

TOWN FATHERS FORUM
FEBRUARY 28, 1983

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman Cossart convened the 149th Session of the Town Fathers Forum, and reported on the Board's major activities over the past month, as follows:

1. A Cable Television Issuing Authority Report was completed. A public hearing is scheduled for March 21 and a decision regarding the granting of a provisional license scheduled on March 23.
2. In joint session with the Sudbury Housing Authority, it was agreed not to fill the existing vacancy on the Authority, since the election is imminent.
3. The Board reviewed Town Meeting articles with proponents and took positions on many of them.
4. The lease for the Fire Academy's use of the Horse Pond School was extended until July 1, 1984 or the date the facility is sold.
5. Borrowing of \$3,000,000 in Tax Anticipation Notes was approved.
6. A site plan converting the Mobil gas station at Union Avenue and Route 20 to self-service was approved, subject to Board of Appeals action and other conditions.
7. The Board authorized installation of speed humps on Dudley Road, on a trial basis, subject to concurrence by the property owners along the road.
8. A resignation was accepted from Nadine Wallack from the Local Arts Council.
9. Thomas R. Patton was appointed to the Sign Review Board.
10. Plans are being made to host a group of approximately twenty ambassadors from Sudbury, Ontario, during the weekend of April 16. The trip is part of Sudbury, Ontario's Centennial Celebration.
11. A Special Town Meeting has been called for April 4 for the purpose of adjusting Fiscal Year 1983 appropriations to raise the tax levy to the maximum allowed under Proposition 2 1/2, by rescinding a portion of the Free Cash applied as an offset to the tax rate. Based on the Board of Assessors' assessed valuation figure of \$509,190,159, an adjustment of approximately \$166,600 can be made.

Chairman Cossart asked for reports and information from those Town officials and board/commission representatives present, as follows:

Chairman Richard O. Bell - Conservation Commission

Mr. Bell explained that new Wetlands Protection Act regulations will go into effect April 1, and that the Commission is familiarizing itself with these new rules and regulations for the administration of them.

Town Accountant James Vanar

Mr. Vanar stated that the Accounting Department's new Digital (DEC) computer will offer much more flexibility than was first anticipated; he expressed his appreciation of Mr. Bruce Wyman's help and efforts in the purchase and delivery of the computer. The Board directed the Executive Secretary to send a letter of appreciation to Mr. Wyman.

Town Treasurer Chester Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Town had recently borrowed Three Million Dollars, effective February 3. He stated further that it will be necessary for the Town to borrow an additional One and One Half Million by May 2, if the tax bills are not sent out by that time, which would bring the total to Four and One Half Million Dollars and increase borrowing costs even more. This increase in interest cost would require a transfer. Mr. Hamilton urged the Assessors to set the tax rate and distribute tax bills as soon as possible.

Board of Assessors Chairman Donald P. Peirce

Mr. Peirce stated that the Board's methodology had been approved by the State, and that the Assessors are waiting for the review process to be completed, which includes a field review by an inspector from the Department of Revenue.

Mr. Albert S. Feinberg, Sudbury Housing Authority, asked Mr. Peirce if, through some legislation with the help, for example, of the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA), the Town could issue another estimated bill for FY83. Mr. Peirce responded that it was unlikely - that he had never heard of this being done.

Chairman Richard F. Brooks, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District Committee (LSRSDC)

Mr. Brooks stated that the LSRSDC will be asking both the Lincoln and Sudbury Town Meetings for permission to borrow \$300,000 over the next few years for repairing roof segments of the high school building; the first principal payment will not be due until FY85.

Chairman James A. Pitts - Finance Committee

Mr. Pitts stated that the Committee's recommended budget, which will go into the Warrant, is approximately \$350,000 less than the individually requested budgets, and even at that, is \$147,000 over the amount allowable under "2 1/2%" year-to-year increase capability. Mr. Pitts stated that there are some estimates in the budget that will change before getting to the floor of Town Meeting - that it is a matter of solving the approximate \$130,000-150,000 shortfall. One way of doing that is by the process of calling a Special Town Meeting within the Annual for the purpose of adjusting FY83 appropriations to raise the tax levy to the maximum allowed under Proposition 2 1/2, by rescinding a portion of the Free Cash applied as an offset to the tax rate. Based on the Board of Assessors' assessed valuation figure of \$509,190,159, an adjustment of approximately \$166,600 can be made.

Mr. Pitts mentioned that the Finance Committee had requested two-year (FY84 and 85) budgets from all departments this year with the idea of better fiscal planning and determining priorities for the Town.

Chairman Robert J. Myers, Jr. - Park and Recreation Commission

Mr. Myers stated that their budget had been approved; that the summer swim program this year would be in conjunction with the Town of Hudson's facility and not at Walden Pond as in past years.

Fire Chief Michael Dunne

Fire Chief Dunne stated that the Department has had a quiet month in terms of fires but that the ambulance has been busy; that permit fees brought to the Town approximately \$400 since January 1. The Chief explained that each man in the Department has completed two very important training courses: 1) a three-hour course on detecting gas emergencies; and 2) a six-hour unit on how to assist a paramedic at the scene of an emergency. The Chief stated that this program is working out very well, and that Sudbury uses the paramedic from Emerson Hospital approximately two to three times a week. He stated that Marlboro Hospital's paramedic program is about one month away from being certified by the State, and when that happens, Sudbury will be able to use both hospitals depending on which is closer to the scene of the emergency.

Fritz Steudel - Long Range Capital Expenditures Committee

Mr. Steudel stated that the Committee is finishing up its report on financing capital expenditures - the tone of the report being that the Town should be looking at better ways of borrowing money at low interest rates to purchase equipment - that lease-purchase arrangements usually incur much higher costs.

Building Inspector Joseph E. Scammon

Mr. Scammon reported as follows:

- three new house permits since first of the year;
- six to eight houses sold in the last couple of weeks;
- trying to finish renovations of Flynn Building in order to move the Town Treasurer and the Town Accountant from the Town Hall to offices in the Flynn Building.

Chairman Cossart asked Mr. Scammon about Sudbury Variety's continued use of illuminated signs which are in violation of the Town's bylaws. Mr. Scammon stated that he is taking the owner of Sudbury Variety to court, that he will be filing a request for a complaint after which the court will have a show-cause hearing to determine whether the complaint shall issue.

Col. Paul J. Leahy - Council on Aging

Col. Leahy stated that senior activities are going along famously; the van is out five days a week; hot meals are served at the drop-in center three days a week to between thirty to thirty-five people each day; a newsletter is being published once a month which is going out to approximately one hundred fifty households. Col. Leahy went on to say that one year ago a group known as the "Friends of the Sudbury Senior Citizens" incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth. This enables the corporation to have tax free donations and lower postal rates. Col. Leahy stated that the corporation has made application for a new van, offered by the Department of Transportation at seventy-five percent of cost.