

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1984

Present: Chairman Anne W. Donald, Myron J. Fox and Josiah F. Frost.

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman Donald convened the 156th Session of the Town Fathers Forum and reported the following items which represent Board of Selectmen action since the end of June.

The Board approved the Sandler Brothers site plan for a retail/office building at the corner of Dudley Road and Route 20, revisions and addition to the Sudbury Farms building for a greenhouse area and loading/storage areas, modification of Technology Concepts Codjer Lane corporate headquarters plan, revisions of the Union Avenue Mobil site plan to show tank removal and sign, and extension of the Doyle site plan for 321 Boston Post Road office complex. Relative to the Raytheon application for an addition to the Boston Post Road site, which was tabled until 9:30 p.m. this evening, the Board welcomed Raytheon's offer to widen a section of Route 20 plus expend up to \$200,000 for certain traffic improvement measures in an effort to ameliorate the traffic impact which may result from the proposed addition.

In Town real estate matters, a 5-year lease was concluded for the Loring School with Congregation B'nai Torah as of August 1, and the deed conveying the Horse Pond School to the State was signed and will be held in escrow until approval of the Governor's Council and subsequent payment. The Board also approved a short-term plan for use of Town office space which will result in Flynn Building accommodations for the Assessors and Tax offices and larger Town Hall accommodations for the Fire Department. The Town Accountant and Treasurer's move to the Nixon School will initiate implementation of long-term goals approved by the Board to move all Town government offices to that facility by October 1986, the deadline imposed by the Federal Government under Revenue Sharing requirements pertaining to handicapped access.

In other matters dealing with real estate, the Board agreed with the Conservation Commission on deed language for acceptance of parcels off Mossman and Powers Roads and accepted a Conservation Restriction on areas within the West Way Hills subdivision off Brimstone Lane.

The Board recently appointed Patrolman Jeffrey Gogan as the Town's Parking Clerk, replacing Assistant Counsel Thomas M. French who has acted in the capacity of Parking Clerk since 1982. In addition to the annual election officer appointments, other appointments made by the Board were: June Kelley as Assistant Town Accountant; Alan Thayer to the Board of Registrars; former Insurance Advisory Committee Chairman William P. Reed as ex-officio member and Katherine Masiello and Wendy Roberts as members of that Committee; Ben Stevens as Board of Appeals Associate and Earth Removal Board member; Health Director Michael Sullivan as Municipal Coordinator under the Right-to-Know legislation and as Hazardous Waste Coordinator with Fire Chief Michael Dunne acting as alternate in both positions. Frank Scofield's resignation from the Conservation Commission was regrettably accepted as was that of Forrest D. Bradshaw as Election Officer.

In licensing matters, a provisional license was signed in early July allowing Adams-Russell to proceed with cable television service for the Town;

a Class II license to sell and repair used automobiles was granted to the Automotive Diagnostic Center at 100 Boston Post Road, and a diesel fuel storage license was granted to Precourt Realty for use at 46 Union Avenue.

The annual Selectmen's meeting with the Highway Surveyor (Landfill Agent) and the Town Engineer to discuss the use and life of the Landfill took place in August, resulting in recommendations relative to brush and stump disposal, monitoring and changes to the Rules and Regulations. In addition, a hydrogeological study of the Landfill voted by the 1984 Town Meeting has been commissioned, and the Selectmen continue to explore regional refuse disposal with the invaluable help of E. Lawrence Gogolin, 128 West Resource Recovery Council Representative.

As a result of insurance bidding, the Town has a more cost-effective insurance program through its participation in the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association bid by the Hastings-Tapley and Hall insurance agencies. This also means, of course, that the Selectmen's Office has added duties with regard to processing title applications and claims. Workers' Compensation coverage was awarded to American Mutual Insurance. Other cost savings have been effected by obtaining the Town's fuel oil supply through The Educational Cooperative of Wellesley.

In financial matters, miscellaneous donations of \$200 and a grant payment of \$146 for the van transportation program were accepted on behalf of the Council on Aging, and the Selectmen authorized Tax Anticipation Notes in the amount of three million dollars, due December 14. A hearing to set the residential factor relative to FY85 tax classification was held last week which will allow the Assessors to set the tax rate.

Collective bargaining agreements have been reached with the Supervisory Association and the Engineering, Highway and Police unions and annual performance reviews have been completed for those department heads under the Selectmen. With regard to Police Department personnel matters, interviews for the position of Police Chief will be held in October and the Selectmen have requisitioned for inclusion in the next Police Lieutenant examination to be held in April. The Selectmen have approved an Affirmative Action Program in accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination which incorporates a policy on Sexual Harassment in the workplace.

The Route 20 Master Plan Update has been received from Interchange planning consultants and a copy is available in the Selectmen's office.

Susan Abrams-School Committee

Ms. Abrams reported that the student population for the 1984-85 school year is slightly higher than anticipated but that class sizes have remained stable because of the distribution of students in the three elementary schools. There are 435 students at Haynes School, 651 at Noyes, and 770 at Curtis - a total of 1,856 elementary school students. Students and their families will be alerted to new school policies via newsletters sent out by the three schools.

Thomas W. H. Phelps, Planning Board

Planning Board Chairman Tom Phelps stated that the Planning Board has been active in the three following major events: 1) the hiring of a Planning Administrator; 2) the finalization of a 1984 Town Survey, prepared by student intern Hans Helgeson, which reflects the attitudes of the Town toward commercial development; and 3) the updating of the Route 20 Master Plan.

Planning Administrator Lee Newman

Ms. Newman stated she is glad to be working in Sudbury, and looks forward to working with the various boards in the future.

Building Inspector Joseph E. Scammon

Mr. Scammon reported the following data pertaining to permits issued by the Building Department comparing last year's totals to nine months this year:

- 70 permits for new homes vs. 69 last year;
- 93 permits for alterations vs. 85 last year; and
- 23 permits for pools vs. 13 last year.

Mr. Scammon mentioned his involvement with several new construction projects in Town, i.e., Sudbury Crossing shopping center is nearing completion, foundation is in for Mullen's block of stores at the former Sudbury House site; Technology Concepts on Codjer Lane is about to begin construction; and parking areas are being marked off and traffic patterns are being implemented at the Star Plaza/Mugar Group retail area.

Town Engineer James V. Merloni

Mr. Merloni reported that, after two months of negotiations with the State Department of Public Works and the developer of the Sudbury Crossing shopping center, permission has now been received from the State for the installation of a traffic light at the Sudbury Crossing intersection with Union Avenue at no cost to the Town; said installation is scheduled for approximately November 1.

Town Accountant James Vanar

Mr. Vanar reported that the Accounting Office has moved to the Nixon Building and that they are very happy in their new quarters.

Marjorie Wallace, Finance Committee

Chairman Marjorie Wallace informed the public of the following:

- that Walter Stowell had resigned from the Finance Committee because of increased responsibilities associated with his new position at Raytheon; also, Mr. Stephen Ellis had been appointed to replace him;

- that the tax picture is not a "rosy one" but could be improved with the passage of the November ballot question, to exempt the Town from the

provisions of Proposition 2½, for the amount of the bond issue on Stone Tavern Farm, approximately \$66,200, for a period of five years;

- that the Personnel Board has agreed to perform a study of the salaries for elected officials and will make a recommendation to the Finance Committee; the Finance Committee will continue to make the recommendations to Town Meeting for elected official salaries.

- a Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, November 1, at 7:30 p.m. to which she invited local boards and committees to discuss budget preparations.

Henry P. Sorett, Personnel Board

Chairman Henry P. Sorett, Personnel Board, stated that the Personnel Board was in the process of approving salaries for FY85 for individually-rated personnel.

Police Administrative Assistant Peter Lembo

Sergeant Lembo expressed great concern relative to the traffic situation on Route 20 due to the opening of the Sudbury Crossing shopping center and the request for traffic detail at that intersection with Union Avenue from 2:30-6:30 p.m. daily. Sergeant Lembo stated that traffic detail is very difficult to fill, that he has had to call surrounding towns because he does not have enough men in Sudbury for the extra detail, which he prefers not to do because there is always the question of liability. (Sergeant Lembo stated that he had asked Highway Surveyor Robert A. Noyes for a light at the intersection so that the traffic officer can be seen by traveling motorists. Sergeant Lembo explained that when Sudbury had a police officer directing traffic there in the past there had been a light and meter box which was disconnected when the service was discontinued.) Sergeant Lembo went on to say that he prefers to use special police from the Sudbury Fire Department because he is assured that these men have the proper training, i.e., first responder, EMT.

With regard to the Class 1 crime rate report put out by the FDI, Sergeant Lembo reported that Sudbury's crime rate as of August is down 24% - burglaries are down 12%, larcenies are down 25%, and motor vehicle theft is down 27%. Sergeant Lembo commented that Sudbury has had a large number of house breaks this year and strongly urged citizens to call the police if ever there is a suspicious car in the neighborhood. Areas burglarized have been Peakham Road, Dutton Road, and Prides Crossing Road; hot items are video recording equipment.

Sergeant Lembo stated he would like to look seriously at computerizing the police logs in the near future (next 2-5 years). This would organize the storage of records and be a more systematic way of keeping records up to date.

Assessor David M. Collins

Mr. Collins stated that the Assessors had met with the Selectmen on September 10 to establish the residential factor following which the Assessors

met and established the tax rate for FY85. On September 11, the Town Accountant raised a question which caused the Assessors to call a special meeting on September 15 at which time they re-established the residential tax rate. On September 17, there was a meeting at the State Department of Revenue, attended by Town Counsel and the Town's Executive Secretary, at which time Town Counsel submitted a letter, specifically on the question of whether the Hosmer House appropriation of \$20,000 approved by 84ATM was to be raised by taxation. Consequently, another meeting was held at the Department of Revenue with the Town Clerk, the Town Accountant, Town Counsel and the Executive Secretary in attendance, and Mr. Collins stated that his understanding of that meeting was that the tax rate established on the 15th by the Assessors will be approved by the State tomorrow or the next day. Mr. Collins commented that the tax bills will not go out on time, but for the record, stated it is through no fault of the Assessors.

Town Treasurer Chester Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton expressed his opinion that Sudbury taxpayers should be made aware that the passage of the November ballot question, as noted earlier by Ms. Wallace, Finance Committee Chairman, means they are being taxed on an additional \$66,200 approximately.

Mr. Hamilton stated that last month three million dollars was borrowed in Tax Anticipation Notes in anticipation of tax receipts. Interest on that borrowing will cost the Town \$48,700 or approximately \$512.63 per day. Mr. Hamilton went on to say that every day after October 1 that tax bill are delayed interest on these Tax Anticipation Notes will create a loss in interest income of approximately \$1,450 per day. He urged the Assessors to resolve the setting of the tax rate as judiciously as possible.

Fire Chief Michael Dunne

Following a brief summary of the Department's activities over the past month, Chief Dunne, as United Way Chairperson for the municipality, showed a movie on behalf of United Way. The Chief explained that only 5% of the money raised for United Way is used for administrative purposes; the rest of the money is turned back to communities and agencies. He said that there are 3700 people in Sudbury who have received the benefits of United Way.

Chairman Donald adjourned the Town Fathers Forum for coffee and conversation.

Attest:

Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary-Clerk