

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2022, 7:00 PM
SALEM TOWN HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

**The minutes submitted below have been filed in accordance with
Section 1-225 of the CT General Statutes. They are subject to
final approval with or without amendments by a vote of the Board of Selectmen.
Approval and any such amendments will be detailed in subsequent minutes.**

PRESENT

Edward Chmielewski, Jr.
Ron LaBonte
Pam Munro

ABSENT

Thomas (TJ) Butcher
Kevin Lyden

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Chmielewski called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. Tuesday, July 5, 2022 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

**M/S/C: LaBonte/Munro, to approve the Tuesday, July 5, 2022 Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.**

3. CORRESPONDENCE / PUBLIC COMMENTS – *none*

4. ALTERATIONS TO THE AGENDA – *none*

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

To provide an update and to discuss legal strategies for the current lawsuit “The Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. vs. Town of Salem” pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200 (6)(B)

M/S/F: LaBonte/Munro, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of providing an update and discussing the legal strategies for the current lawsuit “The Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. vs. Town of Salem” pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200 (6)(B). Discussion: Discussion ensued regarding entering into Executive Session in the absence of two (2) of the Board Members due to the significance and sensitive nature of the subject matters. Voice vote, 0-3, all opposed.

M/S/R: LaBonte/Munro, to rescind the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of providing an update and discussing the legal strategies for the current lawsuit “The Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. vs. Town of Salem” pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200 (6)(B). Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.

M/S/C: LaBonte/Munro, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of providing an update and discussing the legal strategies for the current lawsuit “The Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. vs. Town of Salem” pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200 (6)(B). Discussions to include the Board of Selectmen, Emergency Management Director/Emergency Services Coordinator Mike Bednarz , and Town Attorney Brian Estep. Discussion: The Selectmen agreed to enter into Executive Session and, possibly, schedule a Special Meeting when the remaining Selectmen are available. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Invited parties exited for Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. First Selectman Chmielewski resumed the meeting at 7:54 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

To discuss investigative reports regarding complaints by Salem Town Employees against The Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. members pursuant to 1-200(6)(E) and 1-210 (b)(2).

M/S/C: Munro/LaBonte, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing investigative reports regarding complaints by Salem Town Employees against The Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. members pursuant to 1-200(6)(E) and 1-210 (b)(2). Discussions to include the Board of Selectmen, Emergency Management Director/Emergency Services Coordinator Mike Bednarz, and Town Attorney Brian Estep. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Invited parties exited for Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. First Selectman Chmielewski resumed the meeting at 8:28 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

Selectman LaBonte stated his initial reservations regarding entering into Executive Session in the absence of two of the Selectmen. Upon reviewing the documentation, he expressed his disturbance with the content and is pleased that the Town took immediate action and is investigating the issues to continue protecting the employees. He looks forward to engaging in further discussions with the full Board. Selectwoman Munro agreed that their discussions should include the entire Board and commented on the weight of the issues and the

extensiveness of the investigation. First Selectman Chmielewski concurred, stating the importance of protecting the staff.

7. Request CT DOT Install “No Parking” Signs along the frontage of 116 Old Colchester Road

On June 14, 2022, the Salem Planning and Zoning Commission granted a Special Exception for the property located at 116 Old Colchester Road, Salem, CT. that included: “2. The applicant shall request, through the Board of Selectman, that “No Parking” Signs be installed by the CT Department of Transportation along the Route 354 frontage of the property”.

M/S/C: LaBonte/Munro, to approve the drafting of a letter by the First Selectman to the CT DOT (Connecticut Department of Transportation) requesting the installation of “No Parking” Signs along the Route 354 frontage of 116 Old Colchester Road and within 1,000 feet to the north and south of the Gardner Lake State Park entrance. Discussion: Due to the feedback received by the neighboring residents, First Selectman Chmielewski proposed increasing the footprint. Selectwoman Munro agreed, citing the danger(s) caused by parking alongside the road. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.

8. AGENDA:

- a. Tax Collector’s Refunds – *none*

9. REPORTS:

a. FIRST SELECTMAN

A copy of the First Selectman’s report containing updates of the Town departments was provided to the Board (*attached*). Other notable updates include:

Salem Town Center, 1 New London Road – Improvements are continuing to be made to the plaza and new tenants are expected to move in in the near future.

Green Village II Age-Restricted Housing Development, Route 82 – Tenants who are 55 years of age and older have begun moving into the development. To date, 12 (twelve) of the 48 (forty-eight) units are available. Each unit is comprised of one bedroom, one bathroom, and a one-car garage. The units cost \$1,700.00/month with a two-year lease and \$1,800.00/month with a one-year lease.

Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company Ambulance Service is currently out of service due to maintenance issues. The Town’s Firefighters/EMTs and Volunteers continue to respond to all calls and Mutual Aid is being engaged for ambulance services.

New First Selectman’s Office Executive Assistant – Longtime Salem resident Alesha Brothers has been hired as the First Selectman’s Executive Assistant.

CIRMA Distribution Check – A distribution check for \$11,262.00 was received from the Town's insurance carrier, CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency). The funds will be deposited into the Town's General Fund.

ARPA Funds – The request for the second allotment of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds was successfully submitted.

Tax Collection Rate – The Tax Collector reported a Tax Collection Rate of 51.66%.

b. EMERGENCY SERVICES - POLICE / FIRE

Emergency Management Director/Emergency Services Coordinator Bednarz reported that 71 Calls for Service, 29 of which were during weekday hours, were received in July and 68 Calls for Service, 21 of which were during weekday hours, were received in June. Full-time Firefighter/EMS Ryan Teixeira will begin CPR/AED Training for the Town employees. The training will soon be offered to the public. Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company Chief Pete Silva continues to be in the process of ordering the AEDs. The Town's Full-time Career Firefighters continue to serve the town, as needed, during the daytime hours and have been visiting the Town's businesses to educate the businesses and familiarize themselves with the buildings and plan for any future emergencies.

c. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management Director/Emergency Services Coordinator Bednarz stated that the PSA (Public Service Announcement) for the summer months is related to High Heat Hazards. Residents are encouraged to stay hydrated and in the shade and take notice of the heat index. The region has been deemed a Level Two Drought Conditions and the voluntary conservation of water is recommended. The heat and drought conditions have also contributed to high fire danger. He expressed his appreciation to the First Selectman and Library staff for opening the Library for use as a Cooling Center last weekend. Residents are encouraged to visit the Library to cool down during the hottest times of the day.

First Selectman Chmielewski added that Emergency Management's new sign is being used to inform drivers of the Route 82 detour. The Resident State Troopers have also been deployed and signs have been posted to help manage the traffic.

d. BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance, which will be meeting next Thursday, August 11, is planning to host a budget training session(s) with the department heads and board/commission chairpersons.

e. BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education will be meeting on Monday, August 15.

f. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION – *see attached report*

g. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – *see attached report*

h. LIBRARY

First Selectman Chmielewski commended Interim Library Director Shannon Henson. Assistant Librarians were recently hired.

i. TVCCA

The Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA) will be meeting in-person on Wednesday, August 17.

Selectman LaBonte reported that the **Unsung Heroes Committee** has received the nominations for the Award. They will be discussing the candidates on Tuesday, August 16, at 5:00 p.m., in the Salem Free Public Library meeting room.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: LaBonte/Munro, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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

A VIDEO RECORD OF THE MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE UNDER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS – BOARD OF SELECTMEN – MEETING VIDEOS

**First Selectman's Report
Board of Selectman
Tuesday, August 2, 2022 Regular Meeting**

- Owners of 1 New London Plaza continue to work with town officials and myself to make improvements
- Age Restricted Housing on RT 82 is called Green Village II. Tenants have or will be moving into the first 12 units. Units include 1 bedroom a bathroom open living room kitchen, 1 bedroom and a 1 car garage. Rent is at market value, currently at \$1,700 per month with a 2-year lease and \$1,800 per month with a one-year lease.
- It has been brought to my attention that the Garnder Lake Fire Department Ambulance is out of service.
- Detour on rt 82. I have authorized additional State Police presence, the deployment of our traffic control sign and the placement of other signs.

Department Updates

Human Resources / Finance – Lisa

- Hired the Executive Assistant to the First Selectman Alesha Brothers who is a Longtime Salem Resident.
- \$11,262 CIRMA distribution authorized back to the Town of Salem. To be deposited into the town general fund.
- Preparing for the final Audit in September. The portion of the audit conducted in May and no issues were uncovered
- ARPA – The second Tranch request was submitted by Lisa Friday while she was on vacation. Municipalities were only given 3 days' notice to file.
- Finalizing invoices for year end 21-22
- Continue to update job descriptions
- Hired several part time librarians
- Updating CIRMA cyber security classes
- Updating Web Page

Tax Collector – Vivian Waters

The month of July has come to an end with some good news.

- We successfully managed the busiest month in our office with just myself and a part time and brand-new assistant.
- We have made an advancement in the office that will prove to aid in speed, accuracy and the detection of counterfeit bills by adding a money counter to our office.
- The collection rate as of 8/2/22 for the 2021 grand list is at 51.66%
- We have seen an increased rate of collection for back taxes through utilizing and keeping in close contact with our Marshall Nick Poppiti and look forward to more success with him.

**First Selectman's Report
Board of Selectman
Tuesday, August 2, 2022 Regular Meeting**

Recreation – Agnes

- Summer Concert: Sponsored by Sid's Auto Sales & Radcor
 - Thursday, August 25, 6:00 p.m., Pavilion
 - The 70s Project
 - Food Trucks: Rustic Streets, Walsh's Waffle Wagon, Curb Your Appetite
- Tai Chi Classes: FREE classes:
 - Tuesday, August 9
 - 9:00 – 10:15 a.m., Salem Volunteer Fire Company (to be confirmed)
 - 6:00 – 7:15 p.m., Salem Community Park Pavilion
 - Tuesday, August 16
 - 9:00 – 10:15 a.m., Salem Community Park Pavilion
 - 6:00 – 7:15 p.m., Salem Community Park Pavilion
- Good Any Day Tickets for Adventure Park, Lake Compounce, CT Science Center
- 2022 Find Your Footprint Medallions are ready!: Salem Multi-Purpose Path/Harris Brook Trail, Darling Road Preserve, Zemko Sawmill Preserve, more trails to come!
- This week: Skyhawks Tennis Camp, Ages 6 – 12
- Next week: Photography Camp, Ages 7 – 13
- Online Classes: Online Coding Classes, Live Classes Online, Personal Euphoria Fitness Classes
- Coming Soon in the Fall: Safe Sitter Babysitter Class, Ages 11-14, Safe@Home Classes, Ages 9-11

Seniors – Agnes

- Salem Seniors Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 9, with a FREE Tai Chi class before the meeting at 9:00 a.m.
- Updates will also be provided by Rep. Cheeseman and, possibly, Rep. Haines
- AARP Safe Driving Class, Tuesday, August 16, Salem Firehouse

Building Department – Agnes

- FY2022/23
 - Total Permits: 30
 - Total Fees: \$7,356.51
 - Total Value: \$627,174.09
 - Includes Permit(s) for: 1 New Single-Family Residence
- Total C/Os (Certificate of Occupancy): 7
 - Includes two (2) C/Os for Buildings 1 and 2 (6 units each) of New Age-Restricted Housing Development, Route 82

Assessor's Office – Mike Kapinos

- July tax wave went well working closely with Vivian and Athena.
- Heavy emphasis on customer service - emails, phone calls, mailings etc

Town Planner - Justin LaFountain

**First Selectman's Report
Board of Selectman
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- The Planning and Zoning Commission made a decision to deny the Special Agriculture Zone application for 45 Forest Drive, after two nights and close to six hours of public hearing testimony.
- The Planning and Zoning Commission is nearing the completion of the draft of the Plan of Conservation and Development. There are some slight edits remaining, and summary chapters are being written. The Commission tentatively expects to have a public input session on the Plan draft in September, and have the Plan itself adopted in November.
- Kevin Lyden, Agnes Miyuki, and I met with Annika Shiffer-Delegard, the regions Sustainable CT fellow for the summer. Salem is in good shape for Sustainable CT certification, and Agnes and I will be compiling the necessary information. We expect Salem to hopefully be certified in the spring of 2023.
- We anticipate a Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing application for a multi-family development at 496 New London Road in the somewhat near future. As nothing has been officially submitted to the town yet, exact details are not yet known.
- Due to the primary elections on Tuesday, August 9th, the Commission's regularly scheduled meeting for that day will take place in Conference Room 2.

Town Clerk – Linda Flugrad

- Facing the new challenge of issuing 4 different absentee ballots for the primary. This is a new challenge since for the first time we now have 2 districts and 2 parties
- Dog licensing has dwindled and State DOA is providing us with additional dog tags
- Working on verifying documents for backfilling the land records
- Vault combination lock needs replacing. Seems something broke inside. They will be back within the next two weeks.

Public Works – Tony Gallicchio

- Did chainsaw training
- Continued with truck safety
- Rail mowed roads
- Weekly garbage pickup from town fields and buildings
- Filled potholes various roads
- Crack sealed and chip sealed roads
- Inspected 2 driveway aprons for CO
- Cleaned off catch basin tops
- Answered and responded to 23 Citizen Comment Forms
- Repaired several large pieces of equipment in house
- Picked up Refrigerator filled with concrete on Woodchuck
- Cleaned up fallen trees on Brookside, Music Vale, Round Hill, Harris Rd, Morgan Rd,
- Picked up debris on Forsyth again
- Spread wood chips at Pavilion
- Spread millings at Forsyth bus turnaround
- Loam and seeded hill behind Zemko
- Cut down Rt 85. Site line loam, seeded and hayed
- Jack hammered dangerous rocks at Rattlesnake and West rd.

**First Selectman's Report
Board of Selectman
Tuesday, August 2, 2022 Regular Meeting**

- Cut down trees Round Hill Rd
- Cut down slope, raked, seeded and hayed behind Zemko
- Mowed fields and properties
- Rebuilt large sweeper in house
- Continued to sweep chips seal stone from roads
- Put up/replaced signs at Cemetery, Library, Corrina, Transfer Station
- Plumbing work @ Public Works
- Rebuild infield Machine
- Repair the sidewalks at Town Hall and Library
- Major renovation to Ford backhoe cooling system and steering system
- Repaired piston on rail mower
- Removed Holes 1,3,4,5, lower safety hazards at disc golf course with
- Took out Bees at big bridge and went out twice to remove hives
- Rebuilt door at generator house
- Replaced rotted back exit door to breakroom PW.
- Stand alone bulletin board. replaced plexiglass
- Bathroom women's staff at Library lock has been changed to a new one library crash bar on front door adjusted and closes fine
- Tree canopy for Rathbun and Buckley has been put on Board for schedule
- Way road repair will start tomorrow including 15" pipe replacement

Salem Library – Interim Head Librarian Shannon Henson

- July 6, 2022-Sand Program presented by the Kellogg Environmental Center. Participants were able to use microscopes to view sand from lakes, beaches and rivers in Connecticut. They were also able to paint with a variety of Connecticut soils. 20 participants.
- July 12, 2022-Reading the Map presented by Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center. Participants learned how to read trail signs, and use a paper map and compass. 21 participants.
- July 18, 2022-Take and Make Kit on Octopi. This craft was provided by the UCONN Extension/4-H Office of New London County. This is a STEAM craft for children in grades 3-8.
- July 20, 2022-Family Fun Trail: The Recreation Department and the Library teamed up to place a variety of signs along the trail near Music Vale Rd., encouraging families to engage in getting outside and having fun. The library will provide prizes for those that participate and send us a picture that they completed the trail.
- July 19, 2022-Wildlife of Our Region: Chief Ranger Bill Reid from the Last Green Valley gave a program on local wildlife. This program was a part of our Summer Reading Program. 21 participants.
- July 22, 23, and 24, 2022-Cooling Center provided to town residents. We did not have anyone visit during the hours, but provided a cool place for residents.
- July 25, 2022-Take and Make Shark kits for Shark Week: 3-D puzzle for children 8 and up.
- July 25, 2022-Yikes! Sharks! Storytime-for ages 3-5. Stories, songs, and a shark craft. 14 participants.



Lieutenant Adam Rosenberg #045
Commanding Officer



Sergeant Kyle Cormier #156
Acting Executive Officer

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE
TROOP K – COLCHESTER

August 2, 2022

Mr. Ed Chmielewski
Salem First Selectman
270 Hartford Rd
Salem, CT 06420

Dear Mr. Ed Chmielewski

This correspondence is an effort to keep you apprised of the monthly police services occurring within the Town of Salem.

During the month of **July 2022**, the Salem Resident Troopers as well as Troop K Troopers responded to **185** Calls for Service in the Town of Salem. Of these Calls for Service the most notable are:

Accidents: 12

Burglaries: 1

Larcenies: 1

Untimely Deaths: 0

Non Reportable Matters: 121

Medical Assists: 4

Disturbances: 2

Arrests: 4

Other Noteworthy Events (List):

- Salem Family received \$5000.00 from Cops for Kids with Cancer
- Trooper Crosby completed DARE certification.
- Increased speed enforcement efforts on Darling Rd. do to the detour construction traffic.
- Assisted public works with traffic control while working to improve sightline at Music Vale Rd.
- Worked with DEEP to help keep Gardner Lake state park safe during its busy season.

In addition to the above investigations, Troopers conducted the following motor vehicle enforcement:

DUI: 2

Traffic Stops: 38

Respectfully,

LT Adam Rosenberg #045

Lieutenant Adam Rosenberg #045
Commanding Officer
Connecticut State Police – Troop K

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