

TOWN FATHERS FORUM  
MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 1980

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman William J. Cossart convened the 132nd session of the Town Fathers Forum. Chairman Cossart stated that the Town Accountant would report on the financial status of the Town following reports from the various committee members. Chairman Cossart reported on the following Board activities during the last two months:

- Annual Licenses have been renewed;
- Collective Bargaining has commenced;
- The Selectmen have received articles and ordered the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting;
- The Board received the completed audit reports of FY 1978-9 from Laventhol & Horwath;
- The Selectmen have worked with the Permanent Building Committee in preparing articles for the enlargement of the Police Station;
- The Board returned to the MAPC comments (compiled from the Conservation Commission and the Board of Health) on the Final 208 Areawide Waste Treatment Management Plan;
- The Board supported and participated in the Sudbury Energy Conservation Campaign organized by a local citizens group.
- A response from the Conservation Commission to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service relative to its acquisition plans for the Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge has been reviewed and supported;
- The following appointments have been made:
  - Joseph E. Scammon of Wellesley as Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Agent; and
  - Harold L. Lingley of Weston as Sealer of Weights and Measures;
- The Board accepted the resignation of John Williams from the Personnel Board;
- Chairman Cossart announced that this is Selectman Hotch's last night serving on the Board of Selectmen and expressed regret, on behalf of the remaining Board members;
- Earlier tonight the Board called a Special Town Meeting within the 1980 Annual Town Meeting - April 9, 1980 at 8:00 p.m. Chairman Cossart announced the closing of the Warrant for the April 9 Special Town Meeting to be on February 8, 1980, and that the Special Town Meeting was called to address a rezoning article, in conjunction with the article for the Police Station addition.

Fire Chief Josiah F. Frost

Chief Frost reported that the Department responded to 90 emergencies over the past two months and considered this to be the normal amount; announced open burning until May 1 under the same conditions of the last few years - brush, no leaves and apply for permit at the Fire Department.

Town Clerk Betsey M. Powers

Mrs. Powers informed everyone of the special registration sessions, one of which is going on now, the next one scheduled for Saturday, February 2 from noon to 8:00 p.m., and again on February 5 from 8-9 p.m. This is also the time for people to cancel or change their party enrollment. Mrs. Powers also read a list of candidates.

William P. Reed - Insurance Advisory Committee

Mr. Reed reported that John C. Naatz has asked to be relieved of his duties as an Insurance Advisory Committee member; the Committee has compiled a list of appraisers, and stated he assumes that something is being done to have the Town properties reappraised; stated that he is looking forward to working with committee members once appointed.

Paul Langner - School Committee

Mr. Langner stated that the School Committee has just completed its budget deliberations and that between now and Town Meeting the School Committee hopes to offer further reductions, although fixed expenses are expected to go up; stated that the School Committee is not contemplating closing any schools this year, although enrollment is expected to drop again next year; and that the Finance Committee has not reached its final vote on this budget to date.

Highway Surveyor Robert A. Noyes

Mr. Noyes reported that the Highway Department is catching up on things since there has been no plowing this winter. Mr. Noyes reviewed some of the work the Department has been doing - taking down trees on Peakham Road, brushed back 22 streets, cleaning catch basins, grading the Landfill, removed ledge on Dutton and Wayside Roads, open ditch draining and made drainage corrections at Curtis Jr. High.

Anne W. Donald - Goodnow Library Trustee

Mrs. Donald reported that the Trustees are working on the budget and updating their policies.

Olga P. Reed - Planning Board

Mrs. Reed reported that court action is completed on the Wigwam Hill subdivision plan in our favor which had been originally approved by the Planning Board in 1971; have a hearing on the zoning bylaw changes scheduled for Thursday, January 31 at 8:30 p.m.

Joan C. Irish - Conservation Commission

Mrs. Irish reported that the Commission is working on its budget; has had several Wetland Protection Act hearings; and is working on the MDC Sudbury River water diversion project. The Commission is working on articles for the 1980 Annual Town Meeting and has prepared a slide show on conservation lands. Mrs. Irish read a notice posted in all Massachusetts Audubon Society newsletters relative to Sudbury's March 22, 1980, Bug Day.

Representative Ann C. Gannett

Representative Gannett congratulated Chairman Cossart for initiating the idea of "Bug Day" in the Town of Sudbury and stated that she had suggested to the Secretary of Environmental Affairs that it be considered for State-wide recognition. She indicated that she expects to hear tomorrow whether the Secretary of Environmental Affairs is in favor of issuing a Proclamation for a Bug Day across the Commonwealth.

Representative Gannett commended Sudbury for addressing problems in general, commenting that she had spent a great deal of time with the local energy committee on the Energy Conservation Campaign at the Star Market last Saturday.

Mrs. Gannett referenced the Governor's budget message and pointed out certain areas of concern. Mrs. Gannett indicated that there were several bills which would put a limit on State spending; one she was particularly interested in would say that the State could not increase taxes over one-half the percentage of state income increases and would also protect the towns so that if a town has to live under a cap and the State short-changed said town by mandating more programs, cutting back local aid, etc., a town would have recourse to expand local budgets. The Governor's budget is a 5.9 billion record budget, but the Governor claims it is not the enormous percentage increase it actually is, based on a different criterion which he used for estimating the budget. Some of his suggested increases, people feel, would only increase the cost of living, such as tuitions.

Mrs. Gannett stated that she had given the Town Clerk the first bulletin of bills - an incomplete list, stating that we waste more money on these bills by printing and reprinting when we could have a "carry over" from one legislative session to another; she suggested the Massachusetts Municipal Associations get together and really push for this "carry over".

Representative Gannett concluded by talking about the proposed Sudbury Reservoir Water Treatment Plant and asked if the Town had received a copy of the scope of the program; the Selectmen responded that they had.

Report by the Town Accountant on the Town's Financial Position

Town Accountant John H. Wilson handed out an update on the Town finances, dated January 28, 1980, which he had prepared, showing the 1979-80 Cash position, the Projected 1979-80 Deficits, and the 1978-79 Vs. 1979-80 Net Amount to be Raised.

Mr. Wilson commented that only \$252,000 of the expected \$368,000 reimbursement on the construction of Landham Road has been received, explaining

that the Town was misled to believe that it would receive 75% reimbursement of construction costs, but will receive about \$100,000 less than the entitlement should be. Mr. Wilson pointed out that the Town has documentation of state commitments for receiving the total 75% and the matter will be pursued through the Selectmen's office.

Mr. Wilson also commented that no large amounts will be available this year to be used for offsets as in past years, because of the LSRHS \$215,000 deficit...accounting error.

Mr. Wilson concluded by stating that the total increase on the tax dollar would be an additional \$4, as the budget stands now, without the high school budget or upcoming Town Meeting monied articles; he suggested that major improvements be combined and that bonding be considered.