

**SALEM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018, 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Hugh McKenney

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 1, 2018 Regular Meeting

M/S/C: Chmielewski/LaBonte, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 1, 2018.

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

4. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

37th District State Representative Holly Cheeseman reported that the Legislators recently voted to approve a budget that, for the most part, leaves the municipalities whole and without any risk of holdbacks by the Governor. While the Governor vetoed the stand-alone bill, preclusion for the Governor from making any mid-year rescissions was included in the budget and, though a special session could be held to override the veto, it was felt that a statute could also be instituted for the future. Included in the budget is \$16 million in additional/restored funding for retired teachers' healthcare, energy fund sweeps, and military funerals. They also utilized GO (General Obligation) Bonds to fund \$250 million of transportation work and instituted a hard hiring freeze. Unfortunately, pension and benefits were not moved out of the collective bargaining process at this time. The only item that might force a special session is sports gaming, based upon the recent Supreme Court decision. She recently joined a school security working group and has been/will be meeting with the East Lyme Police Department Chief and East Lyme and Salem Superintendents to discuss Public Act 13-3 and their ability to provide both physical school security as well as psychological assistance as well as to ensure that any grant(s) that they might be entitled to are/will be taken advantage of. She recently attended an Offshore Wind Reception and, if approved, will strive to ensure that the project does not have a financially adverse impact to the residents.

Selectman Chmielewski thanked her and State Senator Paul Formica for participating in the Town's Memorial Day Service, recognizing and honoring the veterans by placing the memorial markers on the Town Green. First Selectman Lyden also thanked them for their support of the

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alcohol ban at Gardner Lake State Park and the importance of encouraging the State to make such common sense decisions and ensuring the safety of the public. He also expressed his appreciation for their efforts at the State Capital. Selectman LaBonte thanked her and Senator Formica for maintaining the high road during the budget sessions. The Board thanked her again for attending their meeting, providing an update, and for all of their support and efforts.

Salem Volunteer Fire Company Chief Gene Maiorano reported that, based upon recent discussions regarding the Grassy Hill Road Bridge/Route 85 Project, it will not be closed. As such, Fire Departments may opt to place emitters on their trucks to shut the lights off upon their approach, which, he felt, would not be necessary, as it would only pertain to that one light. As an alternative, he is investigating the possibility of purchasing a siren system that would automatically shut off the lights. If purchased, the item would be included in either their 2019 or 2020 budget. Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company Chief Jim Savalle has also been informed. He also reported that the construction on the storage building that will be located behind the Firehouse will begin tomorrow and is scheduled to be completed by mid-July. The lot will be paved following its completion.

5. AGENDA:**A. Emergency Responder Incentive for Retirees. Attachment 1** (Action item)

To qualify for the Incentive Program, retirees must own real property in the Town, have served as an Emergency Responder for at least 25 years, and have reached the age of 59. Donald Bourdeau, Jr., Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company, who became an active member of the Fire Company in 1974 at the age of 16, and Andrew Frausini, Salem Volunteer Fire Company, who has been an active volunteer for 36 years have both qualified to receive a \$1,000.00 tax abatement in real property.

M/S/C: Kennedy/LaBonte, to direct the Tax Collector to apply the appropriate tax abatements for retired members Donald Bourdeau, Jr., and Andrew Frausini, as certified by the Fire Chiefs. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

B. ZRA 4-18-01 P & Z – Temporary Healthcare Structures (Action item)

A Public Hearing regarding the CT Public Act 17-155, An Act Concerning Temporary Healthcare Structures, was held on April 24 and no members of the public spoke. Soon thereafter, the Commissioners unanimously voted to opt out of the Public Act and move the item to the Board of Selectmen for final review and approval. Former Planning & Zoning Commissioner and Selectman LaBonte, who served on the Commission during their discussions regarding the Public Act, felt that the Commission made the right decision based upon the Town's current regulations.

M/S/C: Chmielewski/LaBonte, to opt out of the CT Public Act 17-155, An Act Concerning Temporary Healthcare Structures, as recommended by the Planning & Zoning Commission.

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WHEREAS, Public Act 17-155 allows municipalities to “opt out” of the requirements of that Act; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted to “opt out” on April 24, 2018 indicating that it believes that it is appropriate for Connecticut municipalities to provide for caregivers for persons requiring such assistance due to age, disability, or illness, however;

WHEREAS, the Act itself contains inconsistencies, such as the notice requirements (certified mail) which conflict with Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-7d(a), and the Act fails to specify the procedure by which approvals are to be granted, thereby creating ambiguities and potential appeals; and

WHEREAS the Town of Salem lacks sufficient volunteers or staff, to comply with many of the procedural requirements of the Act; and

WHEREAS the Town of Salem allows accessory apartments as of right in residential zones; and

WHEREAS existing Accessory Apartment regulations do not discriminate based upon familial relationship; and

WHEREAS the processing time for a zoning permit for an accessory apartment is minimal; and

WHEREAS Accessory Apartments better serve the housing needs of Salem residents by offering permanent units; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Salem has no public water or sewer and homes were constructed with septic systems designed for the intended square footage; and

WHEREAS bonding levels commensurate with provision for removal of THCS units would be cost prohibitive to constituents,

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission has advised the Board of Selectmen that the existing regulations pertaining to accessory apartments eliminate the need for this additional provision and the provision of Public Act 17-155 would result in procedural issues;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends that the Board of Selectmen opt out of the provisions of Public Act 17-155.

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

C. Appoint Christina Grillo to Recreation Commission. Attachment 3 (Action item)

In response to an announcement regarding openings for Boards/Commissions, First Selectman Lyden was contacted by Salem School PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization) President

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Christina Grillo regarding her interest in serving the Town as a volunteer on the Recreation Commission. She attended and was actively engaged in their May regular meeting.

M/S/C: Lyden/Kennedy, to appoint Christina Grillo as a member of the Recreation Commission. Discussion: Selectman Chmielewski thanked and commended the First Selectman on the success of publicizing the Board/Commission openings and the receipt of a number of enthusiastic responses. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

D. Tax Collector Refunds – none

6. REPORTS:

A. FIRST SELECTMAN

First Selectman Lyden thanked the Selectmen for their help with the Memorial Day Parade event. While the VFW sponsors the event, some issues arose precluding them from organizing its final details and the Lions Club and Town Hall staff pulled together their resources to help finalize the details. Both Resident State Troopers Luke LaRue and Chris Pariseau were on duty and took part in the event, which involved the entire community. One of the complaints he received involved the inability of the attendees to hear the speakers. As such, he is investigating the possibility of purchasing a new sound system for the Town.

An alcohol ban will be in effect this summer at Gardner Lake State Park. The CT DEEP (CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) EnConn Officers, along with the Resident State Troopers, will be enforcing the ban. There will be a \$75.00 fine for any violations. It is hoped that the ban will result in a more family-friendly Park and alleviate its past alcohol-related issues, including assault(s), trash being littered on the beach and its neighboring properties, and the like.

The 5th and 8th graders at Salem School will be graduating from the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program on June 20 at 5:30 p.m. The classes are taught by Resident State Trooper LaRue and the event is sponsored by the Lions Club. Resident State Trooper LaRue is now certified to teach other teachers.

First Selectman Lyden congratulated all of the sons and daughters who will be graduating this month and wished them all the best in their future endeavors.

B. BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)

Former BOE Member Mary Ann Pudimat was awarded a 6-Year Service Award. The East Lyme BOE Members, Superintendent, and Administrators provided an informative update and engaged in a positive discussion with the BOE regarding the determination of enrollment predictions. The BOE voted to approve the spending of \$102,702.00 for technology upgrades from their current year's budget, as recommended by the Board of

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Finance. The BOE also voted in favor of expending \$10,400.00 for the replacement of some of their security cameras. The BOE currently has \$90,000.00 of unexpended funds.

C. BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance voted to maintain the mil rate for the next fiscal year. Based on Representative Cheeseman's report, the State's budget appears to be relatively stable for, at least, the next fiscal year.

D. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

The Commission is currently working on the Town's POCD (Planning of Conservation and Development). A presentation regarding forestry management was provided to the Commission last month and a speaker is scheduled to provide a presentation regarding wetlands this month.

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)

Selectman LaBonte reported that EDC Chairman Elby Burr attended Montville's recent EDC meeting where he provided a report on the Town's recent approval and subsequent construction of its first age-restricted housing development. The EDC discussed the Salem Town Center property and are planning to reach out to the individual business owners to offer their support and foster a positive relationship. The Commission is also working on creating a Business Directory with ads to offset the production costs.

F. LIBRARY BOARD

Selectman Chmielewski reported on the numerous programs available at the Library and encouraged everyone to visit their website and/or the Library and be greeted by a friendly, courteous, and helpful staff. He also reported that the Friends of Salem Library recently purchased a full-size refrigerator for the Library.

G. MILITARY LIAISON

First Selectman Lyden congratulated Selectman Chmielewski for receiving his certified municipal veterans representative training and stated the importance of providing those in need with the necessary assistance. Selectman Chmielewski stated that he was able to make a number of contacts through the training seminar. Programs available to those in need of assistance include TVCCA (Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc.) and the Mobile Food Pantry.

7. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Kennedy/LaBonte, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem