

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

**PRESENT**

Kevin Lyden, First Selectman  
Edward Chmielewski, Jr.  
David Kennedy  
Ron LaBonte (7:16 p.m.)  
Hugh McKenney

**ABSENT**

*none*

**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:** June 5, 2018 Regular Meeting

**M/S/C: Kennedy/Chmielewski, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2018.**

**Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0-1. Voting in Favor: Selectmen Chmielewski, Kennedy, and Lyden. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Selectman McKenney.**

**4. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Bob Neddo, one of nine members on the Gardner Lake Authority (GLA), which includes residents from the towns of Bozrah, Montville, and Salem, spoke with regards to the Authority's request to DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) for a drawdown of three (3) feet at Gardner Lake. While the final decision rests upon DEEP, approvals/recommendations are received from the associated towns. The reasoning behind the drawdown is primarily to clean/control the invasive weeds; the question is how deep the drawdown should be. First Selectman Lyden reported on Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company Chief James Savalle's concern regarding the upcoming work to be conducted at Oxoboxo Lake dam, during which the Lake will be lowered and could result in a water shortage during an emergency; he has requested that no drawdown be approved. First Selectman Lyden, who has consulted with both of the Fire Chiefs and Public Safety, Montville Mayor Ronald McDaniel, and, after a brief discussion, Bozrah First Selectman Glenn Pianka have agreed that a drawdown of two (2) feet would be a reasonable compromise in an effort to err on the side of safety. GLA Member Neddo, a retired firefighter, reported that the two reservoirs, which are at least 95% clogged, have not been used for a year and presented the Board with photographs of the Lake's current conditions.

Selectman Chmielewski thanked GLA Member Neddo for attending and speaking with them.

**5. AGENDA:**

**A. Appoint Ann Marie Rios to Gardner Lake Authority (Action Item)**

**M/S/C: Lyden/McKenney, to appoint Ann Marie Rios to the Gardner Lake Authority. Discussion: Ann-Marie Rios is a long-time active resident of the**

**Town who currently owns property on Gardner Lake. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

- B. Authorize the First Selectman per Salem Town Charter Section 5.05(A) (6) and 6.02(D)(7) to enter into a lease/purchase contract for a new Fire Truck with Republic First National in the amount of \$555,563 for a 6-year term at 3.65% interest rate.**

**M/S/C: Chmielewski/Kennedy, to authorize the First Selectman per Salem Town Charter Section 5.05(A) (6) and 6.02(D)(7) to enter into a lease/purchase contract for a new Fire Truck with Republic First National in the amount of \$555,563 for a 6-year term at 3.65% interest rate. Discussion: The lease/purchase agreement has been reviewed by Legal and the Town has approved the purchase of the new Fire Truck as part of the Town's Capital Plan during the most recent budget referendum. The \$155,000.00 that has been allocated in this year's Capital Plan for the down payment will result in a savings of approximately \$7,500.00 for the total purchase of the vehicle. In response to Selectman McKenney, First Selectman Lyden stated that the contract is a 6-year term and, at the end of the term, the Town would be able to purchase the vehicle for \$1.00. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

**C. Tax Collector Refunds**

**M/S/C: McKenney/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 \$157.85 (one hundred fifty-seven dollars and eighty-five cents) on the 3rd day of July 2018. Discussion: During a recent visit to the Tax Collector's office, Selectman Chmielewski learned that the staff was successful in collecting several thousands of dollars more in payments than projected. He commended the staff, adding that the additional funding the Town provided to the Tax Collector's budget has been worthwhile. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

**6. REPORTS:**

**A. FIRST SELECTMAN**

First Selectman Lyden reported that the Salem Seniors have been hosting a luncheon/meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at *Two Brothers Restaurant*. The Seniors also offer a Municipal Medical Transportation Service to their members. For information on the Salem Seniors, please contact Senior Liaison Pam Henry.

The Tax Assessors office hours have been extended from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to align with that of the Tax Collectors' office hours.

He commended the Town's Safety Committee, which includes Town Hall staff, representatives from the Library, Public Works, and EMS (Emergency Medical Services). The Committee does a fine job mitigating the Town's losses by offering preventative training, free of charge through CIRMA, the Town's insurance provider. By utilizing and

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offering training sessions to other municipalities in the Town Hall Conference Room, they have been able to keep the employees' time and traveling costs down.

The Town completed another successful Fiscal Year. The Board of Finance has re-selected O'Connor Davies as the Town's audit firm. Preliminary work on the Audit for Fiscal-Year 2017/18 will begin at the end of July and the Auditors will be returning in September to complete the Audit.

**B. BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE) – no report**

**C. BOARD OF FINANCE**

End of the (Fiscal) Year transfers included a \$15,000.00 transfer due to a change in the fringe benefits from 97% to 107% for the Resident State Troopers' Contracts. First Selectman Lyden commended the Troopers, who are actively involved with the School children through the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program and answer approximately 225 calls every month. Selectman Chmielewski concurred, adding that the Town is very fortunate to have the Resident State Troopers.

**D. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION – no report**

**E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)**

The Commission has been centering their efforts on the Salem Town Center and engaging in conversations with the business owners. They hope to publish an internal business guide by the end of the Summer. The guide will be funded through the selling of advertisements. First Selectman Lyden stated that the information might also be shared with the residents and seCTer (Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region) in an effort to promote the Town and encourage residents to buy local.

**F. LIBRARY BOARD**

Everyone was encouraged to go online to the Salem Free Library's website and review their Calendar of Events, which includes weekly Seniors Drop-Ins, a Folk and Pop Concert featuring Allison Collins, and a showing of the movie *12 Strong*.

**G. MILITARY LIAISON**

Selectman Chmielewski wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July with their family and friends. He encouraged everyone to reflect upon those who have served and are serving and their respective families. First Selectman Lyden thanked them for their service.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**M/S/C: Lyden/Chmielewski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 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