

**TOWN OF SALEM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

PRESENT

Kevin Lyden, First Selectman
Edward Chmielewski
Stuart Gadbois
David Kennedy
Robert Ross

ABSENT

none

1. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Lyden called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 6, 2017, Regular Meeting

M/S/C: Ross/Gadbois, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2017 with the following amendments:

Item 5(A): A letter, dated May 25, 2017, proposing the transfer of property... of \$5,000.00/~~month~~ *year* for a period of ten years was received.

Item 5(C): M/S/C: Gadbois/Chmielewski, to schedule a *Board of Selectmen* Special Meeting with a Public Hearing....
Voice vote, 4-0 5-0, all in favor.

Discussion: Under Item 5(C), it was clarified that the costs incurred for the Public Hearing Notice will be reimbursed to the Town by the Museum. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

4. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS

First Selectman Lyden announced that the Special Town Meeting has been rescheduled for July 19, 2017, 7:00 p.m., at Salem Town Hall, Conference Room 1. Agenda items will include:

- a. To Consider and Act on the sale of town property located at 85-B Horse Pond Road
- b. To Consider and Act on the proposed recommendations and modifications to the "Emergency Responders Award Ordinance"
- c. To Consider and Act on the purchase of property located at 184 Hartford Road

He encouraged everyone to attend and stated that information regarding the items is available at the Town Clerk's office. The Town Attorney will also be present at the meeting.

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M/S/C: Gadbois/Ross, to reschedule the date of the Town Meeting from Tuesday, July 11, 2017 to Wednesday, July 19, 2017. The meeting will be held at Salem Town Hall, Conference Room 1 at 7:00 p.m. Voice vote, 4-0-1. Voting in Favor: Selectmen Gadbois, Kennedy, Ross, and Lyden. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Selectman Chmielewski.

First Selectman Lyden reported on an ongoing issue at Gardner Lake State Park affecting the residents residing in the area on, primarily, nice, hot, and sunny weekends and/or holidays. The Fourth of July was one such day. He has spoken with DEEP's (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) State Parks and Public Outreach Division Director Tom Tyler as well as two of the Game Wardens, who noted that the parking lot, which, similar to other State Parks, including Hammonasset and Rocky Neck, reached full capacity and was closed at 9:00 a.m. Currently, there is no charge to enter the park. He recited the correspondence received by Resident State Trooper Luke LaRue, Salem Resident Ashley Unitas, Uncas Health District Director of Health Patrick McCormack, and DEEP Director Tyler. Trooper LaRue, who called upon two (2) additional State Troopers for backup, reported on an assault for which an ambulance was called; the towing of two (2) unregistered vehicles; the finding of an unconscious individual, presumably a heart attack victim; people refusing to leave, and; trash strewn throughout the Park – all of which occurred within a 2.5 hour timespan. The property has since been cleaned up by DEEP.

Ashley Unitas, 33 Lakeview Avenue, stated that the issues have multiplied since she moved to the Town 1.5 years ago. She has spoken with both the Uncas Health District and DEEP, which stated that, while DEEP Officers have witnessed a number of incidents at the Park, he/she, being outnumbered, is unable to make any arrests due to the possibility and fear for his/her safety. The issue on their property arises when the parking lot is at full capacity and individuals begin parking in nearby residential neighborhoods and properties. Though "No Trespassing" and "No Parking" signs have been posted, individuals continue to park on their property. She has spoken with State Police Department Troop K numerous times and, as the result, has been told to stop calling, an Officer will not be sent out, and that she must deal with the issue, herself. In an attempt to do so, she has been aggressively approached leaving her to fear for her safety. Left alone, individuals begin drinking and doing drugs on their property, leaving behind empty bottles of alcohol and various drug paraphernalia. She is more than willing to volunteer her time and energy to help resolve the situation.

