

**TOWN OF SALEM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 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 7:06 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Tuesday, September 3, 2019 Regular Meeting

M/S/C: LaBonte/McKenney, to approve the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, September 3, 2019. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

M/S/C: Lyden/Chmielewski, to add the following item to the Agenda:

4(D) Appoint Sue Bennett to the Bicentennial Committee (Action Item)

Discussion: Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Bicentennial Committee unanimously voted in favor of recommending that Ms. Bennett be appointed to the Committee based upon her participation and contributions. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

3. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Correspondence: First Selectman Lyden reported that the Department of Public Health (DPH) has announced the third Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) death and fourth confirmed case in Connecticut. The individuals were from East Lyme, Old Lyme, and East Haddam; the fourth individual, who remains hospitalized, is a Colchester resident. Due to the high risk of those residing in the eastern part of the State, all outdoor evening activities in the town have been cancelled or re-scheduled. The risk will remain elevated until the first hard frost.

Public Comments: Roy Wolstenholme, 20 Salem Ridge Drive, questioned why no action was taken on the Blight Ordinance that was presented to the public in the past.

While the Board is not obligated to respond to any comments by the public, First Selectman Lyden stated that a Blight Ordinance was considered five years ago but, due to the lack of

support at the time, it was not passed. He added that blight can be difficult to regulate and enforce. To establish an ordinance, it must be approved by the Board of Selectmen and presented to and voted upon by the residents at a Town Meeting. He stated his awareness of their complaint and that the Town's Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) and Town Planner and the Uncas Health District have investigated their concerns and have and/or are doing what they can.

In response to Elizabeth Wolstenholme, 20 Salem Ridge Drive, regarding whether six unregistered vehicles parked on a resident's driveway would be considered blight, First Selectman Lyden stated that it would not be considered blight. There are zoning laws regarding registered vehicles and he is aware that the ZEO has given the owner 30 days to provide proof of registration for the vehicles in question. Selectman Chmielewski suggested the possibility of contacting the Assessor to investigate whether taxes are being paid on the vehicles.

The Board thanked the Wolstenholmes for attending the meeting and voicing their concerns.

4. AGENDA:

A. Appoint Hugh McKenney to TVCCA (Action Item)

M/S/C: Lyden/Chmielewski, to appoint Selectman Hugh McKenney to the TVCCA (Thames Valley Council for Community Action). Discussion: First Selectman Lyden thanked Selectman McKenney for his willingness to serve on the TVCCA and reported that he has informed TVCCA Executive Director Deb Monahan regarding his pending appointment. Selectman Chmielewski added that, given Selectman McKenney's background, he would be a positive addition and would represent the Town well. Voice vote, 4-0-1. Voting in Favor: Selectmen Chmielewski, Kennedy, LaBonte, and Lyden. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Selectman McKenney.

B. Appoint Ed Chmielewski to the Regional Tourism District (Action Item)

M/S/C: Lyden/Kennedy, to appoint Selectman Ed Chmielewski to the Regional Tourism District. Discussion: First Selectman Lyden stated that the Regional Tourism District, which was previously defunded due to budget cuts, is in the process of being revived and are seeking input from various towns. Selectman Chmielewski, who currently serves as the Chairman of the Economic Development Commission and has been actively working on promoting the Town's businesses, would be a positive addition. 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 \$892.65 (eight hundred ninety-two dollars and sixty-five cents) on the 1st day of October 2019. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

D. Appoint Sue Bennett to the Bicentennial Committee (Action Item)

M/S/C: LaBonte/Kennedy, to appoint Sue Bennett to the Bicentennial Committee.

Discussion: Selectman Kennedy stated that Ms. Bennett has been working very hard and is a great asset to the Committee; she has been serving as the liaison to Salem School. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

REPORTS:

A. FIRST SELECTMAN

First Selectman Lyden thanked the Bicentennial Committee for their hard work in creating a very fun and memorable Heritage Day event. He estimated that approximately 500 people attended the event that was filled with activities and events, including bands, a hayride, and displays and demonstrations by emergency services, that were spread out throughout the core center of the town.

He recently attended a meeting at the Southeastern CT Council of Governments (SCCOG) during which Attorney Kevin Budris of the Conservation Law Foundation spoke about the Foundation and its Zero Waste Project. Atty. Budris noted that those States with a 10¢ deposit for bottles and cans have a 90% redemption rate, while those with a 5¢ deposit have a 40-50% redemption rate.

The United Way Mobile Food Pantry, which distributes food every first Wednesday of the month, served 117 families last month and will be serving families again tomorrow evening at 5:00 p.m. behind Salem School.

