

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1983

Present: Chairman John E. Murray, Anne W. Donald and Myron J. Fox.

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman Murray convened the 152nd Session of the Town Fathers Forum and reported the following Selectmen's activities during the past month:

The following appointments were made:

- 1) David F. Grunebaum as MAPC Representative and member of a regional committee working on growth-related concerns.
- 2) Rosemary Langmaid as Police Matron/Crossing Guard.
- 3) Prescott Ward as a member of the Memorial Day Committee.

By joint election with the Board of Assessors, Dr. William H. Smith was elected to the Board of Assessors until the next annual election.

A resignation was accepted from Alan Silver from the Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee. We need candidates for this committee.

Robert Dionisi resigned from the Planning Board. Chairman Murray announced that anyone interested in serving on the Board should contact either the Planning Board or Selectmen's office.

A gift of almost four acres of land located between Tanbark and Meadowbrook Roads was accepted, to be managed by the Conservation Commission.

The Selectmen authorized an increase in the maximum amount of optional life insurance coverage available to employees to \$74,000.

Notice has been received that the 1982 town report has received first prize once again in its population category in the Massachusetts Municipal Association contest.

Bids, through The Education Cooperative, were accepted for furnishing fuel oil for town buildings.

A slope and drainage easement and conservation restriction were accepted for property off Powder Mill Road in conjunction with the industrial development.

Another drainage easement was accepted for property on Hudson Road, The Elms.

The month of October was proclaimed as United Way Month in Sudbury.

The Board supported the State's declaration of October 15-22 as Massachusetts Energy Week.

Approval was granted for the transfer of the Restaurant All Alcoholic License held by the Kaffe Stuga to new management - Sudbury Landing, Inc., Thomas E. Shea, Manager, who will operate a seafood restaurant, to be called Tom Shea's

The Board, acting as co-trustees of Town donations, approved the expenditure of \$2,000 from the Goodnow Library Income Account by the Trustees for their ongoing project relative to Sudbury history.

Two site plans were approved:

- 1) a shelter building for the Maynard Rod & Gun Club;
- 2) two office buildings to be named Hop Brook Village at 57 Codjer Lane,

The following meetings were held:

- 1) Representatives from B'nai Torah discussed with the Board their interest in acquiring the Loring School for use by its congregation. No conclusions were reached;
- 2) The Board met jointly with the Planning Board for a general discussion of planning concerns. It was a consensus of that meeting to support the position of a full-time planner. He asked any Board interested in sharing such a position to advise the Selectmen's office. A tentative meeting had been scheduled for November 14, at 8:30 p.m. in the lower Town Hall, to discuss the matter further with boards and committees, town officials, and the local Chamber of Commerce. He encouraged all boards and committees to support this position.

Warrant and budget schedules were approved...

December 1 is the deadline for articles dealing with bylaw changes, street layouts or relocations, or town property transactions.

December 15 is the deadline for budget submission to the Town Accountant.

January 3 is the deadline for all other article submissions.

The Selectmen's office has the Fort Devens Sudbury Annex Environmental Assessment Draft Report on file for public review. The period for input expires November 15.

Chairman Murray asked for reports from Town officials, department heads, and representatives from the various Town committees/boards, which are summarized as follows:

Town Account James Vanar

Mr. Vanar reported that things are running smoothly in the Accounting Department. He stated he recently attended a seminar of the Massachusetts Auditors and Accountants Association; main discussion focused on computers.

Fire Chief Michael Dunne

Fire Chief Michael Dunne reported that the Department has been quiet although the ambulance has been busy; that wood stove inspections have increased - the Chief cautioned people who use their stoves regularly to have them cleaned by a professional chimney sweeper once a year because of creosote buildup. In light of a fatal accident in another town, the Chief reminded people not to run their cars in their garage to warm them up, or for any reason, because of fumes, which could be fatal, seeping into the home.

Town Treasurer Chester Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton reported that when he requested the \$20,000 article for additional interest money at the October Special Town Meeting it was based on two assumptions: 1) that the Town would have to borrow at least one and one half million dollars next spring and 2) that tax bills would be issued by November 1 (which, he stated, no longer appears to be the case). Interest on current borrowing is costing the Town approximately \$450 daily. Mr. Hamilton stated it appears he will not be able to pay off the three million dollars currently outstanding in short-term borrowing; that amount will have to be renewed for not less than twenty-five days. It will also be necessary to borrow one million dollars by the first of December. Mr. Hamilton stated that he does not have enough in his short-term interest account (the total in that account is \$117,000) and that he will be going to the Finance Committee for a transfer of \$5,000-10,000. Mr. Hamilton stated he expects approximately six hundred thousand dollars from the State by the end of December.

Mr. Vanar commented that nine communities have not set their tax rate for 1983, and across the state, only thirty-five communities have set their rates for 1984.

Building Inspector Joseph E. Scammon

Responding to Selectman Fox, Mr. Scammon stated that the fee for a wood stove permit is between eight and twelve dollars.

Mr. Scammon reported that forty-six new house permits had been issued last year compared to forty-eight this year to date; seven new residences last month totalled \$689,000 in assessed valuation or one million dollars is assessed value to the Town! Mr. Scammon reported on new construction - the Vana shopping mall foundation is scheduled to be in by winter, and rough inspections have been started at Longfellow Glen (middle building). Mr. Scammon commented on the house which was moved from Wayland to Route 27/Marlboro Road in Sudbury!

Town Engineer James V. Merloni

Mr. Merloni stated that, according to the Highway Department, the highway project (re-paving by outside contractor) on Union Avenue had been delayed to Wednesday of next week, and that will tie up the road for a couple of days.

Also, the drainage project at the Library is 98% in place. Responding to Selectman Fox on the subject of a full-time Town Planner, Mr. Merloni stated that he would be in favor of a Planner and that the person should have some engineering background.

Winifred Grinnell, Memorial Day Committee

Mrs. Grinnell stated that, although Prescott Ward had just been appointed to the Memorial Day Committee, there is still one more vacancy and that the Committee is anxious to be at full strength. Mrs. Grinnell stated that their meetings will start in January, that there is a lot to do in preparation, and that they will have the Memorial Day essay contest again as it was very popular with the children.

Historic Districts Commission

Both W. Burgess Warren and Louis H. Hough were present for Chairman Burton H. Holmes who was out of town.

Mr. Hough reported the Historic Districts Commission's (HDC) continual dissatisfaction with the overall circumstances at the Village Green, in terms of that development being completed, according to specifications set by the HDC more than two years ago, i.e., the chimneys and the loading dock, despite the many attempts through the owner/developer Bruce Quirk and Ephraim's Restaurant to have those items completed.

Mr. Hough noted the HDC's awareness of certain violations at Ephraim's Restaurant cited by Health Director Michael Sullivan relative to food service and, in light of that restaurant changing hands, questioned whether the new owner's liquor license approval could be subject to completion of these long-standing violations at the Village Green.

Mr. Thompson explained to Mr. Hough that \$15,000 is being held in escrow for the completion of the loading dock and that the Selectmen have granted approval of the licenses subject to its completion as the HDC desires. On advice of Town Counsel, however, it would not be appropriate to condition the liquor license on the completion of the chimneys. Mr. Quirk has stated the chimneys are being built by Brick Face of Billerica and should be in place within a month.

Mr. Hough again expressed his disbelief this would happen based on his past experience with Mr. Quirk.

Chairman James A. Pitts, Finance Committee

Mr. Pitts reported that feedback from his liaison people as a result of his comments at the October Special Town Meeting dealing with Town finances is that some departments feel there are ample funds available and there will be a limited constraint on budget requests.

Mr. Pitts emphasized that what he was trying to say at Town Meeting by his projections was that, by using a maximum amount of available free cash, we would still have a substantial shortfall to meet this constricted projection of 6% salaries and 2½% for the other expenditures, and emphasized in his conclusion that the Finance Committee would, as in the past, continue to scrutinize all budgets under mandates of Proposition 2½.