

**TOWN OF SALEM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN HALL, MEETING ROOM 1**

PER STATE OF CONNECTICUT, GOVERNOR LAMONT EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 7B, THE TOWN OF SALEM BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING ON MARCH 19, 2020, WILL BE FOLLOWING THE SUSPENSION OF IN-PERSON OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS. THE PUBLIC CAN ACCESS THIS MEETING AT SALEMCT.GOV.

PRESENT

Kevin Lyden
Edward Chmielewski, Jr.
Hugh McKenney

ABSENT

Ron LaBonte
Terri Salas

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Lyden called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: Call in Public Comment to 860 859 3873, ext. 132.

3. AGENDA

- a. Discuss and extend State of Emergency for the Town of Salem, Connecticut (Discussion & Action)

First Selectman Lyden recited the letter declaring a State of Emergency for the Town of Salem on March 16, 2020, at 5:49 p.m. (*attached*). Recent updates include a revision of the Primary Election date to June 2 and all barbershops, nail and hair salons will be closed as of this evening, per the Uncas Health District. The Board of Finance meeting will be held this evening to discuss the FY2020/21 budget and, like this meeting, will be suspending the in-person meeting requirements and residents will be provided with the ability to call in with any comments they might have. All of the Town's restaurants are offering take-out only and both the *Plum Tomato* and *Two Brothers Restaurant* have been delivering food straight to their patron's vehicles. He stated the importance of supporting the local restaurants who contribute greatly to our Town. While this will be a difficult and inconvenient period, we are very fortunate to have such a wonderful town. Selectman McKenney concurred, adding that he views the local restaurants as our friends and neighbors and stated the importance of supporting and helping them remain economically viable through this difficult period.

A State of Emergency has been called for the Town on several occasions during his tenure in office and is usually a few days in duration. Per Section 6.02(E) of the Town Charter:

The First Selectman may declare a Public Emergency and take such action deemed advisable whenever a Public Emergency threatens the lives, health, safety, or property of

citizens of the Town. Having declared a Public Emergency, the First Selectman will consult with Emergency Personnel on the appropriate course of action. Any such declaration shall automatically stand repealed at the end of five days, unless earlier terminated or extended by the Board of Selectmen. Expenditures to meet such costs as incurred in addressing the Public Emergency shall be made in accordance with Section 10.11 of this Charter.

M/S/C: Chmielewski/McKenney, to extend the Declaration of the State of Emergency for the Town of Salem, Connecticut that was signed and issued on March 16, 2020 at 5:49 p.m. to April 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Discussion: Selectman McKenney stated that three Selectmen constitutes a quorum for the Board of Selectmen. First Selectman Lyden stated that, per Section 10.11 of the Town Charter, any expenditures, e.g., food and medical supplies, would be brought before the Board for approval. He has met with the local pharmacy who has instituted an Emergency Management Plan that was shared with the Town's Emergency Management Team, which includes members of the Gardner Lake and Salem Volunteer Fire Companies and Public Works Department. He has also met with the Resident State Troopers and Superintendent of Schools. All of the departments are checking to ensure that they have the proper and necessary resources. The Fire Companies, Ambulance, and Resident State Troopers have been briefed on the proper protective gear and Emergency Responders are taking significant precautions as they transport patients to medical facilities. Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications (QVEC), the Town's 911 Dispatch service, is also following protocol. Things are changing rapidly and limitations are increasing as they aim to starve the virus. Selectman McKenney added that breakfast and lunch are being distributed at Salem School for Salem children between the ages of 0 and 18 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Selectman Chmielewski commended the First Selectman on his hard work and handling of the issue. Having had the fortune to meet with the Emergency Management Team, he felt confident that they and the community would be able to handle the situation together. First Selectman Lyden thanked both Selectmen for their help. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor.

6. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: McKenney/Chmielewski, to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 3-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.



Town of Salem

Town Hall 270 Hartford Road Salem, CT 06420-3804
Tel. (860) 859-3873 Fax (860) 859-1184 www.salemct.gov

March 17, 2020

Dear Fellow Townspeople,

Please be advised that I have declared a State of Emergency for the Town of Salem effective March 16, 2020, at 5:49 p.m. This is different from other public emergencies (blizzard, hurricane, etc.) as the COVID-19 will be longer in duration.

It is important to declare a State of Emergency as this allows us to take proper actions to lessen the threat to the lives, health and safety of our residents. Declaring a State of Emergency will also provide the municipal CEO and Emergency Management team a smoother process for State and Federal Aid as it becomes available.

Please continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines at CDC.gov in regards to COVID-19.

In closing, please take care of yourselves and your families. Check on neighbors that may be living alone or in need of assistance. We have many wonderful people in our Town who have already volunteered to assist those in need. We will get through this together.

Stay healthy.

Respectfully,


Kevin Lyden
First Selectman

**TOWN OF SALEM, CONNECTICUT
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

Attachment 2

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN ACTIVATION

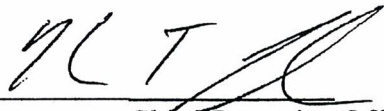
WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officer does find that the Covid-19 emergency currently affecting the Town of Salem requires the activation of the Emergency Operations Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby declared and ordered that the Emergency Operations Plan of the Town of Salem is now activated, and all personnel ordered to perform in accordance therewith.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED that a copy of this action be forwarded to DEMHS.

March 16th 2020
Dated

5:49 PM
Time


Chief Executive Officer
Kevin Lyden

Attest: 

Christina Martin

**TOWN OF SALEM, CONNECTICUT
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

Attachment 4

DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officer does find:

1. That due to Covid-19 the Town of Salem CT is facing dangerous Health issues.
(Cite specific conditions, example: flooding)

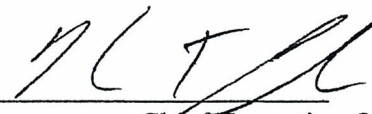
2. That due to the Health Safety condition of extreme peril to life and properties exists and thus necessitates the declaration of a State of Emergency;


NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby declared that a State of Emergency now exists throughout said Town of Salem CT.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED that during the existence of this State of Emergency the Chief Executive Officer shall exercise those powers, functions and duties prescribed by State law, the Town charter, and all applicable ordinances, resolutions, special acts, and the Town Emergency Operations Plan in order to minimize the effects of said emergency.

March 16th 2020
Dated

5:49 pm
Time


Chief Executive Officer
Kevin Lyden

Attest: 
Christina Martin