Thirty Salem Seniors enjoyed a senior lunch at Two Brothers Restaurant today. The \$5.00 lunch is supplemented by funding from the Seniors budget and is held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. Two Brothers' owners Nic and Alex Alevras were thanked for their support. Selectman Chmielewski, Salem Seniors President, also commended and expressed his appreciation to Senior Liaison Pam Henry and the Salem Volunteer Fire Company for their support. The Seniors meet every second Tuesday of the month (except in the winter) at the Salem Volunteer Fire Company at 10:30 a.m. as well as at the Library every Tuesday from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. for fun and games.

Bulky Waste Amnesty Day will be held on Saturday, October 19; Sunday, October 20, and; Wednesday, October 23. Electronics, mattresses, and metals are accepted, free of charge, at any time. Refrigerators and construction material are accepted for a fee.

Everyone is welcome to meet and informally speak with our Town's Resident State Troopers Luke LaRue and Chris Pariseau tomorrow, Wednesday, October 2, 2019 between 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. during Coffee with a Cop.

B. BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Selectman Chmielewski reported that a successful Bicentennial Heritage Day event was held on Saturday, September 14. On behalf of the Committee, he expressed his appreciation to the First

Selectman for his support and the support of the Town crew. Numerous events and activities were available for the townspeople to enjoy, including the time capsule and cupola display, bands, Fire Departments and Emergency Services, and the Scouts.

Bicentennial Committee Member and Selectman Kennedy concurred, stating that it was a great event that has received some very positive feedback, including those who were wondering if the event would occur annually.

In response to Selectman McKenney regarding the drone photographs, it was stated that the photographs, along with all submitted photographs, may be viewed on the Bicentennial website.

Upcoming events include the Time Capsule Burial at Town Hall on Saturday, October 19 at 10:00 a.m. and the Tree Lighting Event in December. He thanked all of the Selectmen for their ongoing support.

C. BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)

Selectman McKenney reported that enrollment of schoolchildren has increased to 417 this year. The reconciliation of the budget was approved and approximately \$47,000.00 will be returned to the town. The Superintendent's contract has been extended for up to three years. Various cuts to the BOE's FY2019/20 budget were made to fund the Pay-per-Play program. Cuts included tutors and aides, unemployment compensation, instructional supplies for language arts/reading.

D. BOARD OF FINANCE

First Selectman Lyden reported that the Auditors have been conducting their preliminary work and will be on-site during the last week of October to finalize the 2018/19 Audit. In addition to the BOE's return of approximately \$47,000.00, the General Government will be returning \$50,000.00 to \$55,000.00 to the Town. He is currently working on how the town will deal with the ongoing increases for the Resident State Trooper program.

E. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Selectman Kennedy reported that the Commission held a Public Hearing on September 17 regarding various updates to their regulation, including site plan requirements, non-conforming uses, and administration. One of the main discussions included updating the references to the Town Sanitarian, which is now being conducted by the Uncas Health District. The Commission agreed to update any references to the Town Sanitarian as the Town-designated Health Official.

First Selectman Lyden commended Town Planner Justin LaFountain on doing a fine job for the town.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)

Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Commissioners are continuing to work with the community and local businesses. They have received positive feedback on the brochure and the Business Directory and many have received additional business as the result. He commented on a great group filled with much energy and excitement.

Vice Chairman and Selectman LaBonte added that the Commission also discussed plans to promote and highlight the town's businesses at the upcoming Applefest event in an effort to further help and promote our local businesses.

G. LIBRARY

Selectman LaBonte reported that the Library Board meeting has been re-scheduled for October 15.

H. MILITARY LIASION

Selectman Chmielewski reported the First Selectman and Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz will be attending the upcoming Korean and Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday, November 12, 5:30 p.m., at the Multi-purpose Room in Salem School. While a list of Veterans has been compiled by the Town Clerk, those who feel they are eligible are requested to contact the Town Clerk's office. Those who served on active duty during those wars are eligible for recognition. First Selectman Lyden added that the town of Bozrah will also be joining the Ceremony. Cake will be served. It is estimated that approximately 150 individuals will be attending the event.

I. UNSUNG HEROES

Selectman McKenney reported that the Committee has been meeting every two weeks as they plan for the Awards Banquet on Sunday, November 10, 1:00 p.m., at the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company. A Certificate has been created for the recipients on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. He added that Lt. Governor Bysiewicz has been invited to and is interested in attending the event and he hopes that additional State Dignitaries will be able to attend the event.

ADJOURMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

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