

**BOARD OF FINANCE
SALEM, CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2015**

PRESENT

TJ Butcher
George Householder
David Kennedy
Janet Griggs
Carol Eckart
Hernan Salas, Alt

ABSENT

Robert Sartori
Jenifer Lee
John Dolan, Alt

GUESTS

Stephen Buck
Tiffany Cunningham

CALLED TO ORDER

TJ Butcher called the meeting to order 7:00 pm

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Tiffany Cunningham of 89 Rattlesnake Ledge Rd. Salem

SEAT ALTERNATE IF NEEDED

M/S/C – Householder/Kennedy to seat Hernan Salas as a full Board member for this meeting in place of Robert Sartori.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

8. Discuss having a Board Liaison to work with the Garner Lake Volunteer Fire Co. and Salem Volunteer Fire Company.

AGENDA,

- 1. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 26, 2015 REGULAR MEETING**

M/S/C-Griggs/Kennedy - to approve the February 26, 2015 meeting minutes as submitted

Vote: Approved

Abstained: Householder

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

Pam Henry presented the Treasurer's Reports (See File Copy). Henry told the Board that the town was looking to switch from Webster Bank to Chelsea Groton Bank for receiving online tax payments. Webster Bank stated that the current fees charged to the town are around \$1,200.00-\$1,400.00 annually in fees; Chelsea Groton Bank will have zero fees charged to the town.

M/S/C – Householder/ Eckart to approve the change from Webster Bank to Chelsea Groton Bank for online tax payments.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

M/S/C – Householder/ Griggs to approve the transfer line # 212000-212021, Due to CNR= Class Funds to line # 925-00, Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$198,151.77.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

A. REVENUE SUMMARY

B. TRIAL BALANCE

C. FUND BALANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tiffany Cunningham of 89 Rattlesnake Ledge Rd. Salem spoke to the Board in support of the Board of Education budget.

4. SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Lyden presented his Selectman's Reports.

Lyden stated that Lisa Jablonski replaced Virginia Casey on Monday, March 02, 2015. He stated that Jablonski has HR, finance, accounting, school district and municipal experience. He also stated that she has a bachelors' degree in accounting.

Lyden informed the Board that the town has a current contract with Next Gen to upgrade lighting to LED lighting at the library, exterior lighting at the Salem Volunteer Fire Company. He stated they are also going to be looking at the Town Hall Office, Public Works and GLVFC.

Lyden stated that the preliminary cost for the blizzard is around \$40,000.00; which may be partial reimbursed from FEMA.

5. ACT ON PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 2015/2016 FISCAL YEAR

A. BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET

Stephen Buck presented the BOE Budget presentation (See File Copy). Buck stated that the cost of tuition for Salem student attending East Lyme School has increased by \$20,943.50 (See File Copy).

Griggs asked Buck if the proposed changed to the Language Art program was due to a testing deficit in that area vs. East Lyme students. Buck stated that Salem students are testing very well. Buck stated that with the changes being made to the standardized testing, from a fictional writing standard to a non-fictional/technical standard, the BOE felt this was a necessary change.

Householder asked the current enrollment numbers SPED students and general education students attending East Lyme High School. Buck stated that 9th grade has 8 SPED, 48 general education. 10th grade has 12 SPED, 59 general education. 11th grade has 3 SPED, 40 general education. 12th grade has 8 SPED, 47 general education.

M/S/C – Householder/ Eckart to approve Board of Education appropriation in the amount of \$ 10,645,000.00, subject to review/revision/table amount at the 3/27/15 BOF meeting for presentation at the public hearing.

Vote: Approved unanimously

B. REVENUES

Revenues will be moved to the next meeting agenda on March 19, 2015.

6. DISCUSS/ACTION ON RFP FOR AUDITING SERVICES

Householder stated that he reviewed the RFPs as did Butcher; O’Conner Davies had the winning bid for auditing services for the Town and Salem School in the amount of \$28,000.00 with a \$750.00 increase per year; which was a five year contract. Householder/ Butcher recommended to the Board to accept the bid from O’Conner Davies.

M/S/C – Eckart/ Householder to accept the rate and fee charges presented by O’Conner Davies for auditing services.

Vote: Approved unanimously

**7. DISCUSS/ACTION ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION - TOWN COUNSEL
\$9,000.00 5-126-208**

M/S/C– Householder/Griggs to approve the transfer of \$9,000.00 from Undesignated Fund to line item # 5-126-208, Town Counsel.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

**8. DISCUSSION ON BOF LIAISON TO GARDNER LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.
AND SALEM VOLUNTEER FIRE CO.**

The Board discussed appointing a liaison from the BOF to work with the town fire companies. The Board agreed on appointing David Kennedy as liaison to help, but not endorse, the fire companies on their budgets.

M/S/C – Griggs/ Salas to appoint David Kennedy as BOF liaison to Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company and Salem Volunteer Fire Company.

Vote: Approved

Abstained: Kennedy

M/S/C- Householder/ Kennedy- to adjourn at 9:18pm.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

**Respectfully Submitted
Cindy Noe,
Recording Secretary**