Board's activities over the past two months, as follows:

- The Board took action on three site plans - approving the site and the common victualler license for Papa Gino's at the present Dairy Queen location and the site for Cumberland Farms (VHS Realty Corp.) at 65 Boston Post Road and denying a site plan extension on the Project Management, Inc., property off Powder Mill Road, which matter has since been filed with the Superior Court for resolution.
- Also, the Board approved five utility petitions; granted an extension of hours under the wine and malt beverages and common victualler licenses for Something Simple; approved inflammables storage of "electronic gases" at Union Carbide; approved the issuance of two auctioneer's licenses, a temporary one-day wine and malt beverage license, and the use of a house trailer.
- The Board held a public hearing on the alcoholic license violation of Sudbury Variety and voted revocation of the license, which matter is being adjudicated.
- In personnel matters, the Board, after mediation, settled a two-year contract with the Engineering Association; requested Civil Service examinations for the positions of Police Chief and Sergeant; acknowledged the resignation of Park and Recreation Chairman Russell Gessner; and, after intensive interviews with all applicants, appointed Michael Dunne as the new Fire Chief effective February 1, 1983.
- Donations were accepted for the Edwin Barrett Hosmer Memorial Fund, Heritage Park, and the Council on Aging for van transportation; in addition, the Board accepted six easements relative to drainage work on Union Ave. and the Dutton Road walkway.
- Three Proclamations were issued: two honoring service to the Town by Fire Department retirees Howard C. Kelly and Richard R. Hawes, and the other initiating November as United Way Month in Sudbury.
- Meetings were held with the Assessors relative to the FY83 assessed valuations and the impact on the October 7 Special Town Meeting; the Juvenile Restitution Committee and officers of the Probation Department relative to extension of the Juvenile Restitution Program to include private property; the Parking Clerk relative to parking for the handicapped; Town officials and the Sudbury Players relative to excess space and Town Hall use; the Water District and the Board of Health to approve an emergency transfer of funds for the purpose of water main extension to the Powder Mill area where well water has been contaminated.
- An extension has been granted by the Massachusetts Cable Commission to April 15, 1983 for the award of the cable license. All recommendations should be forwarded to Town Counsel by December 1 for review and draft of the issuing

authority report. Copies of the two proposals received are available for public review at the Goodnow Library.

- The process of solving concerns relative to the use of Ft. Devens Sudbury Annex is continuing. A meeting is being arranged through Congressman Shannon's office with Ft. Devens officials to discuss the issues.
- The Selectmen accepted bids from The Rene Press, Inc. of Fitchburg, for the printing of both the 1982 Town Report and the 1982 Town Meeting Proceedings.

All Board and Committees are reminded of the December 1 deadline for non-monied articles including by-law and zoning amendments.

Chairman Cossart introduced newly-appointed Fire Chief (effective date of position February 1, 1983), Michael Dunne.

Chairman Cossart asked for reports and information from those Town Officials and board/commission representatives present, as follows:

James A. Pitts, Finance Committee Chairman

Mr. Pitts stated that the Finance Committee is approaching the budget process differently this year. They are asking that all boards and committees submit, not only their budget for FY84 but also a projected budget for FY85. This will enable the FinCom to do a better job in formulating their recommendations for the budget and forecasting the same for a two-year period.

Assessor Donald P. Peirce

Mr. Peirce gave the following information: the preliminary sales analysis from Sudbury's revaluation was \$478,201,827 (approximately 93% of value); the equalized valuation issued by the State was \$534,700,000, which the Assessors appealed to the Appellate Tax Board; the court agreed with the Assessors and the equalized valuation is now \$509,428,000; the Assessors will meet to reconsider their vote to go for certification on the \$478,201,827 figure and probably will be working with a figure of close to \$507,000,000.

Richard O. Bell, Conservation Commission Chairman

Mr. Bell stated that most of the Commission's activities lately are with Wetlands Protection Act Hearings; that it has issued one cease and desist order and 50 hunting licenses. There will be a hearing on December 8 to discuss whether or not the Commission should continue to issue hunting licenses in the future.

Town Accountant James Vanar

Mr. Vanar stated that he is in the process of completing the FY82 Town Audit - the trial balances were completed last Friday, and he hopes to have the audit completed in two weeks. Mr. Vanar stated that he is working on nine budgets.

Fire Chief Josiah F. Frost

Chief Frost expressed his happiness with the new appointment of Captain Michael Dunne to the position of Fire Chief, effective February 1, 1983. In the interim, the Chief stated, he has been appointed Acting Chief and his first assignment is the FY84 budget! Chief Frost stated that Peter Devoll has been appointed Acting Captain for Group 2 to replace Captain Dunne. The new ambulance has been delivered, according to the Chief, and the men are now being trained on it; also, the Fire Department is conducting its annual fire inspections.

Acting Chief Michael Dunne commented about Sudbury participation in the regional Emergency Medical System Advisory Council, sponsored by the Emerson Hospital. This program allows paramedics to assist in emergencies, as needed, in Sudbury, performing advance treatment which EMT's are not qualified to do. There is no extra charge to the Town for this service as it is billed to the patient through the Emerson Hospital emergency room. Patients can also be transported to other area hospitals of their choice. Mr. Dunne also mentioned the Department's newly hired civilian dispatchers, hired in accordance with the October 7, 1982, Special Town Meeting.

Alan Silver, Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee (LRCEC)

Mr. Silver stated that the LRCEC has three new members and the new Committee will have its first meeting next Monday, December 6. He reminded all boards and committees, who have not yet replied to the LRCEC's request for the capital improvement forms, to do so before next Monday.

Aleta F. Cane, Goodnow Library Trustees Chairman

Ms. Cane stated that the Library hours have been reduced in an effort to cut down on utilities and this cut-back reflects an 11% reduction in the electric bill. The reduction in hours indicates a slight decrease in circulation in the children's room; however, there was a slight increase in circulation in the adult room. Ms. Cane invited the public to a holiday get-together, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, to be held December 5, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Town Treasurer Chester Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton stated that, since September, \$250,000,000 has been borrowed in short-term Notes, all of which will mature on December 28, and that he expects no problems in repaying them at that time; one hundred sixty-nine thousand dollars in Revenue Anticipation Notes for Highway purposes has been approved. Mr. Hamilton made the following comparison: in 1981, the Town borrowed \$2,000,000 with \$45,000 paid in interest, and in 1980, the Town borrowed 3½ million with \$58,000 paid in interest. Since current borrowing reflects declining rates, Mr. Hamilton stated he expects to pay \$27,000 in interest in 1982. Accordingly, earnings have been reduced - last year for 4 months ending in October, the Town earned \$132,000 in interest, and this year for the same period, earned only \$99,000. In conclusion, Mr. Hamilton commented that he has combined approximately twenty small savings accounts into one single high-yield account, which he expects will double the earnings to the Town.

Mr. Hamilton commented on a communication dated October 27, 1982, from the Town Accountant requesting that the Selectmen consider moving the Treasurer and the Accountant to the upper Town Hall instead of to the Flynn Building, as proposed by the October 7, 1982, Special Town Meeting. Mr. Hamilton stated that he was not consulted before the Accountant sent this communication to the Selectmen and that his position remains the same - that he reluctantly agrees to move to the Flynn Building if it would resolve the space problems for other Town Government offices within the Town Hall, and further that he does not support the move to the upper Town Hall.

Reporting for the Tax Collector, Mr. Hamilton stated that \$350,000 had been collected to date on the estimated tax bills which were sent out on November 12th, and are due within thirty days. He felt this was a good amount collected.

Commenting for himself and the Tax Collector relative to quarterly billing of tax bills, Mr. Hamilton stated that both favor the same realizing that there would be some administrative problems associated with such a change.

Grace Gelpke, Permanent Landscape Committee (PLC)

Mrs. Gelpke reported that the PLC has completed landscape work at the Police Station with the \$200 allotted to them for this purpose and publicly thanked the Highway Department for its assistance.

Building Inspector Joseph E. Scammon

Mr. Scammon reported as follows: new house permits: 30 this year, 42 for the same period last year; alteration permits: 106 this year, 116 for the same period last year; and wood stove permits: 42 this year, 76 for the same period last year.

Relative to the Longfellow Glen project, Mr. Scammon explained that the area had been cleared to allow for buildings, a driveway to be located somewhere in the middle, the septic system on the left side of the lot, and a retention area to the right.

Mr. Scammon reported the following new subdivisions: Hawes Road (behind the Route 117 Fire Station); the Noyes development off Peakham Road; Bowker VI, Ruddock Road to Willis at the end of Ford Road; and a 5-lot subdivision at the end of Dorothy Road.

John C. Powers, Historical Commission Chairman

Mr. Powers stated that the Commission had a submission from David Hart, the Architect who did the historic site study on the Hosmer House, relative to architecture and construction work, which is being reviewed by Assistant Town Counsel Thomas M. French.

The Pairpoint Glass, ordered to be sold as a fund raiser for the Hosmer House, is expected to be delivered by summer and the Commission will be asking for a \$1,500 transfer from the Hosmer Fund to pay for the balance due on the same.

Donald R. Soule, Park and Recreation Commission

Mr. Soule reported as follows: the Commissioners will make a recommendation for replacement to fill the vacancy of Russell Gessner; that Robert Myers is the Acting Chairman; that the Commissioners recently held a public meeting for discussion and review of its programs - especially the swimming program, which is the most costly to the Town; that a trip to the Kennedy Library for senior citizens is being planned upon special request; that they hope to have the fence at the Fairbank Road end of Haskell Field completed by Spring; and that a sub-committee to look into possible involvement by Park and Rec in the cultural arts area has been organized.

Albert S. Feinberg, Sudbury Housing Authority Chairman

Mr. Feinberg stated that, at the 5th Annual Conference of Housing Authorities, one topic discussed was a congregate housing development in the Town of Barnstable. He stated he would be learning more about this program and offered his assistance to the Town if it is interested in the same.

At the conclusion of discussion, Chairman Cossart recessed the Town Fathers Forum for coffee and conversation.