

Worthington chief explains gun rules

2/20/75

WORTHINGTON — At the selectmen's meeting here Tuesday night, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen David Tyler in his capacity as chief of police, stressed the importance of firearms owners familiarizing themselves with the new Chapter 649 of the state laws.

Chapter 649 does not change the prior requirements for one to obtain a Firearms Identification Card (FID) or a license to carry firearms. It changes the sentencing provisions of Chapter 269, Section 10 of the General Laws to a mandatory minimum one-year jail sentence for unauthorized possession of a firearm, rifle, or shotgun. A convicted offender could receive up to five years in state prison for a first offense. Chapter 649 will take effect April 1.

Tyler said that it is not true that to hunt all one needs is a hunting license, but that an FID card must be obtained for a rifle or shotgun from the police chief. In the case of a handgun a license to carry is necessary if the owner wishes to carry the gun away from his residence or place of business.

An applicant cannot obtain an FID card if he has:

- Been convicted of a felony within the last five years.

- Has a history of mental illness.

- Has been convicted of any state or federal narcotic or drug laws.

- Is under 15 years of age.

- Is an alien.

In a directive to all police chiefs, Speaker of the House David M. Bartley said that there are provisions on each hunting and sporting license for an identification number of either an FID card or a license to carry firearms, and asks that they request each applicant to volunteer his number to be written on each license.

Tyler said that applications for Firearms Identification Cards can be obtained from the town office clerk at the town hall.

Tyler reported that he attended

a planning committee meeting for a forum on Westfield River Water at the Westfield Hotel in Westfield last Thursday. The forum is scheduled tentatively for April 12, and will discuss the problems of the midstream towns with the Westfield River.

Representatives of the towns of Chester, Worthington, Huntington, and Russell will each present a statement of their town's municipal sewage problem, and what kind of hurdles stand in the way of its solution. There will be speakers on "The Commonwealth's Responsibility," "Federal Role," and "Outlook for State and Federal Aid."

The board of selectmen have written to the Western Massachusetts Health Planning

Council a letter of recognition and support of the Worthington Health Center. The letter states that the health center "provide most of the people in Worthington with medical, dental, optometric, and family planning services." It serves residents of the area towns who would otherwise have to travel 15 to 30 miles for such services.

DOOR PRIZE WINNER

WORTHINGTON — Susan Fairman received the door prize at the recreation committee dance on Feb. 7. There will be a dance as usual at the Town Hall on Friday night. These are for adults as well as children and everyone who enjoys dancing is invited.



Dividends