

**TOWN OF SALEM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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. MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR SELECTMAN ROBYN McKENNEY

A Moment of Silence was held for Ms. McKenney, who served on the Board of Selectmen for eight (8) years.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 5, 2017 Regular Meeting

M/S/C: Gadbois/Ross, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2017.

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

5. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Correspondence was received from The Department of Children and Families (DCF), who is actively in search of foster and adoptive care families. The information has been placed on the Town Hall table and DCF will be setting up a booth at the upcoming Apple Festival. Selectman Ross also suggested posting the information the Town website and sending the information through the Town's News & Announcements E-blast.

6. AGENDA:

A. Temporary Health Care Structures – Discussion Item

The Planning & Zoning Commission is seeking input from the Board regarding a recently passed bill on temporary health care structures for a mentally or physically impaired individual. The bill, which was passed by a large majority in both the State Senate and House of Representatives, became effective on October 1, 2017. Towns have the option to opt out of the bill at any time. To do so, the Planning & Zoning Commission must hold a Public Hearing, vote to opt out, and provide the reasons for their recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. The Board, then, First Selectman Lyden suggested, would vote to hold

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a Town Meeting for a final vote. While the structure does not require the approval of the Planning & Zoning Commission, it must comply with the setback and building code requirements. It was noted that the Town currently allows for accessory, i.e., in-law, apartments. Selectman Kennedy, who is favor of doing all that they can to support the residents of the Town, expressed his concern regarding the enforcement of the removal of the structure following its use. According to the Town Attorney, a town can require the posting of a bond of up to \$50,000.00 to ensure that the structure is removed should the qualifying individual no longer occupy or qualify to occupy the structure. First Selectman Lyden felt that the structures provide an ideal option for those who are unable to afford a nursing home for their loved one. Selectman Ross suggested that the Commission form a subcommittee to carefully review the legislation, keeping in mind the aging population, which is projected to grow substantially over the next ten years, as well as the economics of allowing such structures, and provide a thoughtful recommendation. He also expressed concern regarding the enforcement of the structure.

Hugh McKenney, 33 Woodland Drive, recommended that both the Commission and Board carefully review the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), which includes elements that the Town can put in place to accommodate the Town's aging population, including housing and assisted living.

Selectman Chmielewski expressed his appreciation of the Board's thoughtful discussion and agreed that, should the Commission and Board agree to opt out of the legislation, a Town Meeting be held.

Because there is no sense of urgency, the Board will recommend that the Commission form a subcommittee to carefully review the new legislation and provide their recommendation(s).

B. Vacancy on Gardner Lake Authority – Discussion Item

The Town is currently in search of two individuals to serve on the Gardner Lake Authority, which is made up of members of from the towns of Salem, Montville, and Bozrah. The vacancies will be posted on the Town website and anyone who resides near or has an interest in Gardner Lake is encouraged to apply. The term is a five-year appointment.

C. Vacancy on Economic Development Commission – Discussion Item

The Town is also seeking an individual to serve on the Economic Development Commission as an alternate. The announcement will also be posted on the Town website.

D. 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 \$660.20 (six hundred sixty dollars and twenty cents) on the 3rd day of October 2017. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

7. REPORTS**A. FIRST SELECTMAN**

First Selectman Lyden reported that he recently met with the second graders, who will be visiting Town Hall, taking their oath of good citizenship, and conduct their Annual Town Meeting next week.

The Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company recently received a new tanker truck, replacing their 28-year old truck. A Blessing of the Truck will be scheduled. The Salem Volunteer Fire Company, who recently experienced a computer malfunction on their 27/28-year-old truck, is also seeking to replace their fire truck. They have been actively seeking grants over the past two years and the truck, which costs approximately \$650,000.00, is currently included in the Town's Capital Plan. The First Selectman has spoken with both the Auditors and the Board of Finance, who have agreed that financing the truck over a period of six to eight years would be acceptable. Chief Rick Martin, who continues to be an active member of the Fire Company, recently stepped down as Chief and will be replaced by Former Chief Gene Maiorano. On behalf of the Board, Selectman Chmielewski expressed their congratulations to Chief Martin for his service to the Town as well as to Chief Maiorano for resuming his role as chief.

First Selectman Lyden reported that there is no State Budget yet and, under Executive Order, the Town of Salem is slated to be cut over \$2 million in ECS (Educational Cost Sharing) Funding. It is hoped that once the final budget has passed, the cuts will not be as severe. The Town has a healthy unassigned fund balance of 15.9% and the Town Government will make any cuts, as necessary to balance the budget.

B. BOARD OF EDUCATION – no report**C. BOARD OF FINANCE**

The Board has not yet begun to review their Capital Plan Budget due to concerns regarding the State budget.

D. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Commission discussed the bill regarding Temporary Health Care Structures, as earlier discussed. First Selectman Lyden also reported that Mr. Ted Zito is investigating the possibility of transforming the building located behind the Pharmacy to accommodate six age-restricted units.

E. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Commission is currently meeting to discuss their five-year plan.

F. RECREATION COMMISSION

The basketball/tennis courts were recently re-sealed and, with the cooperation of the School, the Commission, and Basketball, four new basketball rims will be installed at the School. The Commission will not be hosting the Trick or Trunk event this year.

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G. LIBRARY

Thanks to funding received from the Burbank Memorial Fund, the Children's Program Room was recently renovated and professionally painted with wall decals featuring Peter Pan, Alice in Wonderland, Mary Poppins, and inspirational quotes. The Room also features a play kitchen. Fall season activities and programs include crafts, LEGOS, board games, and movies. Wishing to provide a community service to patrons, the Library will be offering two evenings of free gift-wrapping during the holiday season. Both the Friends of the Library and Salem Knitters will be volunteering their time and the Friends of the Library will provide the funding for the wrapping materials. The Friends of the Library's Annual Used Book Sale will be held on Friday, October 27 and Saturday, October 28, 2017 in the Salem School Gymnasium. 20,000 books have been sorted into 75 categories. A major fundraiser for the Friends, the Book Sale generates approximately half of the approximately \$16,000.00 that is donated to the Library.

First Selectman Lyden encouraged everyone to also attend Salem School PTO's Annual Basket Raffle, which will be held in the School's Multi-Purpose Room during the Apple Festival.

8. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Ross/Chmielewski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem