

**TOWN OF SALEM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

none

CALL TO ORDER:

First Selectman Lyden called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OCTOBER 2, 2018 REGULAR MEETING

M/S/C: McKenney/LaBonte, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 2, 2018, with the following amendment:

Page 2, Item 4(B), 1st sentence under Discussion:

Salem Volunteer Fire Company Chief Gene Maiorano reported that the company that serviced the truck will be paying \$17,000.00 for ~~the cost of the repairs~~ *other related costs*.

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

3. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS: *none*

4. AGENDA:

A. Bicentennial Committee Update

Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Committee is continuing to provide presentations and invite the community to participate in the Bicentennial celebrations. Updates will be provided in the next issue of *Our Town Salem*. A soft opening will be held at the Town's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting event on Saturday, December 1 at 4:00 p.m. Bicentennial Committee Member Marilyn Vaché is working on creating a website/webpage, which will include a schedule of events.

In response to Selectman McKenney who questioned the type of soft opening festivities that will be taking place at the Holiday Tree Lighting, Selectman Chmielewski stated that the event will continue as usual and, while the Committee will speak with regards to the celebrations, he did not wish to "let the cat out of the bag".

B. Appoint Ed Chmielewski to the Economic Development Commission (EDC)

While he is reluctant to have a Selectman be a member of a Board or Commission, he is supportive of appointing Acting Selectman and current business owner Chmielewski as a Full Member of the EDC due to the ongoing difficulties in engaging volunteers willing to serve on the Commission.

M/S/C: Lyden/Kennedy, to appoint Ed Chmielewski as a Full Member of the Economic Development Commission. Discussion: Selectman Kennedy stated that Selectman Chmielewski's energy and ideas would nicely complement the Commission. Voice vote, 4-0-1. Voting in Favor: Selectmen Kennedy, LaBonte, McKenney, and Lyden. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Selectman Chmielewski.

C. Tax Collector Refunds

M/S/C: McKenney/Chmielewski, 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 \$807.69 (eight hundred seven dollars and sixty-nine cents) on the 13th day of November 2018. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

5. REPORTS

A. First Selectman

First Selectman Lyden expressed his appreciation of Frank and Linda Sroka, who have been residents of Salem for 50 years. Mr. Sroka has been a very active member of the community, having served on the Board of Education, EDC, and other countless Committees, Boards, and Commissions. They will be moving to Delaware to be closer to their family and plan to return to Salem from time to time.

Ryan Teixeira started working as one of the Town's two paid EMT/Firefighter/Maintainers, replacing Rick Martin, on November 1. Of the over 20 candidates who applied for the position, five were interviewed by a Committee comprised of Fire Marshal Donald Bourdeau, Jr., Deputy Fire Marshal John Cunningham, and Salem Volunteer Fire Company (SVFCO) Chief Gene Maiorano. Part of his job as a Maintainer is to conduct small maintenance items in the Library. Mr. Teixeira's certifications and previous experiences with the Fire Companies, having filled in for those on vacation or otherwise, First Selectman Lyden is confident that he will work well with the other members of the team and be an asset to the Town. Selectman Chmielewski reacted positively to the extensive list of candidates, the hiring of Mr. Teixeira, and the involvement of both of the Town's Fire Chiefs in the hiring process.

One of the highlights of his job as the First Selectman is the Salem School second graders' Annual Town Meeting at Town Hall. Each year, the children are invited to take a tour of the building and visit the various offices as part of their curriculum. The

students elected a Board of Selectmen and discussed and voted on whether they should receive homework on the weekends. They also received their Oath of Office, a Town of Salem pen, and a Good Citizens Award Certificate.

B. Board of Education (BOE)

Selectman McKenney reported that the Board appointed Jennifer Rucci to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of long-time Board Member George Jackson. A BOE retreat was held on October 29, which he was unable to attend. The BOE has made several line item adjustments to absorb approximately \$200,000.00 in unanticipated expenses for an additional seven (7) students who are attending East Lyme High School and out-of-district transportation and tuition for special education students. The BOE received a CABA (CT Association of Boards of Education) Award for their communication program. Selectman Chmielewski added that the BOE has been presented with the award for the past several years, reflecting their continuing involvement with the parents and community.

C. Board of Finance

First Selectman Lyden reported that the Board is in the process of reviewing the Capital budget and any new requests will be submitted and presented to the Board. He encouraged the Selectmen to attend the Board of Finance's Regular Meeting in December to hear a planned presentation regarding the Town's Fiscal Year 2016/17 Audit. He commended the Board of Finance's hard work on leveling out their Capital Plan budget, under the leadership of former Chairmen T.J. Butcher and George Householder.

In response to Selectman McKenney, who questioned the possibility of refinancing some of the Town's current bonds based upon the Town's strong rating, First Selectman Lyden stated that the Town has only one note with a 2.67% interest rate remaining.

D. Planning & Zoning Commission

Selectman Kennedy reported that the Commission is continuing to work on the RCOZ (Riparian Corridor Overlay Zone) Regulation to create a fair and understandable regulation for both current and future landowners as well as the Town.

E. Economic Development Commission

Selectman Chmielewski stated that the Commission will miss EDC Chairman Sroka, who was an integral part of the Commission. The Commission is continuing to work on the Business Directory, which will be distributed to the residents early next year. Following the completion of the Directory, the Commissioners plan to work on their five-year plan. They have completed their interviews with the businesses located in the Salem Town Center and have received positive feedback regarding the Town's continued efforts to beautify and improve the safety the area. Selectman Kennedy added that the new age-restricted housing appears to be near completion.

F. Library

Selectman LaBonte reported that the Library Board appointed a new member during their last meeting. They also held an extensive discussion regarding staffing and operations and two new staff members were recently hired to help with their growing programs. They have created a gap analysis reflecting their hours and staffing in relation to comparable towns. Selectman LaBonte advised them to create a draft of their staffing plan to be presented and discussed with the Board of Selectmen. The Friends of the Library held another successful book sale and are currently in search of volunteers.

Selectman McKenney noted the need for the Library Board to be sensitive to the upcoming budget cycle during their discussions. Selectman Lyden added that the Board of Finance will be sending a letter to all of the Boards and Commissions regarding the budget cycle. The staff salaries will be discussed and determined by the Board of Selectmen at a Special Meeting in, most likely, February.

G. Military Liaison

Selectman Chmielewski reported on the Town's long and proud history of honoring the military families and veterans. The VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) provided a presentation to Salem School students and the community regarding military history and learned about the decorated WWI dog Sgt. Stubby. All of the students, from pre-k to 8th grade participated in the event in some capacity. Also present were the First Selectman, Superintendent Joseph Onofrio, Senator Paul Formica, and Representative Holly Cheeseman.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: LaBonte/LaBonte, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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