

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1984

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

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman Murray convened the 154th Session of the Town Fathers Forum and began by reporting the Selectmen's action over the past two months, as follows:

The Selectmen took action on the following applications:

1. Sudbury Automotive, Inc., 209 Boston Post Road: Inflammables Storage License and Site Plan revision-conditionally approved;
2. William Senecal, 111 Boston Post Road - Site Plan for office condominium approved.
3. Papa Gino's of America, 104 Boston Post Road: Wine and Malt Beverages Restaurant License was approved.
4. Coatings Engineering Corp., 33 Union Avenue: Inflammables Storage License - decision pending.
5. Grace Desjardin, Sudbury's Coach House Inn, 758 Boston Post Road: New Site Plan was denied without prejudice.
6. Annual licenses were renewed.
7. Two applications for the one available all alcoholic beverages package store license were heard and both denied, (V. Spadea, 513 Boston Post Rd., and R. Rogers, 621C Boston Post Road).
8. Four utility petitions were approved.

Upon recommendation of the Fire Chief, ambulance fees were raised to \$85 plus \$4 per mile to hospitals in towns outside of Marlboro, Concord, and Framingham.

Articles were submitted by the Selectmen, and the 1984 Annual Town Meeting Warrant was ordered - 47 articles including a petition article being received tonight.

An agreement was signed with the Massachusetts Historical Commission granting a preservation restriction on the Hosmer House, as required for grant funding.

The Board approved a form vote to facilitate site plan approval, and in addition, amended its rules and regulations to require site plan submissions to include an architectural rendering to be reviewed by the Planning Board.

Bids were awarded for 1) printing the Town Report and Proceedings, and 2) to furnish gasoline for Town pumps for 1984.

Classification for tax rate purposes for FY83-84 was established, following a public hearing.

Sanitary Landfill data has been reviewed and discussed with the Landfill Agent and Town Engineer and future plans for equipment and operation made.

The usual budgetary reviews and consideration of capital improvement items have been completed.

The schedule of fees for alcoholic beverages licenses has been increased.

The Board accepted the following donations:

- 1) \$700 from the Sudbury Little League Baseball, Inc., and
- 2) \$700 from the Bull Pen Club of Sudbury, both to be used toward building a new baseball diamond at Haskell Field.
- 3) \$92.50 in miscellaneous donations for the Council on Aging van.
- 4) \$319 from the Kathryn Evison Fund to be added to the Discretionary Fund.

The following appointments were made:

- 1) Rosemary Delaney to the Town Report Preparation Committee.
- 2) Stephen Sandler to the Conservation Commission.
- 3) Joseph Bausk, Tony Kreisel, and Peggy Ward to a new Cable Advisory Group.
- 4) Jean Griffin, Chairman, Board of Registrars, as Census Supervisor for the 1985 State Census.
- 5) Courtney Atkinson as Sealer of Weights and Measures.

And resignations were received as follows:

- 1) From Jack Koenig from the Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee.
- 2) From Patricia Drobinski from the Town Report Preparation Committee.
- 3) Martha Coe from the Memorial Day Committee.

Following consultation with the Insurance Advisory Committee, Town Accountant, and Finance Committee, it was agreed that the Town should go out to bid for insurance coverage.

The Board endorsed a Planning Board application for EOCE funding to update the Town's Master Plan.

Approval was given to receipt of a gift of approximately 1.18 acres of land from Judith E. Nichols, Lot 14, Hunt Road, to be managed and controlled by the Conservation Commission.

James A. Pitts - Finance Committee

Mr. Pitts reported that this is the time of the year when the FinCom holds its budget meetings and that it is meeting twice a week in order to complete them in a timely manner. Mr. Pitts stated that the FinCom is currently projecting a gap in the Town budget of \$500,000-600,000 based on Proposition 2½ calculations.

The FinCom is trying to put together a budget for Town Meeting which is an accurate representation of the spending for next year. Accordingly, the FinCom conducted a study of the changes in the Boston consumer price index, as well as, the Town's salary structure since 1978 as a budget guide for the upcoming year. Mr. Pitts stated that the Finance Committee is notifying all department heads, boards and commissions, under letter dated January 30, 1984, (which he read) of the FinCom's proposal to set the salary adjustment account at a figure which would accommodate a 3.8% increase for FY85 salaries; noting that the preliminary budget exceeds the "2½" calculation by \$500,000-600,000, and that, in the event any settlements exceed the 3.8% rate, a Special Town Meeting would be necessary to prioritize cuts or vote an override; and appealing to department heads to maintain a conservative posture on spending so that positions would not have to be eliminated to balance the budget in future years.

Responding to question by Clifford Hughes, Mr. Pitts stated that the above applies to the regional High School as well.

Town Accountant James Vanar

Mr. Vanar reported that Revenue Sharing legislation had been renewed for three more years - the Town of Sudbury is entitled to \$34,000 per quarter; also, an annual audit will be necessary beginning in FY85. Mr. Vanar responded to the Selectmen that an annual audit will cost the Town approximately \$12,000-13,000.

Mr. Vanar stated that research is concluded on computer specifications for hardware and software, and that bids for the same will be opened February 24th.

Representative Lucile Hicks

Representative Hicks reported that Sudbury will receive MBTA reimbursements of approximately \$214,000; Ms. Hicks reported on the new equity formula for distributing local aid and under the formula stated that it does not look good insofar as Sudbury being able to receive MBTA reimbursement again next year. She expanded on the complications of such a formula and especially certain inconsistencies as it applied to different cities and towns. Chairman Murray commented on the comparisons between a city like Boston where there are so many businesses contributing to the tax rate compared to a town like Sudbury where 80% of school costs are being paid by the homeowner, concluding that the MBTA is just another burden on the homeowner.

Responding to Selectman Donald, who questioned what had been accomplished regarding funds for regional schools, Ms. Hicks stated that transportation costs are 100% reimbursed. Representative Hicks went on to say this budget still has to go through the legislature - that it is between 10-11% over last year's budget, which is almost three times the rate of inflation.

Mr. Clifford Hughes asked if the State has considered allowing the Federal estate tax system for tax purposes in Massachusetts. Ms. Hicks did not know but stated there are enormous amounts of tax bills proposed every year. Mr. Hughes thanked Ms. Hicks for her efforts in regard to the MBTA reimbursement

and suggested that perhaps Senator Atkins should be formally thanked as well.

Selectman Fox appealed to Representative Hicks for anything she could do on the State level relative to the State's project on the widening of Route 20 in Sudbury.

Chairman Albert S. Feinberg, Sudbury Housing Authority

Mr. Feinberg stated that the Sudbury Housing Authority had received a grant for Chapter 705 scattered site housing to purchase an additional five houses. He stated that the Authority purchased three houses and has a \$60,000 balance. Mr. Feinberg further stated that the Authority received authorization to renovate the eight houses presently owned by the SHA, and that the SHA applied for an additional \$30,000-40,000 in renovation monies; also, the SHA has a grant for energy conservation measures at Musketahquid Village.

Mr. Feinberg stated that his term on the SHA expires April 30; he stated that he enjoyed serving on the SHA, and as its Chairman for three years, and personally thanked the Town for giving him the opportunity to serve.

Town Treasurer Chester Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton stated that tax bills went out on December 27, 1983, and that to date approximately four million dollars had been received, with another six million committed. Mr. Hamilton stated that borrowing due January 22, had been paid off, and that borrowing due February 3, three million dollars, can be paid off easily. Mr. Hamilton expressed his hope that this will be the last year that Sudbury will have the record of borrowing that it had this past year.

Fire Chief Michael Dunne

Chief Dunne stated that January was an extremely busy month with seventy-five ambulance runs, mostly due to automobile accidents because of icy roads. He said that the mutual aid from neighboring communities was very satisfactory during that period.

The Chief announced that Fire Fighter John Boland will be attending a four-day conference -- fire prevention seminar -- in Virginia on February 1, with all expenses paid, offered by the National Fire Protection Association, the International Fire Instructors, and the Federal Government. Mr. Boland received one of fifty grants offered nation-wide. Chief Dunne stated that the fire prevention program in the Sudbury schools has been recognized on the national level and the the Sudbury Fire Department is listed in the National Fire Protection Association's Resource Directory.

The Chief expressed appreciation for a computerized report of the Department's activities and statistics for 1982 and 1983 prepared by firefighter Harold Cutler.

Town Clerk Jean M. MacKenzie

Mrs. MacKenzie stated that the Clerk's office is in the process of completing the Town census; that she is now entering into the election period for the primary and the Town election. Mr. Thompson distributed copies to the Board of the Annual Town Election and Town Meeting Calendar for 1984, including voter registration sessions, following reference to the same by Mrs. MacKenzie. Mrs. MacKenzie noted the nineteen available seats, noting that only eight candidates for six of the openings have taken out papers.

Mrs. MacKenzie brought to the Board's attention that there are still 400 unlicensed dogs for 1983 and asked if the Selectmen would follow-up on this matter. Chairman Murray stated that the Board would send a personal letter to all owners of unlicensed dogs.

Mrs. MacKenzie announced that Custodian Doug Lewis had been sent to training school in Jamestown, New York, to learn how to run the election machines, a function performed in the past by the former Town Clerk with the help of Custodian Ted Davidson, recently deceased.

Building Inspector Joseph E. Scammon

Mr. Scammon reported sixty-nine new house permits in 1983 versus forty-six the year before; the total estimated cost of the sixty-nine new houses equals \$6,420,000 or two-thirds of the selling price - not including the land cost; non-residential permits are up to twenty-two from fourteen the year before - total estimated cost, \$1,600,000; total additions, up from one hundred twenty-six to one hundred twenty-eight - value \$1,807,000; miscellaneous permits up four from the pervious year.

W. Burgess Warren, Historic Districts Commission

Mr. Warren stated he had nothing to report on behalf of the Historic Districts Commission, but questioned Mr. Thompson as to whether the Selectmen had received a response to their communication to Mr. Johnson relative to on-going concerns of the HDC at the Village Green.

Mr. Thompson replied that he had received a telephone reply, which was inadequate, and that he would be sending a follow-up letter to Mr. Johnson and would forward a copy of the same to Mr. Warren.

Upon questioning by Mrs. MacKenzie relative to lack of handicapped parking spaces at Mill Village, Chairman Murray asked that the Building Inspector look into the delay in the same being properly designated and marked with upright signs.

Clifford J. Hughes, Mass Bay Transit Authority Designee

Mr. Hughes stated that the total MBTA assessment to the Town of Sudbury before State aid is \$400,000+, and with State aid it is \$200,000.

Resolution Presentation - Retirement of Barbara Parrott

Selectman Donald read and presented to Mrs. Barbara (Polly) Parrott, on the occasion of her retirement from the Sudbury Public Health Nursing Association, a resolution signed by the Selectmen and given in her honor.

Mrs. Parrott stated she was overwhelmed and expressed how much she had enjoyed working for SPHNA for so many years.

Chairman Richard O. Bell - Conservation Commission

Mr. Bell stated that, with the help of Town Counsel, the Conservation Commission will be handling recording of Orders of Conditions at the Registry at the expense of the applicant. Mr. Bell announced the appointment of Stephen Sandler, and stated that Sara E. Bysshe would be resigning and that the Commission has a potential candidate to replace Mrs. Bysshe.

Chairman William P. Reed - Insurance Advisory Committee

Mr. Reed briefly reported that the Insurance Advisory Committee is following through with the Selectmen's direction that all Town insurance be put out to bid.

Chairman Julia R. Barker - Permanent Landscape Committee

Mrs. Barker thanked the Park and Recreation Commissioners and the Highway Department for all their help this past summer; also the Thursday Garden Club for their help in weeding, etc. Mrs. Barker suggested that the Permanent Landscape Committee be contacted for advice on any landscape projects on Town properties; she expressed on behalf of the PLC its willingness to assist and offer its expertise.

Chairman Richard J. Maloney - Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee

Mr. Maloney stated that the LRCEC had been meeting over the past several months with various department heads and had identified all the long range projects and determined three priority levels - high, discretionary, and re-consideration. The Committee's goal, he stated, is to work more in harmony with the FinCom to be of more assistance to them, and to try and get the Town to address longer-term capital expenditures - longer than 1-2 years - so that there are no major surprises in the future.

At 9:00 p.m. Chairman Murray recessed the Town Fathers Forum for coffee and conversation, following which the regular meeting was reconvened.