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

PRESENT   **ABSENT**
Kevin Lyden, First Selectman   *none*
Edward Chmielewski
Stuart Gadbois
David Kennedy
Hugh McKenney

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.   November 8, 2017 Regular Meeting
   M/S/C: Kennedy/Chmielewski, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2017 with the following amendments:

   > Page 2, Item 5, third sentence:
   > Estimated at $1,500.00 - $1,600.00 each, the purchase of the defibrillators is being funded through the ~~Town's~~ Ambulance Funds.

   > Page 2, Item 6(B), last sentence:
   > ~~A program and~~ *After the program,* cake, coffee, and water will be served.

   > Page 3, Item 7(a), third sentence:
   > While the Town is within budget for this fiscal year*'s projected revenues*, there is some concern for the future.

   > Page 4, Item 7(G), second paragraph:
   > Selectman Ross also reported that the foot traffic in the Library is up by 1,300 patrons *per month* and …

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

5. **CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
   As a Clean Energy Community, the Town of Salem was awarded a $5,000.00 Bright Idea Grant for future energy-efficient upgrades. First Selectman Lyden will be submitting a proposed list of energy upgrades totaling $5,000.00 by the December 31, 2017 deadline.

6. **AGENDA:**
    A. **Presentation regarding Foster/Adoptive Care Recruitment (Discussion Item)**
    Representing the New London County Branch of Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF), Salem Liaison Maryann McGuire and Recruiter and Social Worker Scott Johnson provided a presentation regarding the recruitment of Foster Care and Adoptive families. Their goal is to work with families to provide babies and children within the County, who are at the risk for abuse and/or neglect, with a safe environment. While they aim to keep the children with their families and relatives, this is not always possible. While the goal is for the child(ren) to return home to their parent(s), the process does, sometimes, lead to adoption by the foster parent(s). Currently, there are 438 children in New London County in foster care or pre-adoptive homes. The Department is funded by the State of Connecticut and provides support groups, retention events, and financial support for the parent(s) as well as health insurance for the child. The Organization hosts three Open House events a month at various locations and is hoping to host one in Salem in the near future. The goal of the events are to introduce and make people aware of the program and provide information to those who are interested in becoming a foster/pre-adoptive parent(s). They are also interested in setting up a table at various public events for the same purpose. Educational funding, including special education costs, should, for the most part, not be an added burden to the Town in which the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) reside. The subsidization of the tuition fee by the State for those students who would be attending East Lyme High School would need to be investigated.

    First Selectman Lyden stated that he would be happy to post any updated information on the Town website for more exposure as there are many giving and caring families in Salem who would be good candidates.

    Ms. McGuire stated that they have received very positive responses from the School, Day Care Centers, businesses, and the community, making her happy to work with the Salem Community. She thanked the Board for their time and support and reiterated their need for foster and/or pre-adoptive care families. Likewise, the Board thanked them for their presentation and hard work.

    B. **2018 Meeting Dates (Action Item)**
    M/S/C: McKenney/Kennedy, to approve the Meeting Dates for 2018, as presented. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

    C. **Appoint Arthur Bergman to the Recreation Commission (Action Item)**
    M/S/C: Kennedy/Chmielewski, to appoint Arthur Bergman to the Recreation Commission. Discussion: The First Selectman provided a brief background regarding the appointment. Mr. Bergman, who was present at the meeting, currently serves as the Commissioner of the Salem Youth Baseball League and has attended several Recreation Commission meetings. Recreation Commission Chairperson Teri Natoli also supports his appointment. Selectmen Kennedy and Chmielewski felt he would be a great addition to the Commission. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

   C.   **Select Acting Selectman (Action Item)**
      M/S/C: **Chmielewski/Kennedy, to appoint Selectman Stu Gadbois as the Acting Selectman. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

     Selectman Gadbois was congratulated by the Selectmen.

   D.   **Tax Collector Refunds**
      M/S/C: **Chmielewski/McKenney, 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 $1,413.47 (one thousand four hundred thirteen dollars and forty-seven cents) on the 5th day of December 2017. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

7.   **REPORTS**: Ex-officio/Liaison Appointment (Discussion Item)
First Selectman Lyden proposed meeting with each of the Board Members to discuss their interests and to appoint the Ex-officio/Liaisons during their next Regular Meeting in January.

Brief discussion was held regarding the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), which the Town is required to revise and update every ten years. The last POCD was revised in 2012. The Board will be provided with the Town's POCD along with a list of action items for review at their next Regular Meeting in January.

8.   **ADJOURNMENT**
    M/C: **Kennedy/Chmielewski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem