

**TOWN OF SALEM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 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

ALSO PRESENT

Public Works Director Don Bourdeau

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. August 1, 2017 Regular Meeting

M/S/C: Chmielewski/Ross, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 1, 2017.

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

4. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS

First Selectman Lyden recited the following correspondences:

A. Letter from Ben Barnes, Secretary, Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, regarding the State budget.

First Selectman Lyden stated that, under the Governor's budget, the Town is now slated to be cut over \$2 million in ECS (Educational Cost Sharing) funding. He commended the Board of Finance, who determined the Town's budget based on the, then, estimated cut of \$700,000.00. Moody's has already lowered the bond rating for the State of Connecticut and will be investigating the municipalities and making any necessary adjustments in the near future.

B. Letter from Paul Tarbox, Committee Clerk, Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Team Leader, Senate Democratic Clerks, regarding the 2017 Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame Nomination Packet.

The letter has also been distributed to those who subscribe to the Town's News & Announcements and has been posted on the website.

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

Item 5(D): Amnesty Days

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

5. AGENDA

A. Municibid Presentation with Don Bourdeau (Discussion and Action)

Public Works Director Don Bourdeau stated that Municibid is an online auction website for government agencies, schools, authorities, and utilities to sell their government surplus and forfeitures to the public. An 8% buyer's fee of the winning bid amount is charged to the winning bidder upon the close of the auction and there is no fee to the municipality. The town of Montville has been using the system for the past four to five years, with no issues and much success. He suggested that the Board, should they approve to use the system, determine whether Town employees would be able to bid on any of the items being placed for auction by the Town. The scrap value of the item(s) will be determined prior to determining the minimum bid price.

First Selectman Lyden stated that, per Town Charter, Section 5.05A.3, the Board of Selectmen "Have the authority to sell or otherwise dispose of any Town-owned personal property, the value of which does not exceed \$15,000" and that, currently, the Board has authorized the First Selectman to sell or otherwise dispose of Town-owned personal property, the value of which does not exceed \$500.00. The Town currently owns and is seeking to sell the following items:

- Ford F-350 Utility Truck
- Over the Rail Mower Unit
- Old Cement Mixer
- 1700 Ford Tractor

All funds received for the sale of the items would be deposited into the Town's General Fund. The Board agreed that Town employees may bid on any of the available items through Municibid.

M/S/C: Chmielewski/Gadbois, to authorize the First Selectman to dispose of Town-owned personal property, as presented to the Board of Selectmen on September 5, 2017, via Municibid, as per Section 5.05A.3 of the Salem Town Charter. Funds from the sale(s) will be deposited by the Treasurer into the Town of Salem General Fund. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

B. Letter to Commissioner Klee (Discussion and Action)

With the temporary alcohol ban in place, the Resident State Trooper(s), working very closely with the DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) EnCon (Environmental Conservation) Officers, have been actively patrolling the Gardner Lake State Beach Park, resulting in positive changes and creating a more family-friendly and enjoyable State Park. First Selectman Lyden presented a letter he has drafted, addressed to DEEP Commissioner Rob Klee requesting the institution of a permanent alcohol ban at the State Beach Park. Selectman Ross suggested the following change to the letter:

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Your responsible actions were needed due to *unacceptable behavior associated with excessive the abundant* alcohol consumption by large numbers of people.

He also stated his concern with the resulting economic impact due to the banning of alcohol on public property, e.g. the inability of the Mom's Club Wine Tasting Fundraiser, Lions Club Annual Picnic. As such, he is in favor of management rather than the institution of a ban and stated that he would not be signing the letter.

Selectman Chmielewski stated the importance of swiftly acting on the issue before it escalates into the occurrence of a serious incident(s) and of supporting those residents who took the time to attend their meeting and address the issue. He disagreed that there would be any financial impact on the Town should the ban be put in place. In addition, due to the lack of State resources, little or no management of the area can be expected in the near future. He encouraged the Selectmen to sign the letter in support of a permanent ban.

First Selectman Lyden stated that Senator Paul Formica, who has attended the Gardner Lake Authority meetings, is aware of the issues and the lack of management at the Beach Park and has stated his support in the institution of a permanent alcohol ban. Senator Cathy Osten and Representatives Kevin Ryan and Holly Cheeseman have also expressed their support. While he agrees that it does limit good people from hosting any events at the Park, the ban would be for the betterment of all and help create a safer and more enjoyable Beach Park. Twenty-one State Parks currently have an alcohol ban. Positive feedback has been received regarding the temporary alcohol ban.

M/S/C: Chmielewski/Kennedy, to send the letter to Commissioner Klee regarding the institution of a permanent alcohol ban, signed by those Selectmen who choose to do so. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-1. Voting in Favor: Selectmen Chmielewski, Gadbois, Kennedy, and Lyden. Voting in Opposition: Selectman Ross.

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 \$911.59 (nine hundred eleven dollars and fifty-nine cents) on the 5th day of September 2017. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

C. Amnesty Days

M/S/C: Ross/Gadbois, to schedule Amnesty Days at the Transfer Station for October 21, 22, and 25, 2016. Discussion: Residents were reminded that mattresses and electronics can now be recycled and may be brought in at any time. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 5, 2017

6. REPORTS

A. FIRST SELECTMAN

First Selectman Lyden reported that the Auditors were on-site last week at Town Hall and the School. Preliminary audit figures indicate that the Town's General Government is underspent by \$178,000.00. He commended the Finance Department and thanked the Town's various departments for looking to increase efficiencies and enhance services, while still being good stewards of our Town's funds.

He wished all new and returning students the best in this coming school year.

The Mobile Food Pantry will be held tomorrow evening, Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., behind Salem School. Last month, the Pantry served approximately 200 individuals in approximately 50 minutes.

B. BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE) – no report

C. BOARD OF FINANCE – no report

D. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION – no report

F. RECREATION COMMISSION

Both the Fall Ball and Soccer Programs have begun.

G. LIBRARY

Over the summer, 145 students, pre-K to 11th grade, read 1,800 books or 12.5 books per participant. He commended the Library on doing a good job and encouraged everyone to visit the Town website for information regarding the Library's many programs and events.

7. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Chmielewski/Gadbois, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem