

**TOWN OF SALEM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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 7:00 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: NOVEMBER 13, 2018 SPECIAL MEETING

M/S/C: Kennedy/LaBonte, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2018, with the following amendments:

Page 4, Adjournment

M/S/C: LaBonte/~~LaBonte~~ *Chmielewski*, to adjourn ...

Page 2, Item 4(B), First Line:

While he is reluctant to have a Selectman be a member of a Board or Commission, ~~he~~ *the First Selectman* is supportive of ...

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

3. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

On behalf of the Board, First Selectman Lyden wished everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season and very warm *Mele Kalikimaka* and *Hau'oli Makahiki Hou*.

4. AGENDA:

A. FFY 2018 State Homeland Security Grant & Resolution

M/S/C: Chmielewski/LaBonte, to accept and adopt the Resolution for the FFY 2018 State Homeland Security Grant, per the Region 4 Memorandum of Agreement. The Town of Salem hereby:

Resolves to enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of

Emergency Management and Homeland Security, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

Further resolves, to authorize and direct Kevin T. Lyden, as First Selectman of the Town of Salem, Connecticut, to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the town of Salem, Connecticut, and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

Discussion: The Town applies for and accepts the Grant on an annually basis. In response to Selectman McKenney's inquiry regarding regional equipment, First Selectman Lyden stated that, as a region, they are responsible for the care of any regional equipment, regardless of whether that equipment resides in the Town; no funds are currently dedicated to the regional assets. The Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company is in the process of investigating the possibility of and seeking funds for the purchase of a rescue boat which would serve three municipalities. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

B Board of Selectmen 2019 Meeting Dates

M/S/C: LaBonte/Chmielewski, to approve the 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting Dates. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

C. 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 \$122.20 (one hundred twenty-two dollars and twenty cents) on the 4th day of December 2018. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

5. REPORTS

A. First Selectman

First Selectman Lyden reminded the public that all the meeting agendas and minutes, annual audits, budgets, municipal contact information, Town Charter and Town ordinances is easily accessible via the Town website at salemct.gov.

He commended the Board of Finance's strong fiscal management, the team at Town Hall and the Board of Selectmen's leadership – all of whom have contributed to the Town's strong financial condition. The Auditors are in the process of finalizing the 2018 Audit and are planning to provide a presentation to the Board of Finance in January 2019. An e-mail will be sent to the Selectmen to confirm the date of the presentation and, when finalized, a full financial statement will be provided and the Auditor's PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the Town's website.

He expressed his appreciation to Frank Sroka, who, after several decades of service to the Town, will be moving to Delaware with his wife, Linda. Mr. Sroka has served as a member of the Board of Selectmen; Chairman of the Board of Education; most recently, the Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, and; a countless number of community organizations. His strong leadership and decades of service have helped shape the Town to what it is today. He wished them well and showed a Plaque of Appreciation which will be presented to him at a later date. In addition, there is a long-standing plaque to the Frank Sroka Library located near the Music Room in Salem School.

Thanks to the hard work of the Planning & Zoning Commission, the Town now has a clear and concise regulation for Age-Restricted Developments. The regulation, which serves a growing 55 and over population, has opened the doors to the Town's first 6-unit age-restricted development located on Centre Street behind the Salem Pharmacy. The Town is currently in discussions with another builder for the possible construction of another age-restricted development which will include 12 units.

B. Bicentennial Committee Update

Selectman Chmielewski reported on a very well-attended and well-received Tree Lighting Ceremony during which a soft opening was held inaugurating the Town's Bicentennial celebrations with the unveiling of the banner. The Committee also plans to mark the closing of the celebrations during the 2019 Tree Lighting Ceremony. Those interested in obtaining more information or requesting a brief presentation are asked to contact the Committee at salemct200@gmail.com. A Facebook page and website dedicated to the Town's Bicentennial celebrations, which will include an up-to-date calendar of events, is in the process of being established. The celebrations will include the Recreation Commission's successful *Find Your Footprint* campaign with a special commemorative Bicentennial medallion as part of CT Trails Day.

C. Board of Education (BOE)

Selectman McKenney reported that the School is in the process of repairing leaking conduits, caused by the heavy rains. The affected conduits are utilized for the low voltage fire alarm system and is currently not a safety concern.

The BOE reviewed and approved their Capital budget items, which will be sent to the Board of Finance for review. Included in their request is the continued funding for the 1994 roof repairs, the replacement of the rooftop air conditioning units, the replacement of lockers, expansion of the video surveillance system, and installation of solar panels. The Superintendent will be presenting his proposed budget to the BOE next month, which will include an expansion of their pre-school class and a projected increase to at least \$120,000.00 in the Special Education budget. They have successfully reached a contract agreement with the Union representatives; the agreement will be voted upon in the near future.

D. Board of Finance

First Selectman Lyden commended the newly appointed Board of Finance Chairman Skip Dickson and the seasoned group of Board Members for all of their hard work and efforts. The Board of Finance will be conducting a cursory review of Capital requests for new items during their next meeting and will further discuss, review, and vote upon the requests during their January meeting. He commended the Board of Finance who worked hard to level the Capital expenses from year-to-year.

E. Planning & Zoning Commission

Selectman Kennedy reported that the Town's Land Use Attorney Steve Byrne provided an informative workshop, discussing such items as how to run meetings and public hearings, the Freedom of Information Act, the importance of maintaining the public's confidence, and the like. The Commissioners, along with members of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, briefly discussed the RCOZ (Riparian Corridor Overlay Zone) with the Attorney. It was determined that, because of its Regulations, the Planning & Zoning Commission is the leading agency of the regulation and, because both of the Commissions play a role in the regulation, they will be working together to revise it in a manner that will meet the Town's needs and goals. As a former member of the Commission, Selectman McKenney added that Atty. Byrne's presentations are very thorough and informative.

F. Economic Development Commission

Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Commission's November meeting was joined by Former Chairman Frank Sroka, who handed materials and information to the Commission; Former Chairman Sroka and the Commissioners wished each other well. The Commission is in the process of selling ads and continuing their identification of Town businesses in preparation of finalizing their listings for the Business Directory, which will be published and distributed early next year. The Commissioners are also continuing to keep in touch with the businesses located at the Round-a-bout to discuss and gain feedback regarding its ongoing improvements. First Selectman Lyden stated that local businesses are excited about the Booklet and the Town is witnessing some positive improvements in the area as they continue to work to improve the center of the Town through which an estimated 14,000 + cars travel on any given day. Selectman Chmielewski acknowledged the Town's appreciation of the hard work by the Town and the Plaza's business owners.

G. Library – no report

H. Military Liaison

Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Town and its Bicentennial Committee will be assisting the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) hosting and organizing the Town's 2019 Memorial Day Parade.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Kennedy/Chmielewski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by: Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem