SALEM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016, 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING

PRESENT	**ABSENT**
Kevin Lyden, First Selectman	*none*
Edward Chmielewski	
Stuart Gadbois	
David Kennedy	
Robert Ross	

1. CALL TO ORDER:
First Selectman Lyden called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A. October 4, 2016 Regular Meeting
M/S/C: Ross/Chmielewski, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2016. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0-2. Voting in Favor: Selectmen Chmielewski, Gadbois, and Kennedy. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Selectmen Lyden and Ross.

4. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:
Holly Cheeseman, member of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen and candidate for the 37th House District, reminded everyone that next week is Election Day and urged everyone to get out and exercise their right to vote, adding that people continue to die around the world for this right. While today was the deadline to register to vote by mail, online, or with the Town Clerk, the State of Connecticut has instituted same-day voter registration.

5. AGENDA:
A. Appoint Bruce Henry to Gardner Lake Authority
M/S/C: Lyden/Chmielewski, to appoint Bruce Henry to the Gardner Lake Authority. Discussion: First Selectman Lyden recited a letter received by Mr. Henry regarding his interest in serving on the Gardner Lake Authority. The former owner of Sterling Park Campground for 15 years, Mr. Henry will be taking over as manager for the Indianfield Campground for Molly and Larry Harrington who ran the Campground for 32 years. Having shadowed the Harringtons since June, he is prepared to run the Campground, expressed that it would be an honor to

serve on the Authority, and offered his assistance as the Manager of the Campground and resident of the Town. Membership on the Gardner Lake Authority is a five-year term. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

B. Tax Collector Refunds

M/S/C: Gadbois/Kennedy, 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 $441.90 (four hundred forty-one dollars and ninety cents) on the 1st day of November 2016. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

C. To convene into Executive Session to discuss a written legal opinion and consider potential recommendations as public discussion of this matter may result in disclosure of information privileged by an attorney-client relationship exempt from disclosure under the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, C.G.S. Sec. 1-210(b)(10).

Item was moved to follow item 7 on the Agenda.

6. REPORTS:

A. FIRST SELECTMAN

An informational public meeting was held with the CT DOT (Department of Transportation) regarding the Route 82 Bridge Project to remove and replace two 90-year old bridges located over the East Branch of the Eight Mile River and Swamp Brook. The Project is slated for the Summer 2019. Primarily concerned with the safety of the residents, First Selectman Lyden was originally opposed to the Project, as the bridge closure would result in a seven (7) mile detour. The CT DOT proposed an alternative solution and agreed to cover the costs for an ambulance to be available 24/7 on the other side of the detour for the duration of the closure. Still uncomfortable with the closure, a Public Informational Meeting was held in which members of the Salem and Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Companies, Lyme Fire Company, and Eight-mile River were present. While the Project is estimated to take 90-days, the bridge will be closed for 60-days. It is estimated that approximately 350 cars pass over the bridge during the busiest hours and the increase in traffic along the detours is estimated to be a maximum of 175 vehicles. The CT DOT is considering working on the Project during the weekends or decreasing the Project's estimated time-period. The public expressed no opposition.

The Route 85 Project for the by-pass lane by Burnett's Country Gardens and safety improvements by the curve located at Skyline Drive is scheduled for 2017. The safety improvements will include improving the drainage, sight lines, and widening the shoulders. Centerline rumble strips will also be added. The survey was conducted during the summer of 2016. $2.2 million for the project has been secured and will be

APPROVED

funded by the STP (Surface Transportation Program) Urban Funds from the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments.

The Small Cities Grant was a success and a few more projects are in the process of being completed. The Grant provided much needed repairs, including roofing, windows, furnaces, electrical and plumbing upgrades, etc., for residents who met the income requirements and are current on their taxes and mortgage. The 0% interest Grant/Loan involves the placement of a lien on the home and the funds are returned to the Town upon the transfer of property.

The grant was approved and the bid opened yesterday for improvements to the property located next to Salem School. Improvements will include painting, lead abatement, and the replacement of windows.

O'Connor Davies has completed their preliminary audit and the Auditor has provided a presentation to the Board of Finance. The Auditor stated that the Town is in great financial state, better than most of the towns in the State. First Selectman Lyden expressed his pride in the fiscal responsibility of all of the Town's departments.

B. SALEM SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE
The general contractor for the project was contacted regarding two areas that are leaking due to the HVAC unit. Once the leaks are repaired and the administrative paperwork is completed, the project will be finalized.

C. BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)
BOE Chair Michael Siebert reported that two new Board Members, Ryan Little and Sean Reith, both of whom have young children in the School, have been appointed and will be seated at their next Board Meeting. Kindergarten enrollment is approaching 50 students and, with only two (2) teachers, the Board will be discussing how to deal with the increase. A new Report suggests that enrollment is expected to increase in the region, primarily due to the recent hirings at Electric Boat.

D. BOARD OF FINANCE
As previously stated, the preliminary audit report has been completed and was presented to the Board. The Unassigned Fund Balance is also strong.

E. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
The Planning & Zoning Commission approved the following applications:

- Commercial site development plan for Colchester Construction on Route 354
- Site plan, change of ownership, and interior expansion of the office and retail use for the former Salem Feed & Grain. The business will include a retail area in the front of the building and spaces for crafters/vendors in the former warehouse area at rear of the building.

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- Zoning Regulation amendment and establishment of the Salem Herbfarm as a Special Event Facility

The Commission is continuing to work on the regulations for age-restricted/elderly forms of housing.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – *no report*

G. RECREATION COMMISSION
A well-attended and well-organized Trick or Truck event was held and positive feedback was received by the public. Everyone was encouraged to visit the Town website for information regarding all of the available winter programs.

H. PUBLIC SAFETY
Selectman Chmielewski stated that he is pleased to see Troopers LaRue and Pariseau visible in the Town, including at the Apple Festival and on Halloween, enhancing the safety of the public. He requested the possibility of receiving an unofficial report from the Troopers. First Selectman Lyden stated that the Troopers are very committed to the Town, adding that Trooper Pariseau deliberately moved his shift on Halloween to ensure the safety of the children. Both Troopers were commended for their hard work.

I. LIBRARY BOARD
The recent Book Sale was a success thanks to the Friends of the Library and volunteers.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: *none*

A 5-minute recess was taken at 7:23 p.m.

7. AGENDA

C. To convene into Executive Session to discuss a written legal opinion and consider potential recommendations as public discussion of this matter may result in disclosure of information privileged by an attorney-client relationship exempt from disclosure under the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, C.G.S. Sec. 1-210(b)(10).

M/S/C: Lyden/Ross, to enter into Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

M/S/C: Gadbois/Chmielewski, to resume the meeting at 8:51 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. No formal votes were taken during Executive Session.

8. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Gadbois/Chmielewski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED

Respectfully Submitted by: Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem

APPROVED