

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

**PRESENT**

Kevin Lyden, First Selectman  
Edward Chmielewski  
Stuart Gadbois  
David Kennedy

**ABSENT**

Robert Ross

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

First Selectman Lyden called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. February 7, 2017 Regular Meeting

**M/S/C: Kennedy/Chmielewski, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2017 with the following amendment:**

Page 2, Item 5(B), last line:

Ms. Knight was thanked ~~her~~ for her presentation.

**Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

B. February 28, 2017 Special Meeting

**M/S/C: Gadbois/Kennedy, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2017. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

**4. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Michael Siebert, Chairman, Board of Education (BOE), stated that the Board voted to recommend BOE Member George Jackson to fill a vacancy left by former BOE Member Phil Teixeira as a member of the Salem School Building Committee.

**ALTERATIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

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

Item 5(H): Appoint Board of Education Member George Jackson to the Salem School Building Committee – Action Item

**Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

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5. AGENDA:

- A. Discussion with Senator Paul Formica and Representative Holly Cheeseman (Discussion Item)

A very spirited and informative discussion with Senator Formica and Representative Cheeseman was held during Office Hours, which was held prior to the current meeting and extended by an additional 15 minutes. Both the Senator and Representative were thanked for speaking with the residents who voiced their concerns.

- B. Set Special BOS meeting to review budget (Action Item)

**M/S/C: Lyden/Gadbois, to set the date of Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. for a Special Meeting to review the budget. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

- C. Request for modification of Emergency Responders Award Ordinance (Discussion Item)

The Salem and Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Companies are requesting that the current Town Ordinance, titled "Emergency Responders Award", be modified to incorporate State General Statute Section 1, Section 12-81w, regarding a law, effective July 1, 2016, extending the existing optional municipal property tax relief program for retired (age 60 and over) volunteer firefighters, fire police, officers, and emergency medical technicians who have volunteered at least 25 years in the municipality. The modification would encourage current and future volunteers to continue their service and would be a true asset for the Town. The various towns that have adopted the program and the number of calls and their respective times will be provided to the Board. The Board agreed to review the provided material and further discuss the modification at their next regular meeting. The revised Ordinance will require a review by Legal and a Town Meeting. Salem Volunteer Fire Company Chief Rick Martin added that there would not be any volunteers affected by the Award during fiscal year 2017-2018.

Selectman Chmielewski expressed his appreciation and commended both Fire Departments.

- D. Discuss and Act on Additional Appropriation for Line 5-222-618 in the amount of \$2,700 for Salem Fire Company

**M/S/C: Lyden/Kennedy, to approve the additional appropriation of line item 5-222-618 in the amount of \$2,700.00 (two thousand seven hundred dollars) for the Salem Volunteer Fire Company to help fund the purchase of Ladder Truck tires. Discussion: Selectman Lyden stated that the tires are required for replacement, in accordance to NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards. Upon approval, the item will be sent to the Board of Finance for final approval. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

- E. February Police Activity Report (*see file copy*)

During the month of February 2017, the Resident and Troop K State Troopers have responded to a total of 281 Calls for Service and issued 114 Traffic Citations and Written

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Warnings in the Town of Salem. The Salem Resident State Troopers engage in a number of positive community policing activities including the recent “Coffee with a Cop” event at the Corner Cupboard, Salem Marketplace, and D.A.R.E. Program. The Troopers were commended for their invaluable service to the Town.

F. Review costs for e-mail accounts for volunteers (Discussion Item)

The Board will review the proposed policy and costs for the establishment of a “Volunteer Policy” and e-mail accounts for volunteers and will be followed by a final review and approval by the Board of Finance. In addition, a workshop regarding the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), provided by Tom Hennick, Public Education Officer, Freedom of Information Commission, State of Connecticut, will be scheduled to clarify the FOIA regulations and answer any questions.

Selectman Chmielewski proposed the Policy be titled, “Elected/Appointed Officials Policy” rather than “Volunteer Policy” to avoid any confusion. In response to his request regarding a review of the BOE’s Policy regarding e-mails and possible avoidance of legal fees, First Selectman Lyden stated that Attorney Mark J. Sommaruga, who provided the cost estimate and response (*see File Copy*), also works as the Attorney for the BOE.

G. Tax Collector Refunds – *none*

H. Appoint Board of Education Member George Jackson to the Salem School Building Committee (Action Item)

**M/S/C: Chmielewski/Gadbois, to appoint Board of Education Member George Jackson to the Salem School Building Committee. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

**6. REPORTS**

**A. FIRST SELECTMAN**

The March United Way Mobile Food Pantry was canceled due to inclement weather. The Food Pantry currently serves over 80 families and is open to residents of all towns. A Pre-Construction Meeting regarding the Route 85 Safety Improvements from the Shady Brook Picnic Area to Skyline Drive will be held next week. Construction is slated for Summer 2017. Seniors are encouraged to attend the Salem Seniors meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 10:30 a.m., at the Salem Fire House for an update on a number exciting activities that have been planned. Rides to/from medical appointments are also available for seniors.

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

The BOE will be presenting their budget proposal to the Board of Finance this Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

**C. BOARD OF FINANCE**

The various Town Departments are in the process of presenting their budget proposals to the Board of Finance.

**D. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**

The Commission held a Public Hearing regarding the revised Age-Restricted Housing Developments regulation. The Commission was commended on a great job revising the regulation.

**E. INLAND WETLANDS & CONSERVATION COMMISSION – *no report***

**F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

The Commission is continuing their review of the listing of Town businesses and is investigating the possibility of utilizing Facebook in an effort to further maximize their reach.

**G. RECREATION COMMISSION**

The Baseball Program has begun. Everyone was encouraged to visit the Town website for a listing of upcoming Summer Programs being organized by Recreation Coordinator Vanessa Bunnell.

**H. LIBRARY – *no report***

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**M/S/C: Chmielewski/Gadbois, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Discussion: None.  
Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem