

**TOWN OF SALEM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

PRESENT

Kevin's 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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES January 8, 2019, Special Meeting.

M/S/C: Kennedy/Chmielewski, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2019, with the following amendments:

Page 2, Item 4(b), 1st paragraph, 4th line & 2nd paragraph, Last sentence:

...note include the bifurcation of the Municipal and Board *of Education* property tax levy,...report's recommendation to diversify local revenue sources, i.e., increasing the sales tax ~~of~~ *in* certain cities...

Page 3, Item 4(d), 1st paragraph, 2nd to last sentence:

Approximately 30,000 people visit the Library *per year* to,...

Page 4, Item 4(d), 4th line:

~~He~~ *Selectman Chmielewski* also introduced the idea of installing video cameras.

Page 6, Item 5(f), 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence:

Commissioner Elby Burr was elected as the Chairman and ~~himself~~ *Commissioner Ed Chmielewski* as the Vice Chairman.

Page 6, Item 5(h), 1st sentence:

Selectman Chmielewski reported that Governor Ned Lamont is...

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

3. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Correspondence from Salem Free Public Library Director Vicky Coffin regarding their library staffing discussion last month. Questions may be directed to either the First Selectman or Library Liaison Selectman LaBonte.
- b. Correspondence from Town Planner Justin LaFountain regarding a planned natural gas project involving the installation of 10.5 miles of a 16" steel gas main for natural gas transportation

through the towns of Montville and Salem. First Selectman Lyden has responded to the Project Manager at Eversource denying their request, citing safety reasons. The gas main would be installed along and result in the partial closure of Routes 82 and 85 and complete closure of Music Vale and, possibly, Witch Meadow Roads, which would result in a five-mile detour for Emergency Responders and residents. He recommended they keep the project entirely on State Roads or install the line along Route 11.

4. AGENDA:

- A. Per Section 10.9 of the Salem Town Charter, a Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$1,800 for Inland Wetlands Conservation Commission Line 5-610-261 Legal Issues.** (Note 1) (discussion and action)

M/S/C: Lyden/McKenney, to approve a supplemental appropriation of \$1,800.00 to Line 5-610-261 – Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission, Legal Issues, per Section 10.9 of the Salem Town Charter. Discussion: The Commission, Zoning/Wetlands, and Town Attorney recently worked together to address a recent issue. The Commission's FY2018/19 total budget is \$1,350.00, \$1,000.00 of which is allocated towards GIS Expenses. The item will be sent to the Board of Finance for final review and approval. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

- B. Review of Auditor Exit Conference for Fiscal Year 17/18.** (Note 2) (discussion)

First Selectman Lyden provided a brief review of the Auditor's report, stating that the town's finances are in good shape. He cited an increase in net position, healthy Unassigned Fund Balance of 20%, less than budgeted expenditures, and more than budgeted revenue due to a strong tax collection rate and increased grant revenue for FY2017/18. He commended the town's Finance Department, Tax Collector and Assessors office for their hard work.

- C. Set Special Meeting to Review and Approve the Selectman's operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 per Salem Town Charter Section 10.02 A.** (Note 3) (discussion and action)

M/S/C: Kennedy/LaBonte, to set the date of Tuesday, February 26, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. for a Special Meeting to review and approve the Selectmen's Operating Budget for FY2019/20, per Salem Town Charter Section 10.02A. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

- D. Salem School Solar Power Purchase Agreement.** (Note 4) (for discussion & action as needed)

Greenskies Renewable Energy provided a presentation to the Board of Education, who is considering installing a solar system on Salem School. Public Works Director Donald Bourdeau, Jr., expressed his concerns regarding the health and structural integrity of the roof and is in the process of investigating possible maintenance contracts for the roof, which currently has four (4) leaks. Selectman Chmielewski, a former longtime member of the BOE, commented on the importance of proceeding cautiously and exercising their due diligence. Selectman McKenney expressed his confidence in the experience of the solar company(ies) and commented on the importance of ensuring that the contracts of responsibility for the town,

roofers, and owners of the solar array are clearly understood by all parties. The item will be revisited at next month's Board of Selectmen meeting.

The Board thanked Public Works Director Bourdeau for his input.

e. Tax Collector Refunds

M/S/C: Chmielewski/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 \$1,743.13 (one thousand seven hundred forty-three dollars and thirteen cents) on the 5th day of February 2019. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

6. REPORTS:

A. FIRST SELECTMAN

First Selectman Lyden reported that, though the dam at Gardner Lake has been open for the last three months, the water level has not lowered and the lake has been at approximately flood stage for nearly six months. The water level is lowered to help eliminate the invasive weeds and protect the docks from the freezing water.

He commended the town's new Zoning/Wetlands Enforcement Officer (ZWEO) Matt Allen, who is currently working on Mondays & Thursdays from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. He regularly meets with Town Planner Justin LaFountain, whose hours have changed from Wednesdays to Thursdays to partially overlap with that of the ZWEO.

The Building Department will soon be accepting credit card payments. Those wishing to use their credit card for payments must acknowledge and accept the nominal transaction fee.

B. BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Selectman Chmielewski congratulated Committee Members Bruce and Shelley Rodgers, who coordinated the Super Bowl Halftime show this past weekend. The Committee is continuing to provide presentations to various groups and organizations and have been contacted by several individuals who are interested in volunteering and being involved with the celebrations, including period re-enactors. Anyone interested in purchasing a \$10.00 Bicentennial Commemorative Coin from the Historical Society may contact Historical Society President Elby Burr. The Bicentennial Booklet and plans for the Memorial Day Parade are also progressing.

C. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Selectman McKenney reported that the BOE currently has approximately \$100,000.00 of unencumbered funds and is considering freezing their budget. He commended Public Works Director Bourdeau for repairing the old air handler, saving the BOE \$100,000.00 for the purchase of a new handler. The BOE rejected the Superintendent's FY2019/20 budget proposal, which included a 3.34% increase and, after prioritizing their needs, approved a budget with a 1.85% increase. The proposed budget, which includes the addition of a teacher in an attempt to minimize any large special education costs in the future, will be presented to the

Board of Finance. The BOE also discussed the acquisition of the solar panels as previously stated.

D. BOARD OF FINANCE

First Selectman Lyden reported that the Board of Finance completed their discussions regarding the Capital Plan and voted to approve a 10% Debt and Capital to budget ratio. The various town departments will begin presenting their budget requests for FY2019/20 to the Board this month.

E. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Selectman Kennedy reported that the Commission unanimously approved, with conditions, the proposed site plan application for a retail building to be located at 4 Centre Street. The Commission continues to work on the Riparian Corridor Overlay Zone (RCOZ) Regulation.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)

Selectman Chmielewski reported that the EDC Business Directory, which has been renamed the Business and Service Directory, includes approximately 120 identified Salem businesses. He commended both Commissioners Burr and Paul Robillard for their hard work. A draft of the Directory will be presented to the Board of Selectmen for review in the near future.

G. LIBRARY

Selectman LaBonte reported that positive feedback was received from the library regarding their discussion with the Board of Selectmen last month. First Selectman Lyden expressed his appreciation to the Library and its staff for their hard work and ability to continue to provide excellent programs.

H. MILITARY LIAISON

Selectman Chmielewski announced that any interested veterans who wish to add a Veteran flag to his/her driver's license or identity card may contact the CT Department of Veterans Affairs. He also informed the public of a mobile app that would enable veterans to access a confidential chat line as well as a list of resources. First Selectman Lyden added the importance of having Military Liaison Selectman Chmielewski who is able to meet with and provide personal support to the veterans of the town. Selectman Chmielewski, likewise, stated that the town is also fortunate to have Selectman LaBonte, a retired Senior non-Commissioned Officer, available as well.

First Selectman Lyden reminded everyone that the Mobile Food Pantry will be held behind Salem School tomorrow, Wednesday, February 6, at 5:00 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: LaBonte/Kennedy, to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

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