

**SALEM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018, 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

none

1. CALL TO ORDER:

First Selectman Lyden called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

First Selectman Lyden welcomed Selectman Ron LaBonte to the Board and thanked him for his willingness to serve on the Board.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. March 6, 2018 Regular Meeting

M/S/C: Kennedy/Chmielewski, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2018. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0-1. Voting in Favor: Selectmen Chmielewski, Kennedy, McKenney, and Lyden. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Selectman LaBonte.

B. March 15, 2018 Special Meeting

M/S/C: McKenney/Chmielewski, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2018. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

4. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company (GLVFCO) Chief Jim Savalle reported that they, along with the Bozrah and Oakdale Fire Companies, successfully rescued a gentleman from Gardner Lake last Wednesday, March 28. The individual was safely transported to Backus Hospital by Colchester Ambulance and, after spending two days in the hospital, has returned home. He commended Deputy Fire Marshal John Cunningham, EMR (Emergency Medical Responder)/ Firefighter 1 Kevin Milligan, Jr., and DEEP (Department of Energy & Environmental Protection) Officer Robin Landry for their efforts.

He also commended GLVFCO Assistant Chief Joe Danao for his coordination of a very well-attended, well-organized, and successful Mass Casualty Drill, which was drafted as part of the Town's EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Plan. The Drill took place last Saturday, March 31,

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with over 80 attendees, including individuals from the Lebanon, Bozrah, Colchester, Salem, Oakdale, Gardner Lake, State Police, DEEP as well as the First Selectman.

Yesterday, Monday, April 2, EMR/Firefighter 1 and Salem Resident Trey Royce encountered an incident at a gas station in the town of Portland involving a blue and pulse-less baby. After instructing the gas station attendant to call 911, he proceeded to give the baby CPR and, as the baby was being placed in the ambulance for transport, he/she was breathing with a good pulse thanks to the efforts of EMR/Firefighter Royce.

Selectman McKenney suggested the possibility of recognizing and presenting the individuals with a Certificate of Appreciation for their successful efforts. Selectman Chmielewski agreed and requested that GLVFCO Chief Savalle create a short description regarding the events.

5. AGENDA:

A. Schedule Amnesty (Action Item)

M/S/C: McKenney/Kennedy, to set “Bulky Waste” Amnesty Days for Saturday, May 19; Sunday, May 20, and; Wednesday, May 23, 2018. Discussion: Amnesty Days are scheduled twice a year during the months of May and October; Public Works are assigned to work during this period. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

B. Schedule Annual Town Meeting (Action Item)

M/S/C: McKenney/Kennedy, to set the Annual Town Meeting to adopt the budget, per Section 10.07d of the Salem Town Charter on May 2, 2018. 7:00 p.m., at Salem Elementary School. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

C. Adopt Hidden Heroes Resolution (Action Item)

M/S/C: Chmielewski/LaBonte, to approve and adopt the Hidden Heroes Resolution in support of Salem’s military and veteran caregivers.

WHEREAS, the series of wars in which our nation has been engaged over time, since World War II, has resulted in 5.5 million military and veteran caregivers who are parents, spouses, siblings and friends, caring for those wounded, ill or injured who have served our nation, as documented by the 2014 RAND study commissioned by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the daily tasks of these military and veterans caregivers can include bathing, feeding, dressing, and caring for the grievous injuries of wounded warriors, administering medications, providing emotional support, caring for the family and the home, and working outside the home to earn essential income; and

WHEREAS, the nation provides multi-faceted support to our wounded, ill and injured veterans and service members through public, private and philanthropic resources, but their caregivers receive little support or acknowledgement; and

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WHEREAS, most military and veteran caregivers consider the challenging work they do as simply carrying out their civic and patriotic duty, without realizing they are, in fact, caregivers, and do not identify themselves as such; and

WHEREAS, an alarming number of military and veteran caregivers, according to research, are suffering numerous debilitating mental, physical and emotional effects as a result of their caregiving duties; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Salem desires to recognize and support those who are serving in these vital roles in our own community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town of Salem as follows:

- I.** That the Town of Salem become a Hidden Heroes town in support of military and veteran caregivers.
- II.** That the Town of Salem seek to identify military and veteran caregivers residing in our community.
- III.** That the Town of Salem works to ensure that our government, organizations, employers and non-profits are aware of the unique challenges of military and veteran caregivers and are encouraged to create supportive environments and opportunities for assistance.
- IV.** That the Town of Salem plan an observance each May, during Military Appreciation Month, to honor and recognize the city's military and veteran caregivers in partnership with the Elizabeth Dole Foundations' national Hidden Heroes campaign.
- V.** That the Town of Salem encourage all who care for and support veterans and service members to extend that support to their caregivers.
- VI.** That the Town of Salem designate a point of contact for our community, from the public or private sector, for citizens and organizations wanting to offer support, and caregivers who need that support.

Discussion: First Selectman Lyden stated that, by adopting the Resolution, the Town of Salem, along with other communities, would be offering their support and recognizing the caregivers of those who have been injured during their time of service. Selectman, Retired Officer of the CT Army National Guard, and Military Liaison Chmielewski stated that, while veterans and retirees of the military are often recognized for their service and are provided with the necessary resources, the caregivers, who are most often family members, are not always offered the same. Selectman Chmielewski along with Selectman and Retired Member of the U.S. Air Force LaBonte recited the Resolution. In response to Selectman Kennedy, First Selectman Lyden stated that the possibility of receiving financial support to help aid the caregivers could be

investigated. Selectman McKenney proposed the possibility of receiving occasional updates such that the Board can help support their efforts. Selectman Chmielewski proposed designating Selectman LaBonte, who also has a background in healthcare, to serve as the point of contact along with himself. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

M/S/C: Kyden/McKenney, to designate Selectmen Chmielewski and LaBonte as the point of contacts for the Town of Salem. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

D. Adopt Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution (Action Item)

M/S/C: Chmielewski/Kennedy, to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2017.

WHEREAS, the Town of Salem has historically experienced severe damage from natural hazards and it continues to be vulnerable to the effects of those natural hazards profiled in the plan (e.g. *flooding, high wind, thunderstorms, winter storms, earthquakes, dam failure, and wildfires*), resulting in loss of property and life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Salem Board of Selectmen approved the previous version of the Plan in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, of whom the Town of Salem is a member, has developed and received conditional approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for its Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2017 under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6; and

WHEREAS, committee meetings were held and public input was sought in 2016 and 2017 regarding the development and review of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Plan specifically addresses hazard mitigation strategies and Plan maintenance procedures for the Town of Salem; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends several hazard mitigation actions that will provide mitigation for specific natural hazards that impact the Town of Salem, with the effect of protecting people and property from loss associated with those hazards; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Plan will make the Town of Salem eligible for funding to alleviate the impacts of future hazards; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Board of Selectmen:

1. The Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Town of Salem;

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2. The respective officials identified in the mitigation strategy of the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them;
3. Future revisions and Plan maintenance required by 44 CFR 201.6 and FEMA are hereby adopted as a part of this resolution for a period of five (5) years from the date of this resolution.
4. An annual report on the progress of the implementation elements of the Plan shall be presented to the Board of Selectmen.

Discussion: First Selectman Lyden stated that the 2012 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update was recently updated by the Southeastern CT Council of Governments (SECCOG). He corrected two typos: (1) page 2-3, second paragraph, change “Gardiner” to Gardner and (2) page 2-7, change “\$16.2 million renovation” to \$6.2 million renovation. By taking adopting the Plan, the Town would be slated to receive funding. The information included in the document was correct and pertinent at the time the plan was drafted in 2017. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

F. Tax Collector Refunds

M/S/C: McKenney/Kennedy, 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 \$1,950.09 (one thousand nine hundred fifty dollars and nine cents) on the 3rd day of April 2018. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

6. REPORTS:

A. FIRST SELECTMAN

The Board of Finance will be holding a Public Hearing regarding the FY2018-2019 Budget for the General Government, Board of Education, and Capital Expenditures on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 7:00 p.m., at Salem School Multi-Purpose Room. Copies of the proposed budget will be available online and at the Town Clerk’s office.

After three months of cancellations due to inclement weather, the Mobile Food Pantry will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, April 4, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., at Salem School. The Pantry serves 80-100 families, several of who reside in the Town of Salem. No income verification is necessary. Other available resources include Care & Share of East Lyme, St. Vincent de Paul in Norwich, Colchester Mobile Food Pantry, and the Salem Needy Fund.

The Salem Lions Club will be hosting their annual Road Race on Saturday, April 14. Four State Police Troopers, one of who will be stationed on Route 85 and Morgan Road prior to the start of the Kids Race at 9:00 a.m., will be at the event to ensure the safety of the public.

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The Town of Salem, Gardner Lake and Salem Volunteer Fire Companies, Resident State Trooper, several First Responder Agencies, several neighboring fire departments, American Ambulance, Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications (911 Dispatch Service), State Department of Emergency Management, and CT DEEP EnCon (Environmental Conservation) Police were among the attendees of a successful and very impressive training exercise at the Gardner Lake Boat Launch and Beach on Saturday, March 31.

DEEP EnCon Officers and Resident State Trooper Luke LaRue will be enforcing the alcohol ban this summer at Gardner Lake State Park to ensure the safety of the public.

B. BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)

The BOE was awarded the 2017 District CABA (CT Association of Boards of Education) Communication Award for their 2017 budget presentation. East Lyme High School Principal Michael Susi provided an update, including the results of various tests. The High School is currently rated in the nation's top echelon (top one-half of one percent). The BOE also discussed the addition of Capital Items, as recommended by the Director of Facilities, totaling \$65,000.00 for FY2019/20; recent boiler issues; the reconciliation of the \$102,000.00 cut from the BOE budget by the Board of Finance, and; approved the absorption of the technology improvements into the current year's budget, as proposed by the Board of Finance. Health Insurance costs have been reduced from 13.9% to 5.7%. A Memorial for Selectman Stu Gadbois will be planned during the Spring.

C. BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance will be holding a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 11, 7:00 p.m., at Salem School to discuss the FY2018/19 Budget. Copies of the budget are available online and at the Town Clerk's office.

D. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Commission has been working on the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 7:00 p.m., at Salem Town Hall regarding the Temporary Healthcare Structures.

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – no report

F. LIBRARY BOARD

Selectman Chmielewski commended the Library and its staff. Everyone was encouraged to visit the website to view their upcoming events and activities.

M/S/C: Lyden/Chmielewski, to add the following item to the Agenda:

G. Bicentennial Committee Appointment

Discussion: Selectman McKenney will be speaking with Salem School Principal Joan Phillips regarding anyone who might be interested in serving on the Committee on behalf of the School. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

G. Bicentennial Committee Appointment

M/S/C: Lyden/LaBonte, to appoint Selectman Kennedy to the Bicentennial Committee.

Discussion: Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Committee plans to seek the involvement of various community organizations that might be interested in hosting an event(s) as part of the celebration. The Board of Finance increased the line item for the Memorial Day Parade, which will include funding for the Bicentennial events, by \$8,000.00. Appreciation was extended to Board of Finance Chairman George Householder, who is an Alternate Member on the Committee, for his support and input. Selectman McKenney stated that he would like to see the Town Center decorated with bunting. Any input that can be offered by the public is welcome. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

7. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Kennedy/McKenney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem