

**TOWN OF SALEM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019 – 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 7:05 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Selectmen offered their words of condolence to the Siebert family for their recent loss of Member and Former Board of Education Chairman Mike Siebert.

Selectman Chmielewski expressed the shock of the loss their friend, neighbor, and community volunteer and offered his heartfelt thoughts to his family. He is a better person for having known him. Having served with him on the Board of Education and as a Scout Master, his passing is a big loss for the town and he will be greatly missed.

Selectman Kennedy concurred. Having served as an Assistant Scout Master with Mr. Siebert, he added that he was a true leader from whom he learned a great deal and who developed a number of fine, young men. He offered his thoughts, prayers, and best wishes to his family.

Selectman LaBonte, who also served as a Scout Leader with Mr. Siebert, recalled training for and taking a three-week long Boy Scouts hiking trip with him. He was a man amongst men and a great leader and mentor; his passing is an incredible and tragic loss.

Selectman McKenney, unable to exceed his fellow Selectmen's thoughts and expressions, added that Mr. Siebert was an individual who made a great difference in the world.

First Selectman Lyden stated that both Mr. Siebert and his wife have greatly contributed to the community. Mrs. Siebert served as the town's treasurer for many years and, like Mr. Siebert, worked quietly and efficiently, without any fanfare and were always available to help. The town is fortunate to have had the Siebert family as members of their community. His passing is a great loss for the town.

He asked that the public join the Board in a moment of silence and prayer.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. February 5, 2019 Regular Meeting

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

b. February 16, 2019 Special Meeting

M/S/C: McKenney/Kennedy, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2019, with the following amendments:

Page 1, Item 3, First Paragraph, Fourth Line:

...staffing should have an increase of \$11,000.00 for next Fiscal year as
~~required~~ *requested* by the Head Librarian...

Page 1, Item 3, Fourth Paragraph, Third Line:

...review the purchase ~~and purchase~~ a high quality people counter...

Page 2, Department 138, First Line:

...Selectman McKenney *motioned* to allow...

Discussion: Selectman LaBonte apologized for his absence at the meeting. Selectman Chmielewski expressed his appreciation to the First Selectman for creating a tough, but thoughtful budget and providing a line-by-line review of the budget with his fellow Selectmen. He felt that the Board has crafted a very fair budget, given the circumstances. Voice vote, 4-0-1. Voting in Favor: Selectmen Chmielewski, Kennedy, Lyden, and McKenney. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Selectman LaBonte.

3. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Selectman Kennedy commended the Public Works Department for clearing the roads in the early morning hours of the latest snowstorm. Selectman Lyden concurred and added that they are very fortunate to have a group of experienced drivers who do a good job. They continue to receive complaints regarding the placement/distribution of snow during such heavy snowstorms, especially in the cul-de-sacs. Though cost prohibitive, Selectman McKenney suggested the possibility of filling in the center of the cul-de-sac with soil and plantings, which would not only add to the beauty of the area, but would also serve as an area in which the snow could be placed.

4. AGENDA:

a. §8-24 Referral for the sale of a portion of town land located at 89 Norwich Road (Note 1) – Discussion and Action item

First Selectman Lyden reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding a 12-acre plot located within a 142-acre parcel owned by the town. An opportunity has presented itself for the town to sell the property for the purpose of constructing an age-restricted development. Per Section 8-24 of the CT General Statutes, the Board of the Selectmen is required to refer the potential sale of town-owned property to the Planning & Zoning Commission for review. Following their review, the matter will be returned to the Board of Selectmen who will, then, schedule a Town Meeting where the issue will be discussed and voted upon by the townspeople.

M/S/C: Chmielewski/LaBonte, to refer the possible sale of a portion of town-owned property located at 89 Norwich Road to the Planning & Zoning Commission,

per Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Discussion: The property is located in the lower lot of the property and would be sold for the appraised value with the requirement that the buyer purchase the property for the purpose of constructing 12 age-restricted units. Selectman McKenney, who felt that the parcel is the nicest piece of the property, stated that the proposal is in accordance with the town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). Selectman Kennedy felt that the proposed sale and subsequent development would be a not only benefit the town's economic development, but would also raise the grand list. He commended the Planning & Zoning Commission's efforts in creating a palatable regulation and the First Selectman's hard work, encouraging builders to consider constructing such a development in the town. In response to Selectman McKenney, First Selectman Lyden confirmed that the appraisal is current and was conducted within the last 30 days. Selectman Chmielewski stated that the Economic Development Commission and Salem Seniors have expressed their support of the construction of such affordable and high quality developments as they look forward to continue residing in the town after their retirement. First Selectman Lyden expressed his appreciation to his son and Rachel Krafton for helping him create the presentation. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

b. Letter of Appreciation and assignment of the Multi-Purpose Path to the Recreation Commission (Note 2) – Discussion and Action

Per the Town Charter (Section 5.05A5), the Board of Selectmen created the Multi-Purpose Path Committee, which has been in existence for many years. The Committee has completed the bridge and expended their grant funds. As such, First Selectman Lyden is proposing that the members of the Committee be sent a letter of appreciation by the Board for their service. The future of the Path will be assigned to the Recreation Commission, per Section 7.03A of the Town Charter, who shall have the following powers and purposes:

1. To plan, establish, maintain, supervise, and conduct town recreation and athletic programs and the use of the town property and facilities therefore.
2. To plan for the development, improvement, maintenance, and expansion of the recreation lands of the town.
3. To acquire, erect, install, maintain, improve, repair, and replace recreation and athletic facilities and equipment.
4. To expend such funds for the foregoing purposes as may be appropriated by the town.

M/S/C: Lyden/McKenney, to send the Members of the Multi-Purpose Path Committee a letter of appreciation for their service and properly assign the Multi-Purpose Path to the Salem Recreation Commission, per Salem Town Charter 7.03A. Discussion: Selectmen Lyden, Chmielewski, and Kennedy expressed their appreciation of the Committee's hard work, adding that the

Committee did a beautiful job of creating an open, walkable trail that is well-used. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

Selectman McKenney proposed considering a similar type action for the School Building Committee. First Selectman Lyden stated that the status of the Committee's final job/invoice(s) will need to be reviewed. Selectman Chmielewski agreed and stated the importance of following best practices and ensuring that they are in compliance prior to disbanding and thanking the Committee for their service.

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 \$9,936.35 (nine thousand nine hundred thirty-six dollars and thirty-five cents) on the 5th day of March 2019. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

6. REPORTS:

A. FIRST SELECTMAN

First Selectman Lyden reported that the Southeastern CT Council of Governments (SCCOG) provided a presentation regarding the New London Homeless and Hospitality Shelter and discussed the need to institute a more equitable way to fund the shelter. They are in the process of reviewing the available State funding, addressing any existing legislative issues, and investigating the possibility of instituting a regional expense sharing system so as to ease the pressure being imposed on New London's resources. There is no immediate budgetary concern for the town of Salem at this time.

He was invited to read two stories in honor of *Read Across America* to Mrs. Leyden's well-behaved, attentive, and excited third grade class at Salem School.

He met with Town Planner Justin LaFountain and representatives from Eversource, who is planning to install a gas line running from Montville to Salem to Colchester via Routes 82 and 354. They are currently in contact with the State Department of Transportation and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and will be in contact with the town's relevant departments/commissions, as necessary. The pipeline will be added to the town's Grand List.

A meeting with the Governor, Lt. Governor, Legislative Representatives and Selectmen and Mayors in the region was held during which the Mohegan-Mashantucket Funds, which provides approximately \$250 million to the State, and regional sharing were discussed. The Governor ensured them that he does not plan to allow MGM to break the current pact and construct a casino in Bridgeport. He credited both the Governor and Lt. Governor for being cordial and receptive to their comments and suggestions.

A positive review from the town and school's insurance carrier, CIRMA (CT Interlocal Risk Management Agency) was received. CIRMA has covered four loss prevention and liability claims and three workmen's compensation claims over the last five years. The town

currently carries a \$10 million insurance policy and the town's Safety Committee works diligently to ensure that the town's liability is kept at a minimum.

B. BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Selectman Chmielewski wished Salem a Happy Birthday and reported that the Committee continues to work hard. He welcomed the public to attend their meetings, which take place every fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Their most recent meeting included the video and PowerPoint presentation, which has been presented to over 100 of the town's community leaders, groups, and organizations. The Committee is currently working on building their events calendar. He shared a document, dated 1820, regarding the appointment of the town's "Collector of Taxes" which he recently purchased on eBay. The Committee will hold a Special Meeting this Thursday, March 7, at the Library to discuss their plans for the Parade and scheduling and confirming the dates for their main events. The video and PowerPoint presentations as well as a schedule of events will be posted on the website that is in the process of being created. The Historical Society is continuing to sell the Bicentennial Coins; anyone interested in purchasing a coin is encouraged to contact the Co-Chairman Elbert Burr or the Historical Society.

Selectman Kennedy reported that the time capsule will be displayed at the Memorial Day Parade and a few of the items that have been gathered thus far will be placed in the capsule.

First Selectman Lyden commended the Committee on an excellent meeting last Wednesday; their presentation to a full room of attendees incited much excitement.

Selectman Chmielewski thanked the First Selectman for attending and staying for the duration of the meeting and his leadership. Likewise, the First Selectman thanked him and the Committee for all of their hard work.

C. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Selectman McKenney reported that the BOE's March Regular Meeting was postponed due to inclement weather and the re-scheduled meeting is currently in process.

D. BOARD OF FINANCE

First Selectman Lyden reported that the BOE will be presenting their budget for FY2019/20 to the Board of Finance this Thursday, March 7. He commended the Board, which has ensured that the town continue to maintain a healthy unassigned fund balance, for doing a fine job as they maneuver their way through the State's issues. Additional cuts from the State for their Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) Grant are expected and the long-discussed requirement that towns help fund the teacher's retirement fund may come to fruition.

E. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Selectman Kennedy reported that he was unable to attend the Commission's most recent meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)

Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Commission is continuing to finalize the Business Directory, which identifies over 100 town businesses, over 40 of which are brick and mortar

businesses. Both EDC Co-Chairman Elbert Burr and Commissioner Paul Robillard have been working diligently to this end. Co-Chairman Burr added that, after two or three years, the directory will finally come to fruition and will include ads to help fund the directory. Selectman Chmielewski commended the Commission on their hard work.

First Selectman Lyden added that the directory, which is a great idea and will provide a good resource, is currently being proofed by the Town Hall staff.

G. LIBRARY

Selectman LaBonte reported that their March meeting has been re-scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, due to inclement weather; members of the Library Board have met with the Boards of Selectmen and Finance regarding their request for additional funding for the budget's library staff line item for FY2019/20.

First Selectman Lyden commended the Library, which is well used by the residents and provides a great resource for the community.

H. MILITARY LIASION

Selectman Chmielewski reported that the town and Bicentennial Committee is working closely with Salem VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), who continue to sponsor the Memorial Day Parade and Service, and Commander Robert Green regarding the plans for the event. The Committee will be expanding the event to not only honor our veterans, but also celebrate the town's bicentennial.

First Selectman Lyden added that an agreement has been made with the VFW to call the event the Salem Memorial Bicentennial Parade. In the event of inclement weather, the Service will be held in the Salem School Gymnasium and the Parade will be held the following week. A number of activities is being scheduled and organized to help celebrate the town's bicentennial. The fields at Round Hill Road will not be rented out on Memorial Day so that the townspeople will be able to utilize the sports complex should they wish to do so. Selectman Chmielewski concurred, confirming that they are working to ensure that our military service members, veterans, and retirees will be respectfully honored.

Bicentennial Committee Co-Chairman Burr proposed that the Committee present their key events and their respective schedules to the Board of Selectmen. While the First Selectman concurred, he added that it would not be necessary for the Board to provide their approval.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**M/S/C: LaBonte/Chmielewski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. Discussion: None.
Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

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