

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021, 7:00 P.M.  
MEETING ROOM 1, SALEM TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT**

Kevin Lyden  
Edward Chmielewski, Jr.  
Ron LaBonte  
Hugh McKenney  
Susan Sullivan

**ABSENT**

*none*

**CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Lyden called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Tuesday, May 6, 2021 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting**

**M/S/C: Chmielewski/McKenney, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 2, 2021, with the following amendments:**

**Page 4, Item 5(A), first sentence:**

First Selectman Lyden and Selectman and Moderator McKenney encouraged everyone to vote on the budget next Wednesday, May 12, from ~~8:00~~ *6:00* a.m. to 8:00 p.m., at Town Hall.

**Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0-1. Voting in Favor: Selectmen Chmielewski, McKenney, Sullivan, and Lyden. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Selectman LaBonte.**

**4. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*E-mail public comment to [SelectmenPublicComment@salemct.gov](mailto:SelectmenPublicComment@salemct.gov) prior to 7:10 p.m.*

No comments were received via e-mail or the white drop box located in front of Town Hall.

**5. AGENDA:**

**A. Transfer Station Contract Extension**

**M/S/C: Lyden/Chmielewski, to extend the Contract for Municipal Services for Transfer Station Operations and Support Services with Contractor/Operator Gary Alligood for a period of one-year, effective July 1, 2022.**

**Discussion: First Selectman Lyden stated that the contract was not sent out to bid and commended Transfer Station Contractor/Operator Alligood for his hard work, reliability, and honesty. The contract includes**

**a 2% rate increase. He posed the possibility of putting a three-year contract for the position out to bid for an individual with at least five years of municipal transfer station experience. The Selectmen agreed to maintain the one-year contract extension for the time being. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

First Selectman Lyden introduced Salem's new evening Resident State Trooper Bryce Reed to the Board of Selectmen. Trooper Reed is working together with the town's daytime Trooper Ben Duffy, who has been working in Salem for the past year. He looks forward to having the Troopers get to know the town's residents. Trooper Reed collected approximately 30 lbs. of prescription drugs on Drug Take-Back Day. The event will be held again in the future. In response to Selectwoman Sullivan who questioned the Drug Take-Back Day process, Trooper Reed stated that no liquid or syringes are accepted and is entirely anonymous.

**B. 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 Selectmen in the amount of \$2,862.11 (two thousand eight hundred sixty-two dollars and eleven cents) on the 1st day of June 2021. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

**5. REPORTS:**

**A. FIRST SELECTMAN**

First Selectman Lyden welcomed recently hired Public Works Supervisor/Foreman Tony Galicia. Mr. Galicia, who has many years of experience in municipal public works and general contracting has met with Public Works Director Donald Bourdeau, Jr., the Public Works team, and town hall staff. Selected among approximately 18 applicants who applied for the position, he will be a huge asset to the department and the town is looking forward to working with him. Selectman Chmielewski, who has met and spoken with Mr. Galicia, agreed, adding that the town is very fortunate to have him serve the town.

The town's bond rating was upgraded by Moody's to Aa2 from Aa3 with a positive outlook. The bond rating, which reflects the town's stability and fiscal responsibility, has had a positive impact with respect to the town's re-funding, i.e., refinancing, of the existing debt for the school renovation project. The original project was bonded for approximately \$4.5 million 15 years ago with an interest rate of approximately 2.7%. The re-funding, which was approved by the Board for the remaining term (ten years) of the bond, will include an additional \$550,000.00 for the school roof and HVAC project. The interest rate will be approximately 1.45%, including the cost of the bonding. He commended the Board of Finance for their adoption of a Fund Balance Policy and overall fiscal responsibility.

**B. BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)**

Selectman McKenney reported that the BOE will be meeting on Monday, June 7. The BOE continues to work with the Board of Finance for their budgetary matters. First Selectman Lyden commended the school on maintaining the operations of the school during the COVID-19 pandemic. Selectman McKenney agreed, adding that the school held full-time in-person classes throughout the school year with very few missed days, in comparison to other schools.

On a side note, he announced that SCRRRA (Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Authority) will be hosting its annual Hazardous Waste Day this Saturday, June 5, at Colchester Town Hall.

**C. BOARD OF FINANCE**

First Selectman Lyden reported that the Board of Finance will be meeting next Thursday, June 10. He commended the members on a very good job during a very difficult year. The Board of Finance sent out an RFP (Request for Proposal) for the town's Auditor and selected King, King & Associates, P.C. King, King & Associates, P.C. will serve as the town's Auditor for the next five-years.

**D. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

Selectwoman Sullivan reported that Planning & Zoning Commission has been very busy as they continue to work on the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The end date for the POCD Survey has been extended by one week. Physical copies of the survey are available at the Town Clerk's office. A Public Hearing for a proposed text amendment to the Regulations to permit storage warehouses in the General Business Zone was continued. A letter regarding affordable housing was approved by the Commissioners and will be sent to the State Legislators.

**F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)**

Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Economic Development Commission discussed the ongoing progress of the construction of the Age-Restricted Housing Development, Commissioner Steven Shelley continues to reach out to the community's businesses, and Commissioner Fontneau continues to work on the Commission's contribution(s) to the POCD.

**G. LIBRARY**

Selectman LaBonte reported that the Library Board will be meeting next Tuesday, June 8, possibly in-person.

**H. MILITARY LIAISON**

First Selectman Lyden thanked Selectman Chmielewski for coordinating the town's annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. Selectman Chmielewski reported that co-Grand Marshals Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company Deputy Chief Joseph Danao II,

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), U.S. Army, and Salem Volunteer Fire Company Chief Chip Weston, Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps, rode side-by-side in the Fire Company's ATVs. All Salem residents were invited to march in the parade. He expressed his appreciation to all of the individuals who helped and supported a very successful event.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**M/S/C: LaBonte/Chmielewski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.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