

TOWN FATHERS FORUM  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1984

Present: Acting Chairman Myron J. Fox and Josiah F. Frost.

Acting Chairman Fox convened the 158th Session of the Town Fathers Forum and reported the following action by the Selectmen over the past month:

- Personnel matters, in particular the interviews for the position of Police Chief consumed a major portion of the meetings held since the October Forum. The appointment of Peter Lembo as Police Chief was made on November 15, after extensive interviews with five candidates, all Sudbury Police Department Sergeants. In other personnel matters, the Selectmen ratified the Personnel Board's 6% salary increase for non-union employees with the exception of Park & Recreation laborers who will receive an increase based upon the Highway salary contract for laborers; these increases for FY85 will be retroactive to July 1. The Selectmen also signed a two-year agreement with the Fire Union after extensive negotiations. J. Stephen Yeo was appointed to the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen agreed to appoint a five - eight member Youth Commission to be sponsored by the Sudbury/Wayland Lions Club. Chairman Donald was appointed the Selectmen's designee to the MetroWest Growth Management Committee, operating under the auspices of the MAPC, in accordance with a recently signed Memorandum of Agreement. The resignation of Dr. Richard Stevens was accepted from the Growth Advisory Committee which had been formed by the Selectmen to provide citizen input in regard to the updating of the Master Plan for Rt. 20. Also, the Selectmen will meet this evening to interview candidates jointly with the Sudbury Housing Authority for the position vacated through the resignation of Charlotte Goss.

- General meetings were held: with the Sudbury Water District to discuss the feasibility of submitting a joint application for State grant funds under the Aquifer Land Acquisition Program; with the Sudbury Housing Authority relative to future housing projects; with the Finance Committee relative to personnel budget concerns and general items with respect to the upcoming Annual Town Meeting; and with citizen groups relative to safety issues involving stop signs and the reinstatement of the Town's walkway program.

- The Provisional License signed with Adams-Russell to provide cable television for the Town was amended relative to initial underground installation charges in accordance with a directive from the Massachusetts Cable Commission.

- Another directive, from the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Commission, will be appealed to the Superior Court in regard to the license renewal application of Thomas McManus, owner of the Wayside Package Store formerly located on the Boston Post Road.

-An award was made to HiTech Graphics of Fitchburg in accordance with their proposal to print the Town Report for 1984, and, on behalf of the Council on Aging, donations of \$104 were accepted for its van transportation program.

- Major moves of Town Hall offices were accomplished in accordance with short-term goals set up by the Board of Selectmen under Federal Revenue Sharing guidelines and, in accordance with the same, a Handicapped Discrimination Grievance Procedure has been adopted by the Board subject to counsel's approval.

- In conjunction with ATM84, Article 31, the Board signed approval of acceptance of the Agricultural Preservation Restriction on a portion of the Stone Tavern Farm given by William and Olive Stone. The Co-holders Agreement with the State was also signed and, accordingly, the Treasurer is proceeding with the bonding arrangements.

- The Selectmen will be submitting several bylaw amendments as a result of input from various boards and Town officials and will also expend jointly with the School Department \$4,500 to study, design and propose for funding under a 1985 Annual Town Meeting article a telephone system to serve the School Department and the Town.

- All three Selectmen attended the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, which encompasses the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association, held in late October. A Selectman will also be meeting with a group of eleven spokesmen from other towns and the MAPC to explore a sub-region planning study.

- All Boards, Committees and Departments are reminded that the filing deadline for non-monied articles is Monday, December 3, at 5 p.m., in the Selectmen's Office.

Selectman Fox asked for reports from Town officials, boards and commissions present.

#### Lawrence L. Blacker - Board of Appeals

Mr. Blacker reported that the Board of Appeals is functioning well; they have heard a number of cases, and their only problem is in dealing with signs - the application and procedure process, which was addressed earlier tonight with the Selectmen.

#### Linda S. Gregory, Sudbury Housing Authority

Ms. Gregory reported that the SHA recently voted against applying for State funds to build congregate housing in Sudbury, not because it is against congregate housing, which is a cost-effective way of providing housing for the elderly, but because the State does not provide the Town with the means to comply with State requirements. Ms. Gregory stated there is no immediate need for elderly housing in Sudbury, but it may be necessary in the future; that there is a great need for low-income family housing, and the only way the SHA would be able to afford additional low-income housing is if the Town voted to supplement the State's \$65,000 allotment per home with additional monies or possible land on which to build.

Robert Verville - Sign Review Board

Mr. Verville reported that he had met earlier in the evening with the Selectmen, the Board of Appeals, and the Building Inspector, to discuss the Sign Bylaw and to address the concern of the Sign Review Board that it become more involved in the sign review process.

James Vanar - Town Accountant

Mr. Vanar thanked the Executive Secretary, the Selectmen, and Town Counsel for their support in negotiating the contract for software with IDM.

Susan Abrams - School Committee

Ms. Abrams reported the following issues currently being discussed by the School Committee:

- The hiring of a part-time person for approximately 2-3 hours in the morning to provide an "absent student credibility system";
- Charging tuition to students attending Sudbury schools for 4-5 months prior to residency in Sudbury;
- Purchasing a new vehicle, possibly equipped for the handicapped;
- Budget accounts: "C" account is \$12,000 higher than in the past because of the new vehicle; "B" account holding at 2.5; and "A" account (contractual services) will be reviewed at next meeting;
- Negotiated a 2-year contract at 5½% and 6% increases; and
- Expanding computer program, now in grades 5-8, to include K-4.

Regarding the hiring of a part-time person, Selectman Frost stated, as a member of the Kiwanis, that a group from Noyes School had appealed to the Club requesting financial support for a similar project and that the Kiwanis had received them favorably. Selectman Frost felt there were enough civic groups in Town that attendance checks could be done on a voluntary basis without any additional cost to taxpayers. Selectman Frost asked that Ms. Abrams have the Nixon group get back to the Kiwanis Club with more details, and that the School Committee consider his concerns.

Thomas W. H. Phelps - Planning Board

Mr. Phelps reported that the Planning Board has been active in the following matters over the past month:

- a number of sub-division plans filed, public hearings are coming up;
- met with Peakham Road residents regarding their intention to submit a petition article for a walkway on a portion of Peakham Road for the 85ATM;
- working with Interchange on the Route 20 Master Plan draft report for finalization by the end of this month;

- drafting Planning Board articles for the ATM;
- regarding the elimination of "pork chop" lots in future sub-divisions - will submit an article for the 85ATM or act on a change to the Planning Board's rules and regulations pertaining to sub-divisions.

Town Treasurer Chester Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton reported that, with real estate tax receipts, there is currently a good flow of money; and that a significant amount of interest was earned on the money borrowed. Regarding Stone Farm, all papers have been signed and, following the final meeting to pass papers in December, the bond will issue - interest on the principle will not be due until next FY so there will be no impact on our current year's expenses.

Isabelle Stone - Tax Collector

Mrs. Stone reported that \$4,970,980 or 77% of the total has been collected to date in real estate taxes; \$1,461,151 remains under collection at 14% from October 12. She said that personal property tax bills will be going out tomorrow.

Burton H. Holmes - Historic Districts Commission

Mr. Holmes stated that the Commission has issued nineteen certificates of appropriateness this year - all seem to be completed or are being completed to the Commission's satisfaction. However, the HDC has two long-standing complaints, on two pieces of property in the Historic District: 1) chimneys at Village Green - a 5-year outstanding violation despite requests and attempts by the Selectmen, the Executive Secretary and Town Counsel to have these corrected; and 2) an improperly constructed stone wall at 277 Old Sudbury Road, a private home, recently changed ownership but Town Counsel states violation will continue with new owner. This has been brought to the attention of the authorities but remains in violation.

Veterans Advisory Committee

A report submitted on behalf of the Veterans Advisory Committee by its Chairman, William A. Burns, was read by Selectman Fox. The Veterans Advisory Committee handles problems of veterans and their families pertaining to legal and financial matters, mostly of a personal and confidential nature.

Board of Assessors

A report submitted on behalf of the Board of Assessors by its Chairman, David Collins, was read by Selectman Fox. The Board of Assessors is currently processing real estate abatement applications for FY85 - a total of forty-five over-evaluation applications were received.

A mandated FY86 update has been tentatively approved by the State Department of Revenue and the Assessors are in the process of determining which outside consultants will be used for commercial, industrial and personal property values for this update and for contracts in early 1985.

The Assessors are hopeful that current computer room space issues can be resolved as they will be needing more working space for the update currently underway.

#### Earth Removal Board

A report from the Chairman of the Earth Removal Board was read by Selectman Fox regarding an article it proposed, prepared by Town Counsel for the Selectmen's submission, which will amend the Earth Removal Bylaw by reducing the publication time period from 21 to 7 days and by adding the requirement of notices being sent to abutters.

#### Jane A. Neuhauser - Park and Recreation Commission

The following activities of the Park and Recreation Commission were reported by Mrs. Neuhauser:

- The Park and Recreation Commission was able to open the Teen Center this fall due to the support of the Selectmen and approval of the Finance Committee to transfer funds from the Reserve Fund to hire a Teen Center Supervisor - opening night, 127 teens in attendance;

- A sub-committee has been established called Friends of Park and Recreation for raising funds to improve recreational facilities in Town without placing an additional burden on taxpayers, i.e., lights installed at Feeley Field;

- At Haskell Field, septic tanks have been put in place to bring in water from Fairbank School;

- A Michael Jackson night, sponsored by Park and Recreation, was very successful; two family-oriented ski trips are planned in January.

#### Highway Surveyor Robert A. Noyes

Mr. Noyes reported on the Highway Department's activities over the past month, i.e., general maintenance of drainage, ditches, re-marking roads, inspections on new construction, hauling cover material to Landfill; also, on the following:

- Dutton Road relocation has been completed; sidewalk also finished.

- Monitor for Landfill will be hired this week.

- Stickers are being monitored by Highway personnel and many people have been challenged.

- Clearing out walkways and brush on side of streets - getting ready for snow plowing.

Col. Paul J. Leahy - Veterans Agent

Col. Leahy reported the three following changes in the law pertaining to the Veterans Agent effective the first of the FY:

- veterans will receive 5% cost-of-living adjustment;
- the State will reimburse the Town 75%, instead of 50%, of costs incurred;
- all Veterans Agents must be veterans; present agents grandfathered.

Col. Leahy added that he has spent very little money on veterans - approximately \$700 - and it was reimbursed by the State.

Col. Paul J. Leahy - Council on Aging

At the Drop-in Center, hot meals are served three times a week, approximately 20-25 people take part in the hot meals program; the week before Thanksgiving, forty-six senior citizens attended a Thanksgiving dinner at the Drop-in Center; hope to have a new senior citizen bus in March.

Finance Committee

A report submitted on behalf of the Finance Committee by its Chairman, Marjorie Wallace, was read by Selectman Fox. The Finance Committee held a meeting November 1 for Town officials to review budget submission process; extreme care and careful setting of priorities will be necessary to stay within the levy limit this year; Jerry Orris had been appointed to fill the unexpired term of Bettie Crawford who will be moving.

Police Chief Peter Lembo

Chief Lembo reported house breaks are up; business breaks are down. He complimented Officers MacLean and Burney for apprehending burglars involved in two burglaries over the weekend; stated that he is updating/revising rules and regulations of the Department - approximately 35 changes in policy and standard operational procedures - and that he hopes to have them reviewed and into effect by the middle of January.

Building Inspector Joseph E. Scammon

Mr. Scammon reported that, to date, 84 new house permits have been issued compared to 69 permits last year; alteration are up 10% - 124 to date versus 112 last year; swimming pools, 28 to date, 17 last year; wood stoves, down to 32 from 45 last year.

He stated he is busy with annual inspections, preparing his budget, and routine inspection work.

Selectman Fox asked the Building Inspector to notify Medical First of the sign violation at its new headquarters on Boston Post Road.

Fire Chief Michael Dunne

Chief Dunne stated he received the resignation of a three-year Sudbury firefighter who transferred to the Watertown Fire Department; received authorization from the State to charge \$85 for ambulance runs, retroactive to April, which will bring in an additional \$1,000 in fees; area fire chiefs met with the District Attorney's office - more emphasis will be placed on arson and car fires.

Conservation Commission

A report submitted by Chairman Gordon Henley on behalf of the Conservation Commission was read by Selectman Fox. Several Wetlands Protection Act hearings have been held; more serious problems seem to be in the area of enforcement - the Commission would like to emphasize that numerous plans for residential projects are receiving review by the Building Department and the Board of Health without adequate wetland mylars by the applicant resulting in severe downstream problems when wetlands are later identified and permits have already been issued. Therefore, the Commission encourages the Building Department and the Board of Health (and alert the Selectmen) of the need to entirely quiz applicants on the possibility of wetlands on pending sites - the Commission is working on a joint approach to solving this problem;

The Commission is considering a case-by-case procedure with regard to the Town regulation of restricting construction within 100' of a wetland not to go below the State required 50'.

A Land Bank Tax public hearing was held November 15 and the Commission has requested a one-month extension of the filing deadline for this article to allow another public hearing to which all interested parties are invited to attend.

Selectman Fox reiterated previous statements regarding his personal opinion that a Land Bank Tax is not the answer; mainly, because of the precedent it will set for other boards to skirt Proposition 2½ with a similar tax.

Attest:

Richard E. Thompson  
Executive Secretary-Clerk