First Selectman Lyden requested that she file a police report with the Resident State Trooper(s), stating any pertinent details. Discussion ensued regarding possible solutions to help remedy the situation, including:

- shifting the Resident State Troopers' focus to the Park and increasing police presence

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- requesting overtime State Troopers to monitor the activity on busy summer weekends. This would require Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance approval to allocate the \$100/hour overtime cost for the Troopers.
- implementing new rules and regulations establishing parking restrictions (e.g., establishing tow away zones, parking by permit only, no parking areas, etc.)
- purchasing an alarm and/or video system and placing them on their property so as to record and capture any illicit activity, without endangering themselves

Selectman Chmielewski, on behalf of the Board, commended and thanked her and husband for attending the meeting, doing their due diligence, and bringing the issue to their attention. As a 37-year law enforcement veteran, he is appalled at the customer service she received by the State Police and expressed his concern regarding the DEEP Officers' statement. He expressed their support for the State Police and commended the Town's Resident State Troopers for successfully de-escalating the situation. He stated the need for DEEP and State Police to coordinate their resources to help resolve the issue and the importance of documenting the activities to help justify the additional allocation of resources.

First Selectman Lyden stated that there are no parking restrictions in Salem at this time. In conjunction with the Public Works Department, Town Attorney, Resident State Troopers, and residents, the Board of Selectmen may approve the establishment of parking rules. He stated that the Park is cleaned daily by the DEEP and is not regarded as a health issue by the Uncas Health District. In response to Selectman Chmielewski, there is some limited flexibility with the Troopers' hours.

Selectman Gadbois added that there are also issues on the Lake, itself, regarding the enforcement of boating rules, adding that the presence of the Gardner Lake Authority greatly improves the boaters' behaviors. In addition, the Montville Police Department also monitors the Lake in four-hour shifts. DEEP Officers have also enforced the waters in the past.

At the suggestion of Selectman Ross, the First Selectman will request that the Troopers regularly monitor the area, draft a letter to DEEP Commissioner Rob Klee regarding the issue and possible resolutions, determine the Park's capacity, and review the Town's existing parking ordinance. Selectman Ross also cautioned against spending town resources on private property and setting a precedent.

The Unitas' were thanked for their attendance. Ms. Unitas thanked the Board and stated that she will file a police report with the Resident State Trooper. First Selectman Lyden requested that any future issues be reported to the Town's Resident State Troopers.

5. AGENDA

- A. Appoint Adam Scott to Economic Development Commission as Alternate Member M/S/C: Gadbois/Ross, to appoint Adam Scott to the Economic Development Commission (EDC) as an Alternate Member. Discussion: EDC Chairman**

Frank Sroka requested and EDC Liaison Selectman Gadbois confirmed that Mr. Scott, who participated in the Commission's last meeting, expressed an interest in serving on the Commission, be appointed as an Alternate Member. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

B. Appoint James Bee to Economic Development Commission as Alternate Member

First Selectman Lyden requested postponing Mr. Bee's appointment, pending confirmation of Mr. Bee as an Elector.

C. Tax Collector Refunds

M/S/C: Chmielewski/Gadbois, 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 \$183.30 (one hundred eighty-three dollars and thirty cents) on the 5th day of July 2017. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

6. REPORTS

A. FIRST SELECTMAN

First Selectman Lyden reported that he has met with State Senator Paul Formica to discuss the budget, which has not yet been passed.

B. BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)

First Selectman Lyden met with BOE Chairman Michael Siebert and Business Manager Kim Gadaree regarding the Town/BOE General Liability and Property Insurance. Due to recent large claims, their insurance has been steadily rising. Some adjustments were made and funds may need to be re-allocated to balance the line item in the Town's budget.

C. BOARD OF FINANCE

Due to the lack of a State budget and indecision regarding the maximum motor vehicle taxable rate for municipalities, the Board of Finance held a Special Meeting to adjust and approve the Fiscal-Year 2017-2018 mil rate for motor vehicles from 32.2 mil to 32 mil.

D. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION – no update

E. RECREATION COMMISSION

For a full listing of the Recreation Department's Summer and Fall activities, please visit the Town website.

F. LIBRARY

For a full listing of the Library's Summer and Fall activities, please visit the Town website. New carpeting has been installed in the Library, the Summer Reading Program is in full swing, and moneys from the Urbanik Family Trust Fund will be utilized to update the Children's Room. New museum passes for the Beardsley Zoo and New Britain Museum of American Art, paid for by the Friends of Salem Library, are now available.

G. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)

Discussion included an update regarding the Business Directory Project and interest in joining the Commission was expressed by Mr. Scott and Mr. Bee, as previously noted.

7. ADJOURNMENT

**M/S/C: Chmielewski/Gadbois, to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Discussion: None.
Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem