

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1985

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

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman Fox convened the 160th Session of the Town Fathers Forum and as a first order of business asked the Executive Secretary to present the 1984 Town Report art awards.

Executive Secretary Richard E. Thompson presented artistic merit awards to those students whose artwork represented the theme and was selected for inclusion in the Town Report for 1984.

Chairman Fox stated that the purpose of the Town Fathers Forums is for an exchange of information between Town officials/departments/committees and to better foster cooperation between boards. Selectman Fox went on to say that the Selectmen will be promoting presentation of a substantive issue for discussion, to be presented each month by a Town official, department head, or committee. Chairman Fox stated that Finance Committee Chairman Marge Wallace is prepared to make a presentation this evening.

Chairman Fox reported the Selectmen's activities over the past four months as highlighted below:

1. Two new committees have been appointed: a Youth Commission a Sudbury Employees Group Insurance Advisory Committee. This latter group, appointed under statute, will consider whether and how to modify the Town's group health insurance, an ongoing concern for the Board of Selectmen. And, sadly, after over ten years of service, the Board accepted the resignation of Assistant Town Counsel Thomas French and joins with the Town in wishing him the best in his move to Arizona.
2. The Board has signed the final CATV license with Adams-Russell and installation has already begun.
3. The Board continues to work with other towns on mutual concerns through Selectman Frost's participation in the Minuteman Regional Planning Council and Selectman Donald's participation in the MetroWest Growth Management Committee. Both groups are actively seeking funds for planning grants and MetroWest is involved, additionally, in making application to secure funds for a regional refuse disposal study and evaluation. The Board also has met with representatives from abutting towns and the Sudbury Housing Authority and Planning Board to discuss plans for the excess Natick Laboratory's Annex 289 acres and has expressed its support of State acquisition for passive recreational purposes.
4. In internal Town matters, the Selectmen have revised the Landfill Rules and Regulations, have met with the Building Inspector, Planning Board, Fire Chief, Board of Health and Conservation Commission with regard to the issuance of certificates of occupancy, have revised the Hawkers and Peddlers regulations, traffic rules and orders to add three stop signs, have voted to add preliminary meetings to the site plan rules and regulations for commercial

enterprises, have rebid the Town telephone system, and have reviewed the master plan update and discussed aquifer protection with various boards.

5. The Selectmen are pleased to announce that the Town received \$170,000 from the State for the sale of the Horse Pond School, thanks in large to Selectman Frost's persistence.

Marjorie R. Wallace, Finance Committee

Ms. Wallace stated that the Finance Committee has reorganized - she has been re-appointed Chairman for another year and Christopher F. Baum, Vice-Chairman. Ms. Wallace stated that liaison assignments will be made at the Finance Committee's June 13 meeting and notification of assignments made thereafter.

Ms. Wallace stated that several weeks ago she and the Town Accountant met with the Selectmen to discuss some of the financial issues of the Town and agreement was reached that it is necessary to call a Special Town Meeting for several reasons: 1) the issue of Blue Cross/Blue Shield budget reduced by \$100,000 at the 85ATM; 2) amend amount of voted free cash - in an attempt to keep people informed on what was happening on a minute-by-minute update basis, the 1985 Town Meeting overspent the free cash appropriation and now should vote to amend the wrap-up motion to restore unnecessarily-used free cash; 3) county retirement unfunded liability may be partially assessed against the Town this year; and 4) unpaid bills - there is currently \$35,000 left in the Reserve Fund which is not enough money to fund all the transfers that are coming before the Finance Committee - a 9/10 vote at the Special Town Meeting will be necessary to appropriate money for any unpaid FY85 bills.

Ms. Wallace stressed the Finance Committee's stand for FY86 on the following:

- a line item transfer should only be submitted when people want money for integrated line items, i.e., if there is money left over in a salary account because a person leaves, and a department head is covering that person with overtime, it would be legitimate to ask for a line item transfer between those two accounts but not legitimate to use the money in the salary account if a decision is suddenly made to purchase a computer or some other capital expenditure;

- a capital expenditure is not a legitimate use of the Reserve Fund unless something has gone out to bid and the bids have come back higher than the amount appropriated or in the case where a vehicle which is "totaled" in the middle of a fiscal year has to be replaced.

Ms. Wallace stated that people have to be more careful with their budgets, they should track their budgets on a monthly basis and their liaisons would be glad to help; stated that it is important not to over spend and asked for their cooperation as far as budgets are concerned. She stated that the Finance Committee would like to get more involved this year with long-range plans, i.e., landfill expansion, equipment in Highway Department and the Fire Department - any long-range capital expenditures.

Responding to Chairman Fox, Ms. Wallace stated that operating policies and an explanation of line item transfers and Reserve Fund transfers will be distributed to all departments preparing budgets.

In conclusion, Ms. Wallace stated that December 31 is the deadline for budgets to be submitted to the Finance Committee; December 15 is the deadline for submission to the Town Accountant so that he can verify numbers.

Relative to the September Special Town Meeting, Chairman Fox requested that no other articles, petition or otherwise, be submitted unless they are of an emergency nature, adding that petition articles would have to be accepted.

Chairman Fox asked for reports from Town officials/department heads/boards and committees, and the following persons reported: Representative Lucile Hicks, Planning Board Chairman Morton L. Brond, Town Engineer James V. Merloni, Police Chief Peter Lembo, Town Treasurer Chester Hamilton, Conservation Commission Chairman Gordon D. Henley, Highway Surveyor Robert A. Noyes, Tax Collector Isabelle Stone, Memorial Day Committee Chairman Winifred C. Grinnell, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee member Stephen L. Bober, Fire Chief Michael Dunne, Sudbury Housing Authority Chairman Linda S. Gregory, Board of Assessors member Patrick J. Delaney, III, Building Inspector Joseph E. Scammon, Veterans Agent/Council on Aging Chairman Col. Paul J. Leahy, Historic Districts Commission member Sally B. Lukesh and Town Accountant James Vanar.

The following are the highlights of certain reports:

- Planning: Sudbury Postmaster will pursue the parking problem at the local post office with the Federal Government and report back to the Planning Board; a subcommittee has been formed consisting of the Planning Administrator and a representative from the Sign Review Board, the Board of Appeals, to review the Sign Bylaw; Planning Board's rules and regulations are being revised and should be completed by early July.

- Engineering: proposed 42-home subdivision in Framingham with access only through Sudbury (Brimstone Lane), by Franchi Construction; Chairman Fox recommended that Mr. Merloni consult with Town Counsel, since, as an abutter to the property, Sudbury will be notified and have the opportunity to give its input to the development; Selectman Donald will inform MetroWest of the proposed development at its meeting tomorrow since that Committee was formed to deal with any development that impacts on abutting towns.

- SHA: Townwide questionnaire indicated an interest in multi-family units as opposed to individual low-income homes.

- Building: Inspector to consider raising the \$30 square footage fee for building permits to \$35 and report back to the Executive Secretary.

- Council on Aging: van with wheel chair lift to be used for school's Chapter 766 children in exchange for bus driver's salary which will be paid out of the school's budget - a savings to both the Council and the Schools.

- Historic Districts Commission: Executive Secretary to consult with Town Counsel's office as to the status of pending violations in the Historic District by the Village Green property owners.

Attest: _____
Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary-Clerk