

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, 7:00 pm**

Per State of Connecticut, Governor Lamont Executive order 7B; The Town of Salem Board of Selectmen Meeting on June 2, 2020 will be following the suspension of In-Person open meeting requirements.

The public can access this meeting at

<https://zoom.us/j/92990092982?pwd=bCtSak1HQVRnTjB3L21HTWJlaWp0UT09>

Password: 630448

Or Via Telephone:

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Webinar ID: 929 9009 2982 | **Password:** 630448

PRESENT

Kevin Lyden
Edward Chmielewski, Jr.
Ron LaBonte
Hugh McKenney
Terri Salas

ABSENT

none

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Tuesday, May 5, 2020 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

M/S/C: McKenney/Chmielewski, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, May 5, 2020. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0.

b. Monday, May 11, 2020 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting

M/S/C: McKenney/Chmielewski, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, May 11, 2020. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0.

c. Tuesday, May 19, 2020 Board of Selectmen Special Meeting

M/S/C: McKenney/Chmielewski, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0.

3. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS

E-mail public comment to SelectmenPublicComment@salemct.gov

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

4. AGENDA:

A. Update on COVID-19 Issues (*Discussion*)

First Selectman Lyden reported that all of the Town Hall departments continue to work with at least one member of the staff in each office. Three employees continue to work remotely and will be reintroduced back to Town Hall over the next few weeks. The Public Works Department continues to report to either the Public Works garage or Center School and an individual has been hired for Summer help and is currently mowing the sides of the road. Library staffing has been reduced and they are now offering curbside pick-up; residents may check out items through the Salem Library Catalogue or via phone/e-mail. He encouraged everyone to visit their website at saalemct.gov/library to view their many offerings.

B. Extension of the State of Emergency for the Town of Salem, CT until July 15, 2020
(*Discussion & Action*)

M/S/C: McKenney/Chmielewski, to extend the Declaration of the State of Emergency for the Town of Salem, Connecticut that was originally signed and issued on March 16, 2020 at 5:49 p.m. and was previously extended to April 30, 2020, May 15, 2020, and again to June 5, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., and to further extend the Declaration of the State of Emergency for the Town of Salem, Connecticut to July 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

C. Approve Tentative Agreement between the Town of Salem and Salem Public Works Department AFL-CIO Local 1303-312 of Council #4. (*Discussion & Action*)

The three-year tentative contract for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023 includes:

- a 2.75% pay increase per year
- an additional \$1.00 per meal allotment for breakfast, lunch, and dinner for employees who work over 12 hours
- double-time for all holidays
- one-half day off on Christmas Eve. Should they be called in for inclement weather, they must stay on duty for time and a half pay for the remaining four hours.
- a \$50.00 per year increase for clothing allowance (from \$550.00 to \$600.00)
- a \$25.00 per month allotment for use of personal cell phone

Selectman Chmielewski felt that the agreement was fair for both the Town and its employees.

M/S/C: Chmielewski / McKenney, to approve the Tentative Agreement between the Town of Salem and Salem Public Works Department AFL-CIO Local 1303-312 of Council #4. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

D. Tax Collector Refunds (*Action Item*) – none

5. REPORTS:

A. FIRST SELECTMAN

The First Selectman reported that the Amnesty Days have been re-scheduled for Saturday, June 13; Sunday, June 14, and; Wednesday, June 17. Residents are being asked to unload their vehicles, maintain proper distancing between vehicles, wear masks, and not bring mattresses, metals, or electronics, which are free on a normal basis. Two Public Works employees will be on-site to help with the influx of items, direct traffic, and ensure that the rules are being followed. A reminder e-blast will be sent to the residents.

He commended and expressed his appreciation to Tom Melovitz of *Bethany Insulation Co.*, who reviewed sections of the Library that were missing its insulation and offered and conducted the job gratis.

B. BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)

Selectman McKenney reported that the BOE received a total of six bids for the Technology Services Contract. The original vendor came in with the lowest bid, along with some additional perks.

As the result of the Governor's Executive Order 7R regarding the "Preservation of Student Transportation Services and Special Education Providers", the BOE, in conjunction with other municipalities, negotiated their contract with the bus companies, who have agreed to honor 60% of their agreed-upon contract.

While the BOE was planning to return \$105,000.00 to the town's General Fund at the end of the fiscal year, the flooring issues in the Gadbois Gym have precluded them from doing so. Considered a safety issue, the Board voted to repair the floors with part of the unexpended funds that were slated to be returned to the town. The repair is estimated to cost approximately \$23,000.00. Three to four bids have been received to date.

The successful meal program, which distributes approximately 1,000 meals per week, will conclude at the end of June at which time, WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) cards might be provided to qualifying families.

The use of technology for e-learning has been going very well and has been a learning process with both benefits and drawbacks. Those who did not have the necessary equipment were able to borrow them from the school. Some of the parents are struggling to keep their children consistently engaged. Further guidelines for the next school year are expected to be received soon.

The BOE held a very productive, open, and thoughtful discussion regarding the additional \$90,000.00 cut from their originally proposed FY2020/21 budget increase by the Board of Finance. As a result of a poll sent out to their 8th-grade students, they learned that three (3) of the regular education students and one (1) special education student will be moving out of district resulting in the bulk of the savings. The remaining amount will derive from program cuts.

Additional challenges are expected and Public Works Director Don Bourdeau and his team will be key in terms of keeping the building maintained until its reopening in the fall.

C. BOARD OF FINANCE

First Selectman Lyden commended the Board of Finance on an excellent job, stating that this was the most difficult budget year since his 11-year tenure as the town's First Selectman and 13th year working on the town's budget. Both the General Government and BOE budgets were further reduced from their originally proposed increases.

D. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION – no meeting; no report

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)

Selectman Chmielewski reported that, with the support of the First Selectman and Town Hall staff, many businesses are slowly beginning to re-open and those who have remained open continue to practice proper social distancing procedures and other recommended safety protocols.

First Selectman Lyden added that *Two Brothers Restaurant* is currently considering offering outdoor dining.

F. LIBRARY –no report

G. MILITARY LIAISON

Selectman Chmielewski reported that, due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the Annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony was canceled. In its stead, the town honored the men and women who died in the service of their country with a very well-attended Neighborhood Car Parade. He expressed his appreciation to Salem Volunteer Fire Company Chief Gene Maiorano, Executive Director of Military Affairs Commander Bob Ross, VFW Commander and 2020 Memorial Day Grand Marshal Steve Buck, Salem VFW Captain George Jackson, and Salem Lions Club Vice President David Kennedy, Sr., and to his fellow Selectmen and woman for taking part in the parade.

The Selectmen stated that they enjoyed taking part in the parade and thanked him for spearheading the parade.

6. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Salas/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