

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
MEETING ROOM 1, SALEM TOWN HALL**

PRESENT

Kevin Lyden
Edward Chmielewski, Jr.
Ron LaBonte
Susan Sullivan

ABSENT

Hugh McKenney

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Lyden called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

**M/S/C: Chmielewski/LaBonte, to add the following items to the Agenda under Item 5,
Agenda:**

- c. BOS Authorization for 2022 Large Snowplow Truck**
- d. Re-Appoint Hugh McKenney to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority**
- e. Emergency Services Update**

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Tuesday, July 6, 2021, Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

**M/S/C: LaBonte/Sullivan, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday,
July 6, 2021. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

4. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS – *none*

5. AGENDA:

A. Appoint Amanda Lawrence to the Recreation Commission

**M/S/C: Lyden/Sullivan, to appoint Amanda Lawrence to the Recreation
Commission. Discussion: First Selectman Lyden stated that Ms.
Lawrence's photographs have been featured on the covers and interior of
Our Town Salem and thanked her for her willingness to serve on the
Commission. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

Ms. Lawrence was administered the Oath of Office by the Assistant Town Clerk.

B. Tax Collector Refunds

M/S/C: Chmielewski/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 \$963.35 (nine-hundred sixty-three dollars and thirty-five cents) on the 3rd day of August 2021. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

C. Board of Selectman Authorization for 2022 Large Snowplow Truck

First Selectman Lyden provided a copy of the written quotation to the Board. In an effort to keep the mil rate consistent with the Capital Plan, the payments for the truck were allocated over a three (3) year period. To date, two (2) payments totaling \$132,000.00 have been allocated for the purchase and an additional \$80,000.00 remains. The truck is already painted red, is in stock, and can be outfitted with the necessary equipment and delivered by this winter. The truck will be replacing a 17-year-old truck.

M/S/C: Chmielewski/Sullivan, to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a one-year loan in the principal amount of \$80,000.00 to be paid in one principal and interest payment in August of 2022. The loan is for a Large Snowplow Truck as listed in the 2021 Capital Budget approved at referendum. Discussion: First Selectman Lyden noted that, because the quotation is per State Contract, they are not required to obtain three (3) competitive bids, per the town's Purchasing Policy. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

D. Re-Appoint Hugh McKenney to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority

M/S/C: LaBonte/Chmielewski, to re-appoint Hugh McKenney to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority. Discussion: First Selectman Lyden reported that James Fogarty, who also serves on the Authority, representing the Town of Salem, recently resigned from the Authority, leaving a vacancy. The Authority meets quarterly. Selectman Chmielewski commended Selectman McKenney for his service on the Authority. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

E. Emergency Services Update

Emergency Services Liaison Selectman Chmielewski expressed his appreciation to Emergency Services Administrator Mike Bednarz for his hard work and efforts and provided a brief background and history of their accomplishments since their respective appointments.

Both Selectman Chmielewski and Emergency Services Administrator Bednarz were appointed by the First Selectman in July 2020. Immediately following their

appointment, an initial Cooperative Round Table discussion was held with the Chief and Deputy Chiefs of the Gardner Lake and Salem Volunteer Fire Companies. In addition, introductions were made between the Town Hall Staff and newly appointed Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company (GLVFCO) Chief Peter Silva and Deputy Chief Joe Danao and a meeting to review the town's financial process was held to ensure that payments are made in a timely manner. The group has continued to meet regularly to discuss joint trainings, protocols, and standard operating procedures/guidelines and an open 24/7 communication between the Emergency Services Liaison and Administrator has been established to resolve any issues that might arise. To supplement the town's volunteer staff, a second full-time Firefighter/EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and several part-time Firefighter/EMTs have been hired.

As noted by Emergency Services Liaison Selectman Chmielewski, Emergency Services Administrator Bednarz stated that over the past year, they have held monthly meetings with both of the Fire Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs to address the town's public safety concerns and discuss ways in which they can accomplish their goals together. Full-time Firefighter/EMT Travis Roberts was hired to supplement the volunteers and has proved to be a great addition to the team. They plan to organize trainings for the local businesses and residents, including CPR/AED training classes, and the full-time Firefighter/EMTs will be visiting the town's local businesses in the near future.

He reported that, for the month of June, the Departments have responded to 41 Calls for Service, both Fire and EMS (Emergency Medical Services).

Selectman Chmielewski commended Emergency Services Administrator Bednarz for the enhancements that have been made with the addition of the full- and part-time firefighter/EMTs.

In response to Selectman LaBonte regarding the daily job duties of the Career/Paid Firefighter/EMTs, Emergency Services Administrator Bednarz stated that the two Firefighter/EMTs provide public safety protection five (5) days a week from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (10 hours/day, 50 hours/week). Per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, they also have the option to collect extra duty assignment(s). In-town Career staff can also choose to be On-Call from 4:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., earning an additional 20 to 25 hours/week. The volunteers currently receive a stipend for their service. Selectman LaBonte added that all of the communities in the region are increasing their paid staff as the volunteers have been diminishing.

A patch of the new logo created by and representing the team was modeled by Emergency Services Administrator Bednarz. The logo reflects the great purpose they serve which is to help the residents and the town as a whole. First Selectman Lyden

suggested they create verbiage to include in *Our Town Salem* and/or the town's News & Announcements page.

Emergency Services Administrator Bednarz accepted an offer from Selectwoman Sullivan to donate several new manikins for the CPR/AED training classes.

Selectman Liaison Chmielewski and Emergency Services Administrator Bednarz thanked the Board of Selectman for their support and their commitment to enhancing public safety as they realize that they will need to do more and pay more and think outside of the box to accomplish their goals in the best interest of Salem. He also thanked all of the members of the Fire Companies, without whom the town could not succeed.

5. REPORTS:

A. FIRST SELECTMAN

First Selectman Lyden reported that positive feedback has been received regarding the speed radar signs that have been installed in select locations throughout town. Additional signs have been ordered. The signs that are located on Route 85 and Witch Meadow Road were received by the Connecticut Department of Transportation through the University of Connecticut through a grant and record data that is available to the town through the State Police. The data is available for up to 6 months. The other radar signs are portable and battery-operated and are maintained by the Resident State Troopers.

He has met with the GLVFCO Chief and Board of Directors President two times over the past few weeks and a meeting with their attorneys is scheduled for later this month. They have agreed on several areas of the lawsuit. The goal of the meetings is to have the lawsuit dropped. The final agreement will be reviewed and approved by the Board and, possibly, the Board of Finance and the townspeople, depending upon its outcome.

The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) is considering hiring a full-time Planner to provide guidance regarding the expenditure of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds to help ensure that towns are allocating the funds properly. The town has received approximately \$600,000.00 this year in ARPA Funds.

Appreciation was extended to those who have generously donated to the town's Benevolent Fund and/or volunteer to deliver food items to those in need.

B. BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)

First Selectman Lyden reported that the new Superintendent will be starting in his new position this month.

C. BOARD OF FINANCE

First Selectman Lyden reported that the Board of Finance will be meeting next Thursday. The Auditor has conducted their preliminary review at the town and the school.

D. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Selectwoman Sullivan commended the Commission, which reviewed the highlights of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Survey and have made significant progress on the document during their last meeting. A draft of the various sections is expected to be presented for review at their next meeting.

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)

Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Commission is continuing to work on the POCD under the guidance of Commissioner Carl Fontneau as well as the Business Directory, which is being led by Commissioner Steven Shelley. The Directory is slated for publication in September.

F. LIBRARY

Selectman LaBonte reported that the Library Board will be meeting next week.

G. MILITARY LIAISON

Selectman Chmielewski reported that, with the help of the town's strong and robust military community, they continue to meet with the town's veterans and individuals who are interested in joining the service or are in need of assistance.

6. ADJOURNMENT

**M/S/C: LaBonte/Chmielewski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Discussion: None.
Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

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