



Town of Redding, Connecticut

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes March 17, 2003

Present: Ketcham, Cotton, Miller
Others present: 13 members of the public
Media: Redding Pilot

Mrs. Ketcham called the March 17, 2003 meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

AGENDA ADDITION

MOTION: That the Redding Board of Selectmen add to the agenda discussion and action on application for historic documents preservation grant. Miller, Cotton. Approved. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: That the Redding Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 27, 2003 as corrected. Cotton, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

Corrections: page 1, delete last two sentences at bottom of pages, with reference to David Pattee and John Hayes; page 4, the operating budget increase was 3.7%.

PRESENTATION OF "SCHOOL CHOICE PLAN"

Frank Scott, Lewis Andrews and David Bohn presented their plan, Redding School Choice Plan. The document was presented and there was opportunity for questions and discussion. Members of the public, including Kathy Atkinson, Lois Demey, and Dr. Kenneth Freeston, asked questions and made comments regarding the plan. Mr. Scott indicated the document was being mailed to all Redding residents and the plan would be presented to the Redding Board of Finance, the Easton Selectmen, and public forums were scheduled.

ROAD DISCONTINUANCE

1. Old Dodgingtown Road, dirt portion: The DEP has requested that the dirt portion of Old Dodgingtown Road be discontinued. At the previous Selectmen's meeting, two residents requested a portion of the road be continued to allow for easy access for getting canoes to the water. Mrs. Ketcham checked with the DEP and the Highway Superintendent, and both agreed that the road should be discontinued due to public safety issues, numerous problems with illegal dumping. Mrs. Ketcham notified the two residents of the concerns and they were in agreement with the recommendation to discontinue the roadway.

MOTION: That the Redding Board of Selectmen recommend to a Town Meeting the discontinuation of the dirt portion of Old Dodgingtown Road 700 feet from Sunset Hill Road, providing that the parking lot is available for use by emergency vehicles. Cotton, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

2. Valley Road: The Planning Commission recommended discontinuance of the dirt portion of Valley Road, with the roadway be dragged once a year to retain the historic use/value, and to retain an easement for the general public to use the property as trails.

MOTION: That the Redding Board of Selectmen recommend to a Town Meeting the discontinuation of the dirt portion of Valley Road as recommended by the Planning Commission. Cotton, Miller. Approved Unanimous.

3. Greenbrush Road: The Planning Commission recommended discontinuance of Greenbrush Road 50 feet south of Little Egypt Road, retaining an easement for the general public to use the property for pedestrian, bicycle, or bridal purposes. Discussion of the easement uses followed. Robert Dean and Robin Linen of the Planning Commission participated in the discussion. Mr. & Mrs. Frank Robinson, residents of the adjacent area objected to the continued use of the roadway by the general public, particularly the horses. After further discussion, the Board of Selectmen referred the matter back to the Planning Commission for clarification of the bridal path easement.

4. Charles Sanford Road: The Planning Commission recommended discontinuance of the Charles Sanford Road, retaining an easement for trail purposes and the right to preserve stone walls, trees and other unique features, and prohibiting wheeled vehicles.

MOTION: That the Redding Board of Selectmen recommend to a Town Meeting the discontinuation of the Charles Sanford Road, retaining an easement for use of trails and the right to preserve stone walls, trees and other unique features, and prohibiting wheeled vehicles. Miller, Cotton. Approved. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENT

MOTION: That the Redding Board of Selectmen appoint Marcia K. Berner as Acting Town Clerk from 3/18/03 to 1/5/04. Cotton, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION GRANT APPLICATION

This is the third year of the Historic Documents Preservation Grant Program. The equipment grant would provide a new flat top record desk with roller shelves on both sides for use in the vault. The re-creation grant would re-create Volumes 78-85 large volumes in legal size volumes using archival paper and installing the pages into red land record binders.

MOTION: That the Redding Board of Selectmen adopt a resolution authorizing Natalie Ketcham, First Selectman, to execute and deliver in the name of and on behalf of Redding, an application and contract with the State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant, at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on March 17, 2003, and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded or revoked and is at present in full force and effect. Miller. Cotton. Approved. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Letter from residents: the Board of Selectmen received a letter signed by 164 residents requesting that the Couch Hill Preserve be preserved in its natural beauty and objecting to the property being developed as playing fields. The letter was also addressed to the Planning Commission, Zoning Commission and Park & Recreation Commission. Mrs. Ketcham will send the information on to the other commissions.
2. Gilbert & Bennett Property: the attorney for Georgetown Land Development notified the Town that agreement was reached with the Bank of Kuwait with regard to ownership of the property, and Georgetown Land Development now has title and can move forward with development of the parcel.
3. N.E. Utility Agreement: Mrs. Ketcham announced that the Town of Bethel, Redding, Weston, Wilton and Norwalk reached an agreement with N. E. Utility on the 345 KV issues. Mrs. Ketcham reviewed the details of how the utility line will run through Redding. She noted the issues were complex, but felt this was a fair agreement. Mrs. Miller and Mr. Cotton thanked Mrs. Ketcham and the other residents for all of their efforts to work out a solution.

MOTION: That the Redding Board of Selectmen ratify the settlement that has been reached with N. E. Utility. Cotton, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

AGENDA ADDITION

MOTION: That the Redding Board of Selectmen add to the agenda an executive session for a discussion of negotiations. Cotton, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen recess to executive session to discuss matters pertaining to negotiations. Cotton, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting recessed at 10:20

RECONVENE

The chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 10:35 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The chair adjourned the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Maday, Recording Secretary