


**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024, 10:00 AM  
SALEM TOWN HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 4**

  
RECEIVED  
TOWN OF SALEM, CT  
2024 APR 18 PM 12:25

The minutes submitted below have been filed in accordance with  
Section 1-225 of the CT General Statutes. They are subject to  
final approval with or without amendments by a vote of the Board of Selectmen.  
Approval and any such amendments will be detailed in subsequent minutes.

**PRESENT**

Edward Chmielewski, Jr.  
Thomas (TJ) Butcher  
Ron LaBonte  
Kevin Lyden  
Pam Munro

**ABSENT**

*none*

**CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Chmielewski called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Tuesday, March 5, 2024, Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting  
M/S/C: LaBonte/Butcher, to approve the Board of Selectmen March 5, 2024  
Regular Meeting Minutes. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.
- b. Monday, March 11, 2024, Board of Selectmen Special Meeting  
M/S/C: Butcher/LaBonte, to approve the Board of Selectmen March 11, 2024  
Special Meeting Minutes. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

**3. AGENDA:**

- a. Set Annual Town Meeting to adopt the budget, per Section 10.07d of the Salem Town Charter, on May 1, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Salem School  
M/S/C: Lyden/Munro, to set the Annual Town Meeting to adopt the budget on May 1, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at Salem School, per 10.07d of the Salem Town Charter. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.
- b. Tax Collector Refunds  
M/S/C: LaBonte/Lyden, to direct the Town Treasurer to issue refunds, recommended and certified by the Tax Collector, as presented, to the Board of Selectmen in the amount of \$9,724.34 (nine thousand seven

**hundred twenty-four dollars and thirty-four cents) on the 11th day of April 2024. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

**c. Appoint IWCC (Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission) Members**

*No discussion/action*

**4. REPORTS:**

**a. FIRST SELECTMAN**

First Selectman Chmielewski provided the departmental updates. The Board of Finance presented the FY2024/25 Proposed Budget this Wednesday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m., during the Annual Budget Public Hearing at Salem School.

The Charter Revision Commission held its organizational meeting and elected Commissioner Leeland Cole-Chu as the Chairman, Commissioner Robert Ross as Vice Chairman, and Walter Volberg as Secretary. One of the eight (8) members resigned due to a possible conflict of interest.

The Town has transported the boat from the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company (GLVFCO) to the Salem Volunteer Fire Company (SVFCO) to help deal with the ongoing issues at Gardner Lake. The boat was inspected and found to be in good condition. It will be launched on the weekends to provide presence, as able and necessary. A training session was conducted with the Career and Volunteer Firefighters/EMTs. A Tri-Town Chief Executive Officers Meeting with Bozrah First Selectman Glenn Pianka, Montville Mayor Leonard Bunnell, Sr., State Legislators, CT DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection), Montville Police Department, Resident State Troopers, Members of the Gardner Lake Authority, and members of the public, was held to discuss this summer season's safety and security enhancements at Gardner Lake State Park. He also provided testimony at the State Capitol with Representatives Holly Cheeseman and Irene Haines regarding an initiative to close the Park when it is over-capacity. Selectman Lyden recommended that informational updates be provided to the public regarding the issues at the State Park.

**b. EMERGENCY SERVICES – POLICE / FIRE**

As reported by the First Selectman, Emergency Services Liaison Selectman LaBonte stated that a Gardner Lake State Park Pre-Planning Meeting was held with all of the major stakeholders on Wednesday, March 20 and the responsibilities of the various entities were outlined. The Gardner Lake Authority will engage the services of the Montville Police Department to provide enforcement on the Lake. Extensive discussion ensued regarding the ongoing issues of the State Park and the difficulties and issues surrounding the boat launch, the Lake, and the State Park. Emergency Services, CT

DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) Encon Police, and (Resident) State Troopers will do their best to provide presence and enforce the rules.

He informed the Board that GLVFCO Chief Pete Silva recently resigned from his position; he will continue to be a member of the Fire Company. Selectmen Liaisons Butcher and LaBonte will be meeting with the GLVFCO Leadership this week. He also noted that it has been one year since they began their negotiations with the GLVFCO. Selectman Lyden suggested drafting a letter to inform the public of the status of the negotiations.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**M/S/C: Butcher/LaBonte, to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 a.m. Discussion: None.  
Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem

**A VIDEO RECORD OF THE MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE UNDER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS – BOARD OF SELECTMEN – MEETING VIDEOS.**

