

**Board of Selectmen Minutes
May 16, 2022
7:30 PM
Hybrid—in person and via Zoom**

Present: Julia Pemberton, Peg O'Donnell, Michael Thompson, Selectmen. One public person. The rest of the audience was on Zoom.

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

Motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2022. P. O'Donnell. M. Thompson. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

No Public comment

Discussion and Possible Actions:

The American Rescue Plan proposals recommended by the American Rescue Plan Working Group. Discussion regarding projects by APRA group was presented by member Jim Sanders.

Motion to approve The American Rescue Plan Working Group's (ARPA) recommendation to use \$113,000 and to the Board of Finance for their approval. M. Thompson. P. O'Donnell. No discussion. Unanimous.

Motion to approve The American Rescue Plan Working Group's (ARPA) recommendation to fund: 1) The Redding Elementary School paved recreation area for \$40,000; and 2) The John Read Middle School Project Cool outdoor classroom/amphitheater \$35,000. P. O'Donnell. M. Thompson. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

The Selectman all thanked J. Sanders for all his hard work.

Illicit Discharge Ordinance:

Motion to send the Illicit Discharge Ordinance to a Special Town Meeting for approval by the voters. M. Thompson. P. O'Donnell. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

Affordable Housing Plan:

Discussion. J. Pemberton asked for her comments to be entered into the record. The Incentive Housing Zone strategies concerning the town's acquisitions of land on Rt. 7 is not feasible and therefore, the town will look at Georgetown (potentially the Gilbert & Bennet Wiremill site) as the place where mixed and affordable housing will be. Redding and other neighboring towns

have battled to keep Super 7 off limits—the extension from Norwalk to Danbury—from the DOT. The WestCOG envisions trains as the way to move forward in this corridor.

Motion to adopt the Redding Annex Affordable Housing Plan and submit it to a Special Town Meeting for consideration by the voters. P. O'Donnell. M. Thompson. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

Scheduling of a Special Town Meeting:

Motion to set the date for a Special Town Meeting, May 26, 7:30 pm, at the Redding Community Center for the following purposes:

To consider and vote upon the funding of American Rescue Plan projects as recommended by the American Rescue Plan Funds Working Group and as approved by the Board of Selectmen, specifically:

- 1) The Redding Elementary School Paved Recreation Area (\$40,000); and The John Read Middle School Project COOL Outdoor Learning Pavilion (\$35,000).**
- 2) To consider and vote upon a fund transfer of \$460,000 from the unassigned fund balance, as recommended by the Board of Finance and approved by the Board of Selectmen, for police overtime due to COVID and other extended leave, and legal expenses incurred for the Meadow Ridge Trial during the fiscal year 2021-22.**
- 3) To consider and vote upon the adoption of an Illicit Discharge Ordinance for Stormwater, a federal requirement under the Clean Water Act.**

P. O'Donnell. P. Thompson. No Discussion. Unanimous.

Administrative Discussions:

Health Department Transition Update:

Doug Hartline is retiring on June 29, 2022. There is discussion about transitioning to a new health department model. Redding is considering partnering with neighboring towns. Jean Winters will continue to be administrative staff. Still working out the details. Both P. O'Donnell and M. Thompson shared their gratitude for Doug's work over the many years he has served in the department.

Capital Projects Update:

Rob Blick, director of Parks & Recreation, discussed the many projects he has to date from the **tennis courts, the pavilion, the Topstone Playground, and a dog park.**

The Concrete Slab in the Mechanic's Bay at the Highway Department is complete.

The Lonetown Marsh is on hold for the moment, as per Conservation's request. They might look for ARPA funding to finish the boardwalk, as the current \$35,000 budget is not enough to complete the job.

The NRVV Ribbon Cutting for the Redding Mile was last week, May 11, 2022, off of Pickett's Ridge Road.

Town Hall is ready for its roof replacement and the outdoor painting of the building will begin once weather permits. The roof at the Highway garage will also commence. A purchase order will be issued for the Town Hall Windows, which will be custom to look exactly as they do now.

The Redding Community Center (RCC) is ready for painting, weather permitting. All the woodwork has been replaced, thanks to our facilities staff work.

Lonetown Farm (Historic Society) was painted. The next project would be to replace windows. They are historic and will be expensive.

The Public Safety Communication Project (radios) is fully functional and complete which began in fiscal year 2020. The town's contribution was \$2.5 million. It makes communication so much better, for all our first responders. Special thanks goes to Ridgefield and Rudy Marconi.

Wire Mill Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Update: J. Pemberton shared that the Phase 1 is complete and was under \$10,000. This was a review of all the documents and records to date. There is still \$190,00 for Phase II and whatever remediation recommendations are made by Tighe & Bond.

Administrative:

Memorial Day Parade is on Saturday, May 28, 2022, starting at RES at 11:30 am. Step-off is at 12:15 pm. March to Memorial Stone where flag is raised, TAPS is played, wreath is laid. End by 1 pm.

June is Pride month. June 1-June 30, 2022. Look forward to the town recognizing the month with activities with the library, JBHS and rainbow flag displays/signs.

Georgetown Day is Sunday June 12, 2022, from 12-5 pm. Stay tuned for details.

Juneteenth is now a federal and state-wide recognized holiday, June 19, 2022.

June 25th is Redding SummerFest w/Rock n Roots: A three prong festival: running races by John McLeary; big line music up—Rock n' Roots; and fireworks. The graphics are complete. The first 200 cars pay just \$30 for as many as can fit. Crossing fingers that the weather is good!

Eversource Resilience Project is a town-wide trim, including on private property, of trees that may fall onto electrical wires and poles. The focus is on trees 80 feet and over, in the fall zone. This is to protect the grid. Eversource has a "scorecard" for each town, as to how long—in

minutes—the power has been out. This trimming will help appease the delays. A public meeting will be announced shortly for Eversource representatives to discuss the project.

Motion to move to Executive Session. P. O'Donnell. M. Thompson. Unanimous.

Executive session:

Discussion about Personnel: Finance Director Candidates.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:36 pm.

Submitted by Alice Smith