

**TOWN OF SALEM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

PRESENT

Kevin's Lyden
Edward Chmielewski, Jr.
David Kennedy
Ron LaBonte
Hugh McKenney

ABSENT

none

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Lyden called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE — *Led by Selectman Kennedy*

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Tuesday, October 1, 2019 Regular Meeting

M/S/C: LaBonte/McKenney, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 1, 2019, with the following amendment:

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M/S/C: Lyden/Chmielewski, to appoint Selectman Hugh McKenney *as the Town of Salem's Municipal Representative* to the TVCCA (Thames Valley Council for Community Action).

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

3. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS

First Selectman Lyden stated that the Town of Salem is very fortunate to have a number of its residents getting involved; he considers all of those who ran to serve the Town as winners. There are several opportunities for those who are interested in being involved, including the Friends of the Library, Lions Club, and volunteer appointments. Selectman McKenney added that, oftentimes, they are also seeking volunteers to fill a vacancy(ies) in which an elected member of a Board or Commission is not able to complete their term for a variety of reasons. Selectman Chmielewski added that the high voter turnout during the last four to five elections also reflects the growing involvement and interest of the townspeople in Town matters.

Selectman Kennedy, who opted not to run for re-election, has served the Town in numerous ways, and will be honored as an Unsung Hero this Sunday, was presented with a Plaque of Appreciation for his years of service. His service has included the Recreation Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission, Board of Selectmen, and, most recently, on the Bicentennial Committee. He is also a very active member of the Lions Club and volunteers to serve food

for the Mobile Food Truck. Selectman Chmielewski thanked Selectman Kennedy, who he considers his mentor, for his years of service and stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to learn and work with him over the years. Selectman Kennedy thanked his fellow Selectmen.

Selectman Chmielewski congratulated their newest Board Member, Terri Salas, who thanked the Board and, especially, Selectman Kennedy, who, like Selectman Chmielewski, she considers a mentor. She is very honored that the Town of Salem elected her to serve on the Board and is very excited. First Selectman Lyden stated that she will be a great asset to the Board. Selectman Chmielewski concurred and expressed his appreciation, adding that he is looking forward to serving on the Board with her. Selectman McKenney also extended his congratulations.

4. AGENDA:

A. Approve BOS Meeting Dates

**M/S/C: McKenney/LaBonte, to approve the Board of Selectmen Meeting Dates for 2020 as follows: January 7, February 4, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, October 6, November 4, December 1, and January 5. All meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Town Hall, with the exception of November, which will be held on the first Wednesday of the month due to Election Day.
Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

B. Tax Collector Refunds

**M/S/C: Kennedy/Chmielewski 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 \$4,124.59 (four thousand one hundred twenty-four dollars and fifty-nine cents) on the 6th day of November 2019.
Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.**

REPORTS:

A. FIRST SELECTMAN

First Selectman Lyden announced that Salem School will be hosting its annual Veterans Day Celebration on Monday, November 11. On the following day, Tuesday, November 12, at 5:00 p.m., Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz will be honoring the Vietnam and Korean War Veterans from the Towns of Salem and Bozrah in a ceremony to be held in Salem School's Multi-Purpose Room.

B. BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Committee continues to work behind the scenes and are now in the process of planning their final celebration at the Town's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 14. The Ceremony will also feature a new tree that has been planted on the Town Green; he thanked everyone who helped with the replacement of the tree.

Selectman Kennedy reported that a well-attended Time Capsule Burial Ceremony and Salem Library Cupola Restoration Display was held in October. The Capsule includes over 30 items from various groups and organizations as well as from the Salem schoolchildren. Selectman Chmielewski expressed his appreciation to Selectman Kennedy for, not only planning the event, but also coordinating and donating the Time Capsule. The engineering study for the raising of the Cupola atop the Old Library has been completed and the structural integrity of the building will be improved to, not only improve that of the building, but also to accommodate the weight of the Cupola. A town-wide celebration will be planned for the Spring of 2020. In addition, Bicentennial Committee Member Sue Bennett is organizing a Photography/Art Contest; the winners will be announced at the Annual Tree Lighting event in December.

C. BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)

Selectman McKenney reported that the BOE adjusted several line items due to the increase of students attending East Lyme High School, changes to individuals' health insurance, and a decrease in the number of special education students.

The students scored very well in the recent SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) Tests. The students scored higher than East Lyme students in the fields of math and English and much higher than the State average. Selectman Chmielewski added that they are blessed to have Principal Joan Phillips, who is the pulse of the school, is actively involved with and attends nearly every community event, and is a very proactive and well-respected principal. Selectman McKenney reported that the Vice Principal has left the school to pursue another opportunity.

At the last BOE meeting, Public Works Director Donald Bourdeau, Jr., reported that an estimate of \$135,000.00 for a new oil tank was received. The estimate is guaranteed until December 2019 and will increase by 5% thereafter. The current tank has reached the State's requirement limit for replacement. The School's insurance is estimated to increase by approximately \$10,000.00/year should they opt to maintain the current tank, which is still in working order.

The BOE also discussed their upcoming December 4 joint meeting with members of the Boards of Selectmen and Finance. A meeting agenda and minutes will be created and the meeting will be open to the public.

Selectman Lyden added that the Second Grade Annual Town Meeting was recently held. Five students were selected to serve on the Board and a meeting agenda was drafted. The Agenda included a discussion regarding having homework on weekends. Twenty-one children voted to not have homework on the weekends, 15 voted to have homework, and 4 abstained from voting. Following the meeting, the students were presented with a Good Citizen Award and Town pen and were sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Selectman McKenney thanked the Lions Club for hosting their Annual Vision Testing for Salem School students. Of the over 400 students who were tested, four were referred to see an optometrist.

D. BOARD OF FINANCE

First Selectman Lyden reported that the Auditors will be conducting their final review of the Town's FY2018/19 budget over the coming weeks and the Board of Finance will be reviewing the Capital requests at their December meeting.

E. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION – *no meeting; no report*

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)

Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Commissioners have been receiving very positive feedback as they continue to meet and speak with the local businesses. He thanked Selectman LaBonte and incoming Selectwoman and EDC Commissioners LaBonte and Salas for setting up an informational tent at the Town's recent Apple Festival event.

Incoming Selectwoman and EDC Member Salas reported that she created a collage of the advertisements included in the Commission's Businesses and Services Directory as part of their display. The EDC has been discussing the importance of not only developing more businesses, but also taking care of the Town's current businesses and creating and encouraging a more friendly environment.

G. LIBRARY

Selectman LaBonte reported that the Library's Acorn App has been updated and now includes a parent permission slip. The Library has been busy getting ready for the upcoming Used Book Sale. The security cameras in the Library have been installed.

H. MILITARY LIASION

As previously noted, Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Annual Veterans Day Celebration will be held at Salem School on Monday, November 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Gadbois Gym and, on Tuesday, November 12 at 5:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room, Lt. Governor Bysiewicz will be honoring Salem and Bozrah's Vietnam and Korean War Veterans.

I. UNSUNG HEROES

Selectman McKenney reported that Selectman LaBonte will be emceeding and David Bingham will be presenting the awards at the Unsung Heroes Awards Banquet on Sunday, November 10 at 1:00 p.m. at the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company. Eleven Unsung Heroes will be honored.

The item will be removed from future agendas.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Kennedy/LaBonte, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.