

**TOWN OF SALEM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 3, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.
Salem Town Hall**

PRESENT

Kevin Lyden
Edward Chmielewski Jr.
David Kennedy
Ron LaBonte
Hugh McKenney

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Lyden called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 6, 2019

M/S/C: LaBonte/Chmielewski, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2019, with the following amendment:

Page 5, Section I, Lines 2 & 6

12 11 individuals, 12 11 nominees

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0

3. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENT:

First Selectmen Lyden received a letter from TVCCA asking for a Salem resident to become a member of their board. Lyden and McKenney stated that TVCCA is a wonderful organization and provides many services to the residents of Salem. Lyden stated that \$1000 is incorporated into the Salem budget for TVCCA and that TVCCA provides around \$120,000 in heating assistance to the communities that they serve. Selectman McKenney offered to fill the requested position.

4. AGENDA:

Discussion took place to add three items to the agenda.

1. D. Amnesty Dates
2. E. IWCC Appointment
3. I. Unsung Heroes

M/S/C Lyden/Kennedy to add three items to the current agenda.

Voice vote, 5-0

- A. Appoint Mary Durkee to Recreation Commission (action Item)

M/S/C Lyden/Kennedy to appoint Mary Durkee to the Recreation Commission

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0

- B. Appoint Mary Jean Blezard to Recreation Commission (action item)
M/S/C Lyden/Chmielewski to appoint Mary Jean Blezard to the Recreation Commission
Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0
- C. Tax Collector Refunds
M/S/C McKenney/LaBonte to direct the Town Treasurer to issue refunds, recommended and certified by the Tax Collector, as presented, to the Board of Selectman in the amount of \$3313.34 on the 3rd day of September 2019.
Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0
- D. Amnesty Dates
Lyden stated that residents do not need to wait for Amnesty days to bring electronics, metal, or mattresses to the transfer station; those items can be brought to the transfer station anytime during the year at no charge.
M/S/C McKenney/LaBonte the Board of Selectmen hereby set Bulky Waste/Amnesty Dates for October 19, 20, and 23 at the Salem Transfer Station.
Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0
- E. Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission (IWCC) Appointment
M/S/C Lyden/Chmielewski the Board of per Section 5.05 A.1 of the Salem Town Charter hereby appoints Mr. Larry Moore to the alternate position on the Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission (IWCC).
Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0

5. REPORTS:

A. FIRST SELECTMAN

First Selectman Lyden reported that the town has maintained its positive bond rating through Moody's Municipal Bond Rating. The Salem Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled for Wednesday September 4, 2019 at the Salem School. The Food pantry consistently provides food for around 140 families. Lyden stated that many boards and committees in town are looking for volunteers. Volunteers need to be aware that it is not necessary to be an expert to be on a board but just be a fair minded volunteer. Per Lyden a letter is going out regarding RSVP for the November 12, 2019 award ceremony to honor the Vietnam & Korean War Veterans being held in the multi-purpose room at Salem School. Town Clerk Linda Flugrad will receive the RSVP responses and give a headcount to Lyden for the event. There are 110 veterans in town that have been identified and are eligible for this award.

B. BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Salem Bicentennial Heritage Day will be held on Saturday, September 14 from 11am to 4pm along the town green and including the ball fields. The event will have music, entertainment, food and many other events happening throughout the day. The Cupola and Time Capsule will be on display during the event. Selectman Kennedy stated that a flyer is being mailed with the day's events, location and times. First Selectman Lyden said to the board that the town buildings will be open to make rest rooms available.

C. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Selectman McKenney reported that there was a large turnout at the BOE meeting that was held on August 19, 2019. The large turnout was in opposition to the pay to play program. The BOE passed a motion to absorb the fees for the pay to play program in the amount of \$35,000. BOE also passed a motion to fund the new science curriculum to insure parity with East Lyme. The funds will be transferred from their Technology Fund. The final figure for the money going back to the General Fund from the BOE is around \$47,000.00

D. BOARD OF FINANCE

First Selectman Lyden reported that the next BOF meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2019. He stated that the auditors are due to come in sometime in the next few weeks to complete their audit. Selectman Lyden stated that at the last BOF meeting he requested some line item transfers, the largest being around \$36,000 to cover the trooper's contract. In response to Selectman McKenney regarding this fiscal year, First Selectman Lyden stated that the Trooper's contract is covered in this fiscal year budget. After the closing of last fiscal year the amount going back to the General Fund is around \$50,000.00-\$60,000.00. The BOF has done an initial review of the Gardner Lake Firehouse ambulance funds as per the 2003 agreement.

E. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Selectman Kennedy reported that the commission has been working hard reviewing the zoning regulation not only to protect the town but also homeowners. There will be a public hearing on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, 7pm, at Salem Town Hall.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Salem tourism pamphlet is going out to most of the businesses in town. The commission believes that visitors are using the pamphlet to visit more of the Salem businesses. The commission continues to work with First Selectman Lyden to try and create affordable senior housing for Salem's senior population. The Dollar General grand opening was well attended and continues to be an asset for Salem. Due to the diligence of the Dollar General's manager, about half of the store's employees are Salem residents.

G. LIBRARY

Selectman LaBonte reported that the regular meeting was held in August. There were eight summer programs with over 200 attendees. Salem's got Talent had 10 performers, ages 11-70. The Summer Reading program reported that 1,355 books were read by 150 students. The library's anniversary will be celebrated the same day as the Salem Tree Lighting on December 14, 2019. Friends of the Salem library are busy preparing for the book sale. First Selectman Lyden stated that the old library now has a 2nd door added to the back of the building. Selectman Chmielewski stated that there is an engineering study being done for the Cupola that is still outstanding.

H. MILITARY LIASON

Selectman Chmielewski reported that Warriors for Warriors is offering free acupuncture for veterans and military personnel at the East Lyme Community Center, 41 Society Rd. Niantic. The session will be held 7pm-9pm on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month. There will be a sky dive for veterans on September 7, 2019 at CT Parachute in Ellington. More information for the Freedom Jump can be found at skydiveforveterans.org.

I. UNSUNG HEROES

Selectman McKenney reported that the Unsung Heroes Committee selected 11 Salem residents to receive the Unsung Heroes award for volunteerism. The committee is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1989 to promote volunteerism. Please see attachment for the list of selected residents to be honored and their extraordinary volunteerism accolades.

6. ADJOURNMENT

**M/S/C: Kennedy/Chmielewski to adjourn the meeting at 7:56p.m. Discussion: None. Voice Vote: 5-0
Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cindy Noe, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem