

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN FORUM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1988

The Chairman convened the 180th Session of the Town Forum at 8:00 p.m. in the lower Town Hall.

Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Agent

Building Inspector Joseph Scammon reported that as of the first of this month, there were only 37 new home applications, versus 67 for the same time last year; however, there were 178 alterations applications, versus 164. Mr. Scammon further reported that he and Doug Lewis have been working hard with regard to the boiler situation at Fairbank School, and he will be meeting with the architect for the Nixon School regarding preliminary plans.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Jean MacKenzie reported a marvelous primary, with a record-breaking 624 voters. The Town Clerk's Office is in the process of going through special voter registrations, and stated that to date, the Town is about fifty voters off from the peak numbers of 1984.

With regard to the primaries, Ms. MacKenzie reported that because of the very close race between Herb Connally and Robert Kennedy, a recount has been ordered.

In closing, Mrs. MacKenzie stated that her office is preparing for Special Town Meeting.

Town Engineer

Town Engineer I. William Place reported that on September 13, 1988, he and Town Counsel Paul Kenny met with representatives of DEQE on a number of Landfill issues, and the northeast corner of the Landfill is being permitted for use. The Town is expected to put in some type of leachate collection system.

The engineering work on the Goodman's Hill Road and Peakham Road walkways has been completed. Surveys are being done on Old Lancaster Road and Mossman Road.

The New Town Cemetery design has been completed.

Drainage of Great Lake Drive has been completed.

The Engineering Department is working with the Traffic Management Committee regarding the downtown Route 20 area. Mr. Place met with Al Lang about a week ago regarding the project in District 4, and Mr. Lang wants to make certain that all the documentation is there.

Town Accountant

Town Accountant James Vanar stated that Mrs. Kelly of his office asked that he remind all departments to get the health insurance forms in by Wednesday.

School Committee

Chairman Steven Bober reported that the School Committee has voted to award the contract for asbestos detection for \$23,500, which, as has previously been arranged with the Finance Committee, will result in a reduction of the School Committee's request under Special Town Meeting Article 25. It is anticipated that the new figure will therefore be \$214,500.

Reporting for the School Building Committee, Mr. Bober stated that they are continuing to work with the architect to design the Nixon School expansion project. They hope to be able to show an overview of what it will look like to the public. The cost estimates are being developed and will be available soon.

Mr. Bober stated that due to the questionable nature of State reimbursements, the School Committee's current plans are going to be reduced, and central office space is no longer included in its expansion design.

In conclusion, Mr. Bober stated that the Committee is very pleased to look forward to working with the Space Needs Committee and hopes to address a transition plan for anticipated enrollment increases.

Veterans Advisory Committee

Mary Jane Hillery reported the Committee stands ready as usual to assist Director of Veterans Services Paul Leahy; and she introduced two new members of the Committee: Elizabeth M. Foley and Vincent P. Surwilo.

Memorial Day Committee

Mary Jane Hillery reported that Elizabeth M. Foley has offered to serve on the Committee, and that Catherine F. Hall has had to resign due to her move out of state.

350th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Committee Chairman Beverly Bentley reported that an open meeting is being planned for Wednesday, September 28th at 7:30 p.m., at lower Town Hall, as a result of the numerous requests from groups offering their help. At that open meeting, there will be a demonstration of the Celebration's Kick-Off production of "Town Meeting Tonight".

Mrs. Bentley further reported that contracts have been coming in for bands for the dances.

Mrs. Bentley stated that the Committee's biggest problem is getting sponsors for the less-exotic Celebration items such as portable "johns", electrical expenses, and trash removal. She does hope to have the Sunday picnic and laser show funded; and income will be coming in from the food concessions.

Finance Committee

Richard H. Pettingell reported that the Committee has completed its evaluation of all articles for the Special Town Meeting, and they have voted to recommend that it will transfer approximately \$360,000 of the Town's \$572,000 in certified free cash to fund those articles. This will, he explained, leave the Town with the use of \$212,000 in free cash for the Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Pettingell stated that in making its determinations the Finance Committee looked at those articles which it deemed necessary to the town, in the sense that it was required because it was unanticipated or unplanned for at the regular Town Meeting; or necessary in the sense that it is required to preserve an existing Town asset. A final criteria was the situation where an expenditure at this time would result in information which could be used at Annual Town Meeting in order to have a full and fair examination of an article at that time. Mr. Pettingell stated that the Committee generally will be recommending against what it perceives as an attempt to use Special Town Meeting as an opportunity to gain funding for a budget item that was voted down at the Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Pettingell further reported on plans concerning a possible five-year financial plan for the Town; and stated that on July 7, the Committee met with representatives of the Sudbury Schools, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, the Executive Secretary, and the Long Range Planning Committee to discuss this. He stated that he believed there was a free exchange of ideas and he had the sense that the proposal was supported by all concerned. The first meeting of the Task Force will take place on October 20, 1988. This Task Force will consist of one member from the Finance Committee, the Sudbury Schools, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, the Executive Secretary, Long Range Planning Committee, and Town Accountant James Vanar.

Historic Districts Commission

Burton H. Holmes reported that a slide presentation was developed for Northland Development Corporation, who will be developing the Carding Mill property, the first cluster development in Sudbury's history. The presentation is an overview of pre-Twentieth Century homes in Town. Mr. Holmes reminded those present that Northland has been charged to present its housing designs to the Architectural Review Committee; and there will be a meeting with the Planning Board, Architectural Review Committee and Trustees of the Wayside Inn.

Historical Commission

Stephan R. Fontaine reported a good turnout for its Fourth of July activities and cup plate sales have been going well. Mr. Fontaine stated that there has been trouble with the landscaping, generally attributable to drainage problems.

Design Review Board

Joyce Fantasia stated that the Design Review Board wished to share some concerns it has with sign bylaw enforcement. She reported as follows: Many signs continue to go up that do not conform to the bylaw. This also makes it difficult when an applicant who went through the proper process and obtains an approved sign sees an illegal sign go up with no ramifications. Thus, it makes it difficult in terms of public relations, in that it tends to trivialize the process.

In response to inquiry by Selectman Cope, Mrs. Fantasia stated that the Board has not developed a formal list; that the sign violations are "caught" by what happens to be seen. Mrs. Fantasia stated that she intends to write the Building Inspector to ask what can be done by his department; and she will

supply a copy of her letter to the Selectmen. Selectman Chairman Wallace stated that this is an on-going problem; and the Town now has a ticketing procedure that will make such violations a non-criminal offense. This has been approved at last year's Town Meeting; has been approved by the Attorney General's Office over this past summer; and the tickets are in the process of being printed up.

Board of Health

Michael Guernsey reported that Director of Health Robert C. Leupold has been kept very busy. The biggest problem, he stated, is that plans get submitted for approval, showing the house to sit a certain way. Then, when the construction gets under way, foundations get raised or lowered, or the home site is outright moved. Mr. Guernsey said that he is working with the Building Inspector to try to get foundations certified before anything else goes up.

With regard to the Septage Facility Operational Review Committee, the month of September has been a "catch up" time. Mr. Guernsey reported that the month of May showed 591,000 gallons, which is the biggest month Sudbury has ever had. Using an average of 20,000-22,000 gallons a day, Mr. Guernsey said that the month of June showed three days where there was over 60,000 gallons in. This put Sudbury in a bind because there was so much in, we had between the towns of Wayland and Sudbury 695,000 gallons into the plant, which was 100,000 gallons more than the month of May. An additional 95,000 gallons came from outside the two towns, for a total of 790,000 gallons. Mr. Guernsey explained that they have filed with DEQE for an increase in discharge permit. DEQE denied Sudbury the permit because the Town had 18 violations in the month of June. The violations are the reasons for requesting an increase in the discharge permit, so, Mr. Guernsey stated, this situation is a "catch-22" one.

