

**TOWN OF SALEM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.  
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

*none*

**ALSO PRESENT**

State Representative Holly Cheeseman

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Lyden called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. June 28, 2017 Special Meeting**

**M/S/C: Gadbois/Kennedy, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2017 with the following amendments:**

Page 1, Last Paragraph, 2nd Sentence:

Approval of the Proposal would be of no cost *to* the Town, ...

Page 3, Item 7, 1st Paragraph, 8th Sentence:

The funds received ~~by~~ *from* the Town would be utilized...

**Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0-1. Voting in Favor: Selectmen Chmielewski, Gadbois, Kennedy, and Lyden. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Selectman Ross.**

**B. July 5, 2017 Regular Meeting**

**M/S/C: Gadbois/Ross, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 5, 2017 with the following amendments:**

Page 3, Item 4, 1st Paragraph:

Selectman Chmielewski,...thanked ~~them~~ *her and husband* for attending the meeting,... appalled at the *lack of* customer service she received.... He expressed ~~their~~ *his* support for the State Police....

Page 3, Item 4, 4th Paragraph, Last Sentence:

Selectman Ross also cautioned against spending town resources on ~~private~~ *State* property and setting a precedent.

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

**4. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- A. Letter from the Southeastern CT Water Authority (SCWA), received July 20, 2017, regarding the bi-annual appointment of two (2) representatives to the Authority's Advisory Board. First Selectman Lyden will contact current representatives James Fogarty and George Jackson regarding their continued interest to serve on the Authority.
- B. Letter from Democratic Town Committee Chairperson Kristina Len regarding the Committee's unanimous recommendation to appoint Jim Mulholland as an Alternate Member of the Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission. The seat has been vacant for approximately one year.

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

Item 5(c): Appoint Jim Mulholland to the Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission as an Alternate Member.

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

**5. AGENDA**

- A. **Appoint James Bee to Economic Development Commission as an Alternate Member**

**M/S/C: Lyden/Gadbois, to appoint James Bee to the Economic Development Commission as an Alternate Member. Discussion: First Selectman Lyden has clarified some issues with Mr. Bee, who has been attending the meetings, and has confirmed his interest in serving on the Commission. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

- B. **Tax Collector Refunds**

**M/S/C: Chmielewski/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 \$8,742.70 (eight thousand seven hundred forty-two dollars and seventy cents) on the 1st day of August 2017. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

- C. **Appoint Jim Mulholland to the Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission as an Alternate Member**

**M/S/C: Gadbois/Chmielewski, to appoint Jim Mulholland to the Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission as an Alternate Member. Discussion: Democratic Town Committee Member Sue Spang stated that Mr. Mulholland, a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission, is an attorney working with land use and, more recently, wetlands. First Selectman Lyden added that Mr. Mulholland is also a very active member of the community. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

**6. REPORTS**

- A. **FIRST SELECTMAN**

First Selectman Lyden reported that a member's equity check for \$8,333.00 was received from CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency) and will be deposited into the Town's General Fund.

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He provided the following update of the recurring issues at Gardner Lake State Park:

- a conference call attended by Senator Paul Formica, Representative Cheeseman, and himself with the Deputy Commissioner of DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) was held;
- an article was published in the *Norwich Bulletin* regarding the issue;
- a dumpster has been placed at the beach to help combat the trash issues, and;
- a letter, signed by Senator Formica, Representatives Cheeseman and Paul Ryan, Montville Mayor Ronald McDaniel, and himself, along with photographs and 105 beer bottle caps found in the restricted area, requesting a temporary alcohol ban was sent.

He commended the State EnCon (Environmental Conservation) Police Officers, but felt that they are overwhelmed. He hopes that an alcohol ban, increased management, and an entrance fee to help control the activity will be instituted to create a safer and more enjoyable environment. Selectman Chmielewski, recognizing that the Town has no jurisdiction over the Park, introduced the possibility of making a symbolic motion to recommend an alcohol ban and enhanced safety patrols in an effort to help strengthen their request. In the same vein, Selectman Ross suggested that the First Selectman draft a letter addressed to DEEP and signed by the members of the Board with their recommendations. Representative Cheeseman commended the First Selectman for his diligence in addressing the issue, adding that, given the Park's current situation, it is only a matter of time before something unpleasant occurs. She stated the importance of, at the very least, taking some proactive action that does not involve cost, i.e., instituting an alcohol ban.

The Town offices and Board of Education are currently preparing for their upcoming Fiscal-Year 2016-2017 Audit, which will take place the week of August 28, 2017. Preliminary estimates reflect that \$175,000.00 will be returned to the Town from the General Government. He thanked all of the Departments, Boards, and Commission for their fiscal responsibility.

**B. BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)**

As previously mentioned, the Board of Education is preparing for their Annual Audit.

**C. BOARD OF FINANCE**

Concerned about the lack of a State Budget, the Board is planning to educate the public regarding the effects of the State's fiscal crisis on the Town's budget, including the derivation and spending of Town funds. It is estimated that the Town could be cut anywhere from \$400,000.00 to \$1.9 million in State funding. At the First Selectman's suggestion, the Board might be submitting an article(s) to *Our Town Salem* to help keep the public informed.

**D. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**

The Commission has begun reviewing and revising the regulations regarding cluster housing.

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**E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)**

Recently appointed Alternate Member Adam Scott was seated at the EDC's recent meeting. The Commission has begun the development of a five-year plan.

**F. RECREATION COMMISSION**

Congratulations were extended to the Major League Softball Girls Team on their recent District 10 Championship victory.

Visit the Town website for a listing of their Summer programs, which are in full swing, and information regarding the upcoming Fall Ball Program.

**G. LIBRARY**

Visit the Town website for information regarding the Library's many programs and events.

Selectman Gadbois announced that the Salem Mom's Club and Congregational Church of Salem, CT, will be hosting their 2nd Annual *Cruise for a Cause* at the Salem Town Green on Saturday August 19, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All profits will benefit those in need.

Representative Cheeseman thanked First Selectman Lyden for addressing the issues at Gardner Lake, adding that Senator Formica and herself will continue to do the same. She reported that the legislators recently approved the SEBAC (State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition) Concessions Deal, along with 34 separate Union Contracts. The Agreement included the renegotiation of 12 items in 2027. She speculates that a grand compromise will be reached regarding the State budget, which may include a State sales tax increase and a proposal to gradually transfer the teachers' pension costs to towns/municipalities. Feeling that the people of Connecticut deserve better service from its legislators, she is hopeful that a budget will soon be approved. Reports from the Office of Fiscal Analysis and Office of Legislative Research regarding the SEBAC Agreement and the 34 Union Contracts will be forwarded to the First Selectman. In addition, Connecticut State lawmakers recently overrode a gubernatorial veto regarding the affordable housing law.

First Selectman Lyden stated that he has spoken with Senators Formica and Cathy Osten regarding the fiscal responsibility of the small and medium-sized towns, which should not be required to help balance the budgets of those larger cities that have been irresponsible with their budgets. He also felt that towns/municipalities should not be required to fund the teachers' retirement costs without being involved in the negotiation of its terms.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**M/S/C: Gadbois/Kennedy, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**