



Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes

Date: July 16, 2001

Town of Redding, Connecticut

Present: N. Ketcham, T. Miller, J. Cotton
Public: more than 30 people
Media: Redding Pilot

First Selectman Ketcham called the July 16, 2001 meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:30 p.m.

AGENDA ADDITION

Motion: That the Board of Selectmen amend the agenda to include an executive session at the end of the meeting for the purpose of discussion of contract negotiations and real estate negotiations. Miller, Cotton. Approved. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: That the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of June 18, 2001 as amended. Cotton, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

Amendments: Paragraph 1 under Public Safety, the last sentence should read "The goal of the towers, from Redding's perspective, is to address difficulties with public safety communication; the six carriers are Voice Stream, Sprint, Verizon, Cingular, Nextel and ATT; and page 3, under Art Show, John and Kathy Anderson assisted with hanging the artwork.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Cardillo reported on the status of the Community Center Project. The site now has electrical power, plumbing and painting is being done, and the fire sprinkler system installation will begin this week. Field #1 has grass growing and Field #2 will be seeded this week. The anticipated completion date of the building is September 30.

POLICE FOUNDATION REPORT RECOMMENDATION UPDATE

Mrs. Ketcham reported that a meeting was held with representatives of the State Police, Don Takacs of the Public Safety Commission and herself. The State Police offered some suggestions of steps that could be taken to improve service. At present, there is no intent on the part of the State Police to accept the Police Foundation's offer as submitted by the Police Foundation.

Mr. Takacs has compiled the information regarding police services that was requested from towns of like size. The Selectmen will review this information. Further discussion will be held at the next Board of Selectman's meeting.

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DISCUSSION OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS IN REDDING

Mrs. Ketcham recapped the problems and concerns about the public safety communications in Redding. One solution to solve the communication problems is higher towers. The Redding Ridge Fire Department and the West Redding Fire Department have had discussions with the wireless carriers to erect higher towers on their property. The West Redding Fire Department is an alternative to a site on Topstone Road that was given consideration.

The tower at the Communication Center could be higher, but the potential appearance was not deemed acceptable. An alternative site, the Highway Department, was suggested. A balloon was flown from that site to simulate the appearance of a tower.

Mrs. Ketcham noted that the Siting Counsel urges municipalities to work with the carriers to find a suitable tower site with the benefit of use for community public safety uses and the financial benefit to be derived from the lease of the land.

Mrs. Ketcham read letters from Dr. and Mrs. Al Cazazza and from John Hayes into the record.

Jim Marshall, Utility Communications, spoke about the propagation studies he did with regard to public safety communication in town. He specifically addressed the public safety communication needs.

The wireless carriers, Voice Stream, Nextel, ATT, Sprint, Cingular and Verizon, are interested in erecting towers that will serve their communication needs. The firms proposed co-locations on the towers. The carriers have proposed an agreement that includes 100% of the revenue, estimated with six carriers at \$117,600/year per tower. Representatives of the carriers explained how the three towers could provide coverage for most of the town.

Many individuals in the audience asked questions and stated opinions. Comments and questions included: the height of the towers, the appearance and safety of the towers, the need for the towers, etc. Many expressed concerns about the towers detracting from the beauty of the land.

Mrs. Ketcham suggested a meeting be held with a representative of the carriers, John Hayes (Town Planner), and herself to discuss some of the issues. Another open meeting regarding the towers will also be scheduled.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. **ELECTRICAL POWER LINE:** in response to the plan for CL & P to run a power line through Redding, Mrs. Ketcham suggested a Special Selectmen meeting to discuss the issues. A meeting date of Tuesday, July 31, 2001, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hearing Room was agreed upon. CL & P will be invited to provide an explanation of their plan.

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2. EPA Cleanup of Lagoon site: the cleanup is going along nicely. John Campbell was successful in his request to have the EPA plant wildflowers along with grass at the site.
3. Bridge work: Mrs. Ketcham reported the work on the Diamond Hill Bridge is about two weeks ahead of schedule.
4. WEB site: Mrs. Miller reported the WEB site is very close to being up and running.
5. Georgetown Master Plan Committee: Mr. Cotton reported the Committee will meet on August 2, 2001 for a presentation by a professor at Yale on the urbanism of Redding.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: that the Redding Board of Selectmen recess to executive session to discuss contract negotiations and real estate negotiations. Miller, Cotton. Approved.

Unanimous.

The meeting recessed at 11:05 p.m.

RECONVENE

The meeting was reconvened in public session at 12:15 p.m.

AJOURNMENT

The chair adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Maday, Recording Secretary