Mr. Guernsey commended Operator Bruce Strong for doing a good job in checking everything going in. Mr. Strong would like to meet with the Resource Recovery Committee to discuss composting. There has been talk about mixing sludge from the plant with compost materials, and Mr. Guernsey does not see this as a problem. The big problem that will be run into is that when talking about specifications regarding "septic sludge", State rules say "septic sludge" is automatically "Class 2" sludge; our sludge has been classified as "Class 1". Thus, before anyone sends a proposal to the State for funding, that wording should be straightened out because it may complicate matters.

In conclusion, Mr. Guernsey reported that they have been working on their funding mechanism and have been working with James Vanar with this very complicated process.

Park and Recreation Commission

Rosalyn Drawas reported that the summer programs have been a great success; and that all gymnastics classes have been filled. Pool registrations have been fine; the Teen Center has started its program; golf driving range plans are moving along; needs of the Council On Aging and Lincoln-Sudbury West are being worked on. Mrs. Drawas stated that the Commission is very excited about joining together with the Council On Aging in locating the Senior Citizens Center at the Fairbank Building.

In conclusion, Mrs. Drawas reported that the Commission voted to request a full-time Park and Recreation Director and has this on their docket for April.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Michael Dunne reminded the townspeople that Sudbury does not have a "911" emergency telephone number system. Thus, it is necessary to dial 443-2323 for Fire and 443-2121 for Police assistance. Chief Dunne explained that the Bill establishing the "911" number is still tied up in Legislature.

Chief Dunne addressed a question he says he is asked quite often; i.e., why the Fire Department sends a fire truck and ambulance when responding to calls. Chief Dunne explained there are reasons for this: (1) a lot of times the engine company is closer to the scene; (2) one of the engine men on duty is an EMT; and (3) many times, the assistance of three, four or five people are necessary to remove the injured person.

Board of Assessors

The Board of Assessors is unable to attend tonight's forum as they are holding a scheduled meeting of their own. However, Assistant Assessor Daniel A. Loughlin gave Selectman Chairman Wallace the following report:

Estimated tax bills are scheduled to be mailed early next week. Due to the re-assessment, the actual tax bill which will reflect the new full value assessment, will not be issued until the Spring of 1989. The estimated tax bill allows the Town to generate necessary revenue and minimize borrowing.

The re-assessment continues on schedule and certification of values is expected in February 1989, followed by a month of public notification and hearings. After the final values are certified, the tax rate is set and the actual tax bills will be mailed.

Town Treasurer and Collector

Town Treasurer and Collector Chester Hamilton reported changes being effectuated in procedures; and that the property tax billings will be brought back in-house.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Town has over \$900,000 in uncollected taxes; and that tax liens are being or have been placed on delinquent properties; and he reminded any offenders that in December he will, as Town Treasurer, be able to put the property in for tax foreclosure. Mr. Hamilton stated that there is no question that the biggest offenders are the builders.

Mr. Hamilton reminded the townspeople that the tax bills that will be coming out in the first week of October will be called "preliminary bills" and will be essentially one-half of what was paid last year. What will happen, he explained, is that the total increase for the full fiscal year will appear on the second bill; and he warned that it will be significant.

In conclusion, Mr. Hamilton stated that his office is taking steps toward bringing all operations in-house and hopes to go "on computer" with it all; this will result in a significant savings to the Town.

Conservation Commission

Gordon Henley voiced a complaint with the office of Building Inspector, stating that several circumstances have arisen this summer regarding wetlands violations; which were able to be negotiated in most cases. Mr. Henley said that he sent the Building Inspector a letter a few years ago about the situation and he suggests that a stamp or other type of notification be prepared by the Building Inspector that in effect states "this inspection certificate does not exempt you from complying with wetlands, etc. rules and regulations".

Mr. Henley reported that the Commission has received three applications for new members; no news on self-help grants; the GSA land off Hudson Road has moved officially into "excessing" status; work has started on Carding Mill subdivision and a hearing is scheduled for October 5th.

Mr. Henley stated that the Commission hopes work has been completed with regard to Liberty Ledge; and they hope to get the Bay Circuit grant re-started.

Mr. Henley concluded by stating that the Commission is not filing a wetlands bylaw for Special Town Meeting consideration. Town Counsel has submitting something for their consideration, Mr. Henley has re-written it, and it will be hopefully re-worked and submitted for Annual Town Meeting next Spring.

Selectmen's Summary

Chairman David A. Wallace reported that, in addition to making its annual appointments, the Board:

- appointed representatives of various Town Boards at the request of the Council on Aging to a Senior Center Task Force to be convened by the Permanent Building Committee to make recommendations on the siting of a Senior Center;
- appointed Chester Hamilton Town Treasurer and Collector in accordance with the recently passed Legislation in response to the retirement of Isabelle Stone in her 17th year as Tax Collector;
- appointed Thomas S. Miller as a Sergeant in the Sudbury Police Department, filling the position of Peter G. Sullivan who had tendered his resignation;
- appointed in joint session with the Board of Assessors former Assessor John Hannan to the position vacated by Linda Buxbaum;
- accepted the resignation of George Martin from the Resource Recovery Committee and appointed Michael G. LaRow in his place;
- appointed Muriel Plonko and Stephan Fontaine to the Sudbury Historical Commission and Anne W. Donald and Daniel L. Claff to the Council on Aging in accordance with 1988 Annual Town Meeting action increasing the membership of both committees;
- accepted resignations of Julia Barker and Sally Lukesh from the Permanent Landscape Committee and Historic Districts Commission respectively, and appointed Alexander Frisch to fill the position held by Ms. Lukesh;
- appointed Patrick Delaney as an Associate Board of Appeals and Earth Removal Board member to replace Elizabeth Ingersoll who no longer wished to serve in that capacity;
- appointed members, in conjunction with the Planning Board, to the Traffic Management Committee which supersedes the Rt. 20 Task Force.

Chairman Wallace continued by stating that relative to the Town's commitment to Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action, the Board designated Budget and Personnel Officer Terri Ackerman as the Town's Affirmative Action Officer, and Town Planner Lee Newman as the Director of the Town's Fair Housing Program under which appointments to the Fair Housing Committee have been initiated. The Board adopted and the State has approved the Fair Housing Plan drafted by Ms. Newman.

In personnel matters, Chairman Wallace reported that the Board has signed memoranda of understanding with the Fire, Police, Highway, and Supervisory Associations with regard to their collective bargaining contracts, and has conducted performance reviews of Town officials under the Board's jurisdiction. Also, the Board voted to convert the Town's group health plan from Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) Master Medical to BC/BS Master Health Plus, effective October 15, 1988.

In environmental and land use matters, Chairman Wallace reported that the Board:

- held a joint meeting with the Planning Board, Board of Health, Water District, Conservation Commission and Wastewater Advisory Committee regarding protection of the Town's water supply;
- met with the Resource Recovery Committee on several occasions and took action with regard to waste disposal, specifically: implemented new Landfill Rules and Regulations; signed a Letter of Intent to join Millis in negotiations for a regional materials recycling facility; signed a memorandum of understanding expressing intent to join with Wayland in a joint regarding recycling and composting program; and continued negotiations through the Town Engineer and Town Counsel with the DEQE on Landfill matters.

In conclusion, Chairman Wallace report that other matters considered over the summer were:

- use of the Fairbank facility;
- Special Town Meeting concerns, particularly in regard to funding and site selection for Town/School space needs;
- disposition of the Peirce property off Maple Avenue;
- development of the former Sperry property on North Road;
- the summer water crisis and resulting water use ban;
- polling places;
- the Housing Partnership Program;
- open space tax policy
- safety concerns with regard to Powder Mill Road traffic; and
- two site plans involving additions to the Stanmar Office Park and the WANT ADvertiser.

There being no further reports to present, Chairman Wallace adjourned the 180th Town Forum and invited those present to enjoy coffee and conversation.

Attest:

Richard E. Thompson
Executive Secretary-Clerk