



**Town of Redding, Connecticut**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**January 18, 2005**

Amended copy

Present: Ketcham, Miller, Takacs  
Others: five members of the public  
Media: Redding Pilot

Mrs. Ketcham called the January 18, 2005 meeting to order at 7:35 pm in the Hearing Room.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: move to approve the minutes of December 9, 2004 as submitted. Takacs, Ketcham Approved. 2-0-1. Mrs. Miller abstained.

The approval of minutes of December 13, 2004 meeting was deferred to the next meeting.

**ATHLETIC FIELD COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Takacs reported progress made by the Committee. The Committee feels the best path to pursue is to increase the field capability on the Barlow site to offset the shortage of fields that Redding has, and concurrently work on development of fields on the Sunset Hill/Couch Hill property. The Committee is in agreement that the only available site for additional fields for active recreation is the Sunset Hill/Couch Hill site. The Committee wants to have an assessment of the property done to determine how many, if any fields could be on the site, the 22 acres of land in the northern wooded section of the land, and an estimated cost to develop fields on the site.

Mr. Takacs spoke with Easton First Selectman Kupinse regarding Easton's potential interest in development of fields on the Barlow site. Mr. Kupinse stated that at this time, Easton does not require any additional fields and had no interest in the expansion of fields on the site at this time based on cost to the residents of Easton. After construction of the new Easton school, Easton will have 15 fields available for recreation use. Mr. Kupinse will present the idea to the Easton Board of Finance and give Mr. Takacs and/or the Committee an opportunity to make a presentation, but he did not feel there would be support for this. Mr. Takacs plans to arrange a meeting with Mr. Kupinse in the next two weeks.

Another option for consideration is the expansion of field capability at the John Read Middle School. The changes would be the addition of Astro-Turf (artificial grass) and the addition of lights. This would enable greater usage of the fields and extended hours of use.

The Committee is interested in determining what can be done on the Sunset Hill/Couch Hill site. A draft RFP for proposals for quotations for the design and building of fields on the site was presented for review. Mrs. Ketcham stated that both the Planning Commission and Conservation Commission have expressed an interest in participation in the development of the RFP, and that John Hayes should also be consulted.

Following a long discussion, it was determined that the draft RFP would be forwarded to both the Planning and Conservation Commissions for discussion at their next meetings. Mr. Hayes would also be asked for his input. The Selectmen will take the comments from the Planning Commission, Conservation Commission and Mr. Hayes into account when the RFP is reviewed at their next meeting.

The Committee will continue to work on other options including increasing the usage at the Boys' and Girls' Club and the Barlow site options. Mrs. Ketcham will work on the usage of the West Redding Fire Department site.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Mafalda Ruddy, the First Selectman's secretary will retire on February 4, 2005. A luncheon to celebrate her 27 years of service is planned for February 3, 2005.
2. The job description and title for the secretarial position has been changed to an executive assistant position to reflect the changes in the job and tasks involved. Applications for the position have been received and Mrs. Ketcham will schedule interviews that will include the two Selectmen and the Controller.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move to executive session to discuss personnel and contract negotiations. Miller, Takacs. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting recessed at 8:53 pm.

#### RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 9:35 pm. No action was taken.

Motion: That the Redding Board of Selectmen authorize Natalie Ketcham to sign an contract of employment with Police Chief Doug Fuchs as amended tonight. Miller, Takacs. Approved. Unanimous.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Maday, Recording Secretary

FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL