

**SALEM BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 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. March 7, 2017, Regular Meeting

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

Item 5(D):

**M/S/C: Lyden/Kennedy, to approve the additional appropriation of line item 5-222-618 in the amount of \$2,700.00 (~~twenty two~~ thousand seven hundred dollars) for the Salem Volunteer Fire Company...**

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

B. March 10, 2017 Special Meeting

**M/S/C: Kennedy/Chmielewski, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2017. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0-1. Voting in Favor: Selectmen Chmielewski, Gadbois, Kennedy, and Lyden. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Selectman Ross.**

**4. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS: *none***

**ALTERATIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

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

Item 5(I): Proposed changes to Emergency Responders Incentive Program

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

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**5. AGENDA:**

**A. Introduce Attorney William Kollman**

First Selectman Lyden introduced and welcomed Attorney William Kollman, a resident of the Town since 1980. Atty. Kollman recently handled the selling of the Witch Meadow property for the Town and will be handling the upcoming Annual Town Meeting.

**B. Freedom of Information Act Workshop**

Public Education Officer Tom Hennick, State of Connecticut, Freedom of Information Commission, will be hosting an interactive workshop regarding the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) on April 11, 2017, 7:00 p.m., at Salem Town Hall. The Uncas Health District has been invited to attend the meeting and all Board and Commission members are encouraged and recommended to attend the meeting.

**C. Set Amnesty Dates (Action Item)**

**M/S/C: Chmielewski/Gadbois, to set the Amnesty Dates for Saturday, May 20, 2017; Sunday, May 21, 2017, and; Wednesday, May 24, 2017, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

**D. Set Annual Town Meeting (Action Item)**

**M/S/C: Ross/Kennedy, to set the Annual Town Meeting date of Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Town Hall. Discussion: Per the Town Charter, the Annual Town Meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of May. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

**E. Extend Transfer Station Contract (Action Item)**

**M/S/C: Gadbois/Chmielewski, to extend the Transfer Station Contract. Discussion: The Contractor/Operator's contract will be extended for a period of one (1) year with a 1.5% increase, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen for all Town employees. In response to Selectman Chmielewski, First Selectman Lyden stated that in order to extend the contract for a period of two or three years, an RFP (Request for Proposal) would be required. Both Selectmen Lyden and Chmielewski agreed that Contractor/Operator Gary Alligood is doing a good job. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

**F. Gardner Lake Financials and Community use of Building**

The Financial Statements for the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company, provided annually, was provided to the Board and will be provided to the Board of Finance. The largest item in their budget is the setting aside of \$25,000.00 for a future ambulance and contribution of \$5,000.00 towards On-Call Services. Also provided was a listing of nearly twenty (20) public service and community organizations, which utilize the Hall gratis. Selectman Chmielewski noted that the Salem Prevention Council and Southeastern Connecticut Regional Action Council Trauma Response Training also utilize the Hall and thanked them for the use of the Facility as well as their service to the Town.

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- G. Appoint Elbert Burr and Paul Robillard to full members of the Economic Development Commission

**M/S/C: Lyden/Kennedy, to appoint Elbert Burr and Paul Robillard as Full Members of the Economic Development Commission. Discussion: Both members currently serve as very active alternate members of the Commission. Selectman Chmielewski suggested that the vacancies for the, now vacant, alternate positions be posted to the public. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

- H. 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 \$2,939.48 (two thousand nine hundred thirty-nine dollars and forty-eight cents) on the 4th day of April 2017. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

- I. Proposed changes to Emergency Responders Incentive Program

Salem Volunteer Fire Company Deputy Chief Chip Weston expanded upon the proposed changes to the "Emergency Responders Award" Ordinance, which would extend the existing optional municipal property tax relief program for retired (age 60 and over) volunteer resident firefighters, fire police, officers, and emergency medical technicians who have volunteered for the Town for at least 25 years and meet the required incentive numbers. The Program aims to maintain and encourage trained emergency responders to continue serving the community. The town of Colchester has instituted the Program and Bozrah, like Salem, is in the process of investigating the possibility of instituting the Program. The town of Lebanon currently has a retirement program in place, exceeding the proposed Program. Should the Program have started ten years ago, it is estimated that approximately 14 to 16 townspeople would have benefited from the Program between the two Fire Companies. The number of calls over the past 15 years and the number of calls during various times during the day were provided. In addition, the number of calls, estimated at approximately 600 calls per year, continues to increase. Selectman Chmielewski thanked him for the data, which help them and the public understand the value of their services. Salem Volunteer Fire Company Gene Maiorano recalled that \$60,000.00 was approved by the Town for up to 60 members to benefit from the original Ordinance; they are currently well below that number.

First Selectman Lyden reiterated that the item is an incentive program to help the Departments retain their trained emergency responders. Because it is an Ordinance, the item would need to be reviewed by Legal and require the approval by the Board of Selectmen to hold a Town Meeting. Selectman Chmielewski reiterated the value of the information and Selectman Kennedy agreed that the item is a great tool for retaining one of the greatest assets of the community. Selectman Ross, who stated the Board's support for the emergency responders, recommended that a Board-appointed Committee be formed to, at minimum,

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review the recommendation and add further credibility to the proposed modification. First Selectman Lyden agreed and recommended the formation of a Committee of three (3) townspeople. He requested that the Board recommend possible candidates for consideration and appointment at their next regular meeting. Representatives from both Fire Companies would be invited to attend the meeting(s) and provide any necessary input.

**6. REPORTS****A. FIRST SELECTMAN**

The Mobile Food Pantry, which serves between 80 to 100 families, will be held tomorrow, April 5, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., behind Salem School. There is still time to sign up for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Salem Road Race, which will be held this Saturday, April 8, 2017. Salem Seniors will be meeting next Tuesday, April 11, 10:30 a.m., at the Salem Volunteer Fire Company.

A Public Hearing to discuss the budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 will be held next Wednesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m., at the Salem School Multi-Purpose Room. Following the Public Hearing, the Board of Finance may adjust the proposed budget at their Special Meeting, which will be held on Thursday, April 13, 7:00 p.m., at Salem Town Hall. The budget will, then, be presented at a Town Meeting on May 3, 7:00 p.m., at Salem Town Hall, when a reduction to the budget is possible. A Referendum will be held seven days later on Wednesday, May 10.

He will be meeting with the Uncas Health District, Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman Joe Duncan, Economic Development Commission Member Elbie Burr, and Town Planner Richard Serra to review and discuss the new Age-Restricted Development Regulation. They will explore how the Regulation will work with the proper health requirements for septic and water. Recent demographics reflect that the population of those who are 65 and over is estimated to grow by approximately 85% over the next ten years.

A Pre-Construction meeting was held for the Route 85 Safety Upgrades from the Shady Brook Picnic area to Skyline Drive DOT (Department of Transportation). Tree removal is scheduled to begin next week, followed by utility work. A wider shoulder will be created in the northern part of the Route towards Skyline Drive. There will be one-way alternating traffic during construction. Those concerned with the traffic may take Old New London Road as an alternate route.

The Board scrutinized the budget, which was presented to the Board of Finance, who, then, requested him to cut the General Government and Capital Budgets by an additional \$75,000.00. The Governor's Proposed Budget includes a \$703,000.00 cut to the Town and an additional \$50,000.00 may be cut for the Resident State Trooper Program. As such, the Board of Finance is working under the philosophy of shared sacrifice. As such, part of the funding will derive from the Town's Unassigned Fund Balance or Rainy Day Fund, the Board of Education was instructed to cut \$150,000.00, 25% will derive from the General Government

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and Capital Funds, and 25% will derive from a modest tax increase. The fiscal uncertainty of the State is expected to continue until at least 2020. Selectman Chmielewski inquired about the budget process, feeling that the Board of Selectmen should have met to approve the additional cuts that were made to the budget. Selectman Ross, who is a former First Selectman, disagreed, stating that the Board of Selectmen approved the First Selectman's recommendation to the Board of Finance, not the proposed budget, itself. Any changes requested by the Board of Finance are made to the First Selectman, rather than the Board of Selectmen. First Selectman Lyden will provide the Board with a list of the additional cuts.

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

The BOE has determined and submitted the cuts to their budget to the Board of Finance.

**C. BOARD OF FINANCE**

The Public Hearing to discuss the budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 will be held next week. Any concerns regarding the proposed budget can be expressed at that time.

**D. PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION – *no meetings***

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

Due to a scheduling conflict, Selectman Chmielewski stated that he would no longer be available to serve as the Commission liaison.

**F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Commissioner Ken Bondi recently resigned from the Commission, resulting in the appointment of the two alternates this evening. The Commission is continuing to work on the listing of businesses.

**G. RECREATION COMMISSION**

Recreation Commission Chairperson Spang reported that they are co-sponsoring the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt with the Lions Club, baseball season is slated to begin at the end of April, and the programs are doing well.

**H. LIBRARY**

A wonderful event in honor of Shirley Diamond with Celtic Harpist and Singer Debbie Vinick was held two weeks ago at the Library. He encouraged everyone to sign up to receive the Town's automated e-mail list, if they have not already done so.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**M/S/C: Chmielewski/Gadbois, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 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