

**TOWN OF SALEM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 10, 2019 Special Meeting

M/S/C: McKenney/LaBonte, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2019, with the following amendment:

Page 2, 3rd Line:

He The First Selectman has requested the Town's Zoning Enforcement Officer...

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0.

3. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. A copy of a letter from Board of Education (BOE) Chairman Sean Reith requesting a Joint Committee Retreat between the Boards of Selectmen, Finance, and Education to discuss Salem's values and engage in an open dialogue.

The First Selectman will be discussing the BOE's request with the Board of Finance at their upcoming meeting. He is supportive of the retreat and proposed that a more informal meeting be held in which two members from each of the Boards are appointed to represent and report back to each of their respective Boards. He has spoken with Superintendent Joseph Onofrio who also favors the proposal. The Board Members concurred and agreed to appoint First Selectman Lyden and Selectmen McKenney to attend the meeting for the Board of Selectmen. Selectman McKenney added that the goal of the meeting is for the Boards to find a common ground allowing them to work together as a team while still representing the functions of each of their respective Boards.

- B. A copy of a letter from BOE Chairman Reith regarding the BOE's endorsement of the solar panel project at their February 4 meeting and recommending that the Board of Selectmen evaluate, review and approve the project as well as scheduling a meeting with the First

Selectman, Selectman McKenney, Public Works Director Donald Bourdeau, Jr., and BOE Chairman Reith.

First Selectman Lyden stated his strong support for solar, but reiterated his continuing concerns regarding the issues deriving from the laying down of solar panels on a flat roof, which historically experiences issues. Should any repairs become necessary, the solar panels would need to be de-installed to access the roof, increasing the cost of any repairs. He did request the possibility of installing angled, rather than flat, solar panels to resolve the accessibility issue, but to do so would be cost prohibitive. Any roof leaks could also result in air quality and health & safety issues. The replacement of the A/C Units and the 1996 roof, which covers one-third of the school and involves the moving of the large air handlers, is slated for next summer.

PUBLIC COMMENT – *none*

4. AGENDA:

A. No Parking/Tow Away Zone on Lake View Avenue (Discussion & Action)

First Selectman Lyden thanked the residents for their patience. The questionnaire regarding the proposed No Parking/Tow Away Zone was mailed and seven (7) responses have been received with the following results:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Support a No Parking/Tow Away Zone from June 15 to September 15 | 6 |
| Support a No Parking/Tow Away Zone from June 15 to September 15 on weekends | 0 |
| <u>Do not support a No Parking/Tow Away Zone</u> | <u>1</u> |
| TOTAL | 7 |

Parking on the road during the designated period will result in a parking ticket and the associated towing/storage fees. He also reported that the situation at the Park has improved since the Fourth of July. A letter addressed to the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Commissioner Katie Dykes regarding the severe overcrowding during the summer months at Gardner Lake State Park was mailed; he has spoken with State Senator Paul Formica, who also spoke with CT DEEP; additional staffing has been assigned to the Lake; he is continuing to encourage the Gardner Lake Authority (GLA) to also pressure the CT DEEP, and; State Representative Holly Cheeseman will be attending this week's GLA Regular Meeting. The First Selectman corrected his previous statement that he is the Local Traffic Authority and stated that the Board of Selectmen is the Local Traffic Authority for the Town. As such, the following motion was proposed and made:

M/S/C: Chmielewski/LaBonte, hereby authorizes the Board of Selectmen, as the local traffic authority of Salem, Connecticut, to institute a No Parking/Tow Away Zone for Lake View Avenue between the dates of June 15th to September 15th. The specific placement of the signs and areas of the No Parking/Tow Away Zone to be reviewed and implemented by the First Selectman. Discussion: Selectman Chmielewski commended the First Selectman's handling of last month's meeting; the residents, who were very concerned appeared to depart from the

meeting relatively satisfied with the outcome and plans of action. He has spoken with approximately two dozen residents, who provided positive comments regarding the changes that have been instituted thus far, including the additional officials who were monitoring the parking lot over the weekend(s). Selectman McKenney expressed his support of the motion and proposed the possibility of contacting the State to place similar controls on Route 354. Selectman Kennedy also expressed his support for the motion. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

B. IWCC Appointments

First Selectman Lyden reported that he is waiting to receive confirmation from the two individuals who have expressed their interest in serving on the Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission. The Commission currently has one full and one alternate member openings.

C. Recreation Commission Appointments

First Selectman Lyden reported that two individuals have expressed an interest in serving on the Recreation Commission and are planning to attend this month's meeting to further gauge their interest. The Commission currently has two vacancies.

D. Tax Collector Refunds

M/S/C: McKenney/LaBonte 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 \$1,012.56 (one thousand twelve dollars and fifty-six cents) on the 6th day of August 2019. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

6. REPORTS:

A. FIRST SELECTMAN

With regards to the activities at Gardner Lake State Park, First Selectman Lyden reported that the resident who was engaging in unpermitted parking activities on his property has spoken with the Zoning Enforcement Officer and pledged to cease the activity; he has since posted No Parking signs on his property. In addition, Seasonal Conservation Officers and EnConn Police have been monitoring the entrance to the parking lot, turning visitors away once the parking lot has reached its capacity. The State Troopers have also been actively monitoring the activity around the Lake and ticketing vehicles parking along Route 354.

Due to the recent extreme heat, the Library and Town Hall served as the Cooling Center for residents on Friday, July 19 and Saturday, July 20. Both buildings are air-conditioned with restrooms and chilled drinking water.

First Selectman Lyden recently met and discussed a variety of topics with Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and other municipal leaders. Among the topics discussed were unfunded mandates, MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement), costs being passed on to small towns, regional opportunities, and the honoring of the Korean and Vietnam War Veterans. Lt. Governor Bysiewicz expressed her respect for the smaller municipalities who are doing a good job of

running themselves and would like to make towns more business friendly. She is open to receiving any comments or concerns.

B. BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Selectman Chmielewski reported that the Committee is preparing for their next big event – the Salem Bicentennial Heritage Day event, which will be held on Saturday, September 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. along the Town’s historical district. A new banner will be produced and an article promoting the event will be placed in the next issue of *Our Town Salem*. The event will be filled with music, entertainment, arts