



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2002**

Present: Natalie Ketcham, Tina Miller, James Cotton
Also present: 16 members of the public
Media: Redding Pilot, Radio WLAD

Mrs. Ketcham called the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order immediately following the Special Town Meeting.

Mrs. Ketcham recapped the process that brought forward the decision to take to the Town of Redding for vote, the establishment of a municipal police department, independent of the state trooper program, and the repeal of the Public Safety Ordinance of 1997 and the Resolution to Establish a Police Advisory Board of 1967. Mrs. Ketcham opened the meeting to comments and questions from the audience.

Leslie Singewald, Newtown Turnpike: questions regarding the police chief position and who he would report to and how would the position be filled. Mrs. Ketcham responded that the police chief would be directly reportable to the Board of Selectmen, and to the First Selectman on a daily basis. If the referendum is approved, a search would be conducted and a specific job description would be drafted.

Hans Van Oostendorp: he stated he has been a supported of this concept for a long time. Question about availability of absentee ballots. Mrs. Ketcham responded that absentee ballots would be available in the Town Clerk's office beginning January 24, 2002.

Lou Pinto: question how things would be changed from what is currently in place. Mrs. Ketcham responded that currently the 12 officers report to the Town of Redding, and the Town has a contract with the State Police for a trooper to handle the day-to-day management of the police on his/her regular 8-hour shift. The trooper is an employee of the state, under contract for services by the Town of Redding. A chief of police would be an employee of the Town and solely responsible to the Town of Redding.

Lt. Dale Horrigan, Commander, Troop A, Southbury, State Police: Lt. Horrigan commented on the role of the State Trooper Program and the strength of the State Police.

Radio WLAD reporter: What is the salary range for the position? Mrs. Ketcham responded that \$70,000 is the recommended salary

Lou Pinto: Mr. Pinto shared his views of the strength of the state trooper program.

Jack Ciak: spoke in support of not abolishing the Police Advisory Board, suggesting that such a group could provide valuable assistance. Mrs. Ketcham responded that issued being voted on abolishes the police advisory board, but this could be a consideration in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Maday, Recording Secretary