

**SALEM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 10, 2017 Special Meeting

M/S/C: Gadbois/Chmielewski, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2017 with the following amendment:

Page 6, Item 7(3), 4th line from bottom:

...should there be any remaining Commission-related ~~documents and/or~~ items...

Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

ALTERATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

M/S/C: Lyden/Ross, to approve the following alterations to the Agenda:

Revision:

Item 5(C): Appoint Committee to review and modify the *proposed* Massage Ordinance – Discussion and Action Item

Additions:

Item 5(A): Appoint Al Giansanti to the Recreation Commission (5-year term)
Appoint Eric Belt and Roger Phillips to the Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission (6-year term)

Discussion: With regards to the additions to the agenda, during a recent review of the Town Directory, Town Clerk Linda Flugrad stated that she discovered errors in the appointments of the term dates. She is continuing to review of the various Boards/Commissions. Selectman Kennedy thanked her for all of her work. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

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4. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS: *none*

5. AGENDA:

- A. Appoint Al Giansanti to the Recreation Commission (5-year term)

M/S/C: Lyden/Kennedy, to appoint Al Giansanti to the Recreation Commission with a five-year term, effective February 7, 2017. Discussion: Discussion ensued regarding the expiration date of the term(s) for those who are appointed to fill a vacancy. Mr. Giansanti has confirmed his interest in serving on the Commission. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

Appoint Eric Belt and Roger Phillips to the Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission (6-year term)

M/S/C: Chmielewski/Kennedy, to appoint Eric Belt and Roger Phillips to the Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission with a six-year term, effective February 7, 2017. Discussion: Mr. Belt and Mr. Phillips' interest in serving on the Commission will be confirmed. Selectmen Chmielewski expressed his appreciation to the newly appointed Commissioners. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

- B. Connecticut Department of Labor's Veterans Services – Mari-Lynet Knight Presentation

First Selectman Lyden introduced Mari-Lynet Knight, who works for the Department of Labor, Office of Veteran Workforce and Development Unit, and is a very valuable resource for homeless veterans. Ms. Knight thanked the Board, distributed information, and provided a brief presentation regarding her duties as a Homeless Veterans Employment Specialist. While she works primarily in New London, she also serves veterans from Mystic and Stonington to Danielson and Willimantic and works by appointment only. Though specializing in providing employment to homeless veterans, she is also available as a resource and to provide guidance for those who are in need of food, shelter, medical services, and other needs necessary to lead a prosperous life.

First Selectman Lyden thanked Ms. Knight for providing the presentation and reiterated her value for those who are in need of help. Many are unable or hesitant to ask for help and she is always readily available to personally meet with them whenever and wherever necessary.

Selectman Chmielewski, as a career and retired National Guard Officer, thanked her for everything she does to provide veterans with a much needed service and expressed their willingness to help in any way they can.

Ms. Knight was thanked for her presentation.

- C. Municipal Resolution for Special Use License for construction work at Dry Hydrant – 126 Old Colchester Road – Discussion & Action Item

M/S/C: Ross/Kennedy, to authorize First Selectman Kevin Lyden to sign and execute any and all documents necessary on behalf of the Town of Salem for a Special

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Use License issued by the State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to allow the use of State premises to conduct dry hydrant maintenance activities at 126 Old Colchester Road, Salem. Discussion: The Resolution refers to the Dry Hydrant located at the Gardner Lake boat launch. Former Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company Chief Jim Savalle has spoken with and received the approvals from both the Gardner Lake Authority and DEEP. The pipes, which will be purchased by the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company, will be installed by the Town's Public Works Department. The Town of Salem will obtain the Certificate of Insurance. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

- D. Appoint Committee to review and modify the proposed Massage Ordinance – Discussion & Action Item

M/S/C: Lyden/Gadbois, to appoint Elbert Burr, Ed Chmielewski, James Fogarty, Elaine Jansen, and Phil Teixeira to a Committee formed for the purpose of reviewing and modifying the proposed Massage Ordinance and return with a modified version to the Board of Selectman on May 2, 2017. Discussion: All of the candidates have signed and agreed to serve on the Committee. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

- E. Appoint Diba Khan-Bureau to Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission (6 year term) – Action Item

M/S/C: Lyden/Gadbois, to appoint Diba Khan-Bureau to the Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission. Discussion: Ms. Khan-Bureau has been contacted regarding her continued interest in serving on the Commission. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

- E. January Police Activity Report

Both First Selectman Lyden and Selectman Chmielewski thanked the Resident State Troopers and Emergency Responders for a phenomenal job. First Selectman Lyden thanked everyone for their support during the recent motor vehicle collisions at the intersection of Route 354, Witter Road, and Rattlesnake Ledge Road.

- F. June 2016 Financial Statements – *no discussion*

- G. 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 \$4,169.45 (four thousand one hundred sixty-nine dollars and forty-five cents) on the 7th day of February 2017. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

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6. REPORTS

A. FIRST SELECTMAN

The Safety Improvement Project for Route 85 from the Shady Brook Picnic area to Skyline Drive has been successfully bid and the State Department of Transportation is scheduled to complete the project in Summer 2017. The Project includes drainage, site improvements, wider shoulders, centerline rumble strips, and other safety improvements. The sight line from the northern part of Skyline Drive will increase from 200' to 500'. Funding for the project has been secured. All newly and recently paved State highways in Salem are receiving centerline rumble strips, a cost-effective and proven safety countermeasure.

Vision has completed the five-year Grand List Revaluation. First Selectman Lyden commended Assessor Barbara Perry, CCMA II, and Assistant Assessor Michael Kapinos, Jr. on a great job with the Grand List. The Grand List has been increased by 0.5% or \$121,747.00. Those with concerns have consulted with and resolved their issues through Vision; others may present their case to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

The Governor is scheduled to present his budget proposal tomorrow, February 8, 2017. Concerns include the:

- probable redistribution of Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Funds, which has been cut both last and this year. The Town currently receives approximately \$3 million.
- sharing of Teachers Retirement Fund, which is currently totals approximately \$600,000.00 for the Town.

He has consulted with the Attorney regarding the cost of preparing a Volunteer Manual, as recommended by Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA), for the establishment of volunteer e-mail accounts to be provided for and paid by the Town of Salem. He has also requested a cost estimate for the establishment of up to 15 e-mail accounts through their current provider.

B. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Senator Cathy Osten will be presenting a proposal that towns with a population of 10,000 or less and 2,000 or less school children not be required to have a Superintendent. Should the proposal go through, the sharing of a Superintendent with the Town of East Lyme would become necessary. First Selectman Lyden stated the benefit of having both Senators Osten and Formica, who have experience as First Selectpersons, serving as Co-Chairs on the Appropriations Committee. While he is pleased with Superintendent Joseph Onofrio, Selectman Chmielewski stated the importance and necessity of planning for the future when he is no longer available to serve as the Superintendent.

C. BOARD OF FINANCE

The Board of Finance will be meeting this Thursday, February 9, 2017, weather permitting, and discussing the proposed appropriation for the upcoming fiscal year. First Selectman

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Lyden reported that he would be requesting two (2) Resident State Trooper Officers, which will result in a pay increase. Selectman Chmielewski agreed, adding that the importance of requesting two (2) Resident State Trooper Officers is reflected in their Monthly Reports.

D. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

The Commission has primarily been concentrating on revising the Age-Restricted Regulations. First Selectman Lyden applauded the Commission in their effort to revise the previous onerous regulation and the need for such a regulation in view of recent demographic reports.

E. INLAND WETLANDS & CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Commission was provided with an update regarding wetlands law and application procedures and distributed a packet of information. Selectman Chmielewski commended the Commission for their hard work and dedication.

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Commission is continuing to confirm their List of Businesses. Town Planner Richard Serra reported to the Commission that he attended an informal meeting regarding solar energy projects in the region and is currently working with town planners from various regions regarding their possible interest.

G. RECREATION COMMISSION

The Recreation Commission will be hosting a Salem Youth Fitness Challenge and Red Cross Babysitting Training Classes. Baseball Winter Clinics are ongoing and online registration is currently available for the Spring Baseball season at sybl.org. For more information on these and other programs, please visit the Recreation page on the Town's website.

H. LIBRARY

Selectman Ross reported that donations were received, in lieu of flowers, by the Library in memory of Shirley Diamond, a long-time benefactor of the Library. The funds will be used for music, arts, and poetry programming. One such event will be a free concert by World Class Harpist Debbie Vinick on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

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. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem