

**TOWN OF SALEM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22nd, 2020 – 2:30 P.M.
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

Per State of Connecticut, Governor Lamont Executive order 7B, the Town of Salem Board of Selectmen Meeting on April 22nd, 2020 will be following the suspension of in-person open meeting requirements. The public can access this meeting at saalemct.gov

PRESENT

Kevin Lyden
Ed Chmielewski
Hugh McKenney
Terri Salas
Ron LaBonte

ABSENT

(none)

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Lyden called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

1. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the meeting First Selectman Lyden checked the email account for Selectmanpubliccomment@saalemct.gov, no public comment was emailed in

2. AGENDA:

A. Approve Deferment Program pursuant to Executive Order 7S (*Discussion & Action*)

First Selectman Lyden stated that this is what we must do pursuant to Executive Order 7S. With the deferment program we should still receive about 90% of the taxes that are due on 7/1/2020. A form has to be completed by the resident and turned into the Tax Office on or before 7/1/2020. It does have to be approved but most likely the people who apply will qualify for the program.

MOTION IS MADE TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AS READ BELOW:

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the State of Connecticut (“Governor”) declared a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency for the State of Connecticut, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 19a-131 and 28-9, in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease associated with a novel coronavirus that is currently affecting multiple countries and states; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States (“President”) declared a national emergency to combat the coronavirus that is currently infecting the population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the effects the transmission of COVID-19 has resulted in the spread of infections in Connecticut and throughout the country, as well as resulting in shortages of personal protective equipment and other supplies that could jeopardize public safety and civil preparedness; and

WHEREAS, in response to the issuance of declarations of a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency by the Governor he has issued a series of Executive Orders setting for the law governing the conduct of the business of state and municipal government during the period of the emergency;

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 7S ("EO 7S"), requiring municipalities, by a vote of its legislative body, participate in a deferment or low interest rate program; and

WHEREAS, participation a deferment program is in the best interest of the Town of Salem

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Selectman of Salem as follows:

- 1) During the period of March 10, 2020, the date that Governor Lamont declared a public health and civil preparedness emergency, through and including July 1, 2020, the Town of Salem shall participate in a deferment program upon application and shall offer to eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents a deferment by ninety (90) days of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles from the time such Taxes first became due and payable.
- 2) Eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents are those that attest to or document significant economic impact by CO VID-19, and/ or those that document they are providing relief to those significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town shall follow guidance as issued by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management as to which taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents shall be considered eligible for the deferment program.
- 3) Documentation must be received by the Tax Office no later than July 1, 2020.
- 4) This resolution will exclude all escrow accounts due to the Town of Salem.

M/S/C: McKenney/Chmielewski to Approve the Tax Deferment program pursuant to Executive Order 7S

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

B. Cancel Approval of Low Interest Program pursuant to Executive Order 7S

(Discussion and Action)

This motion was originally approved at the April 7th Board of Selectman meeting. The Low Interest Loan program is being cancelled due to the variable costs of the programmer: they were very confident that the program would be working but there are a lot of bugs and it could end up being problematic for the Tax Office in the long run.

M/S/C: Lyden/Salas to Cancel the Approval of the Low Interest Loan Program that was approved on April 7th, 2020

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

3. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Lyden/McKenney, to adjourn the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

Meredith Eisenberg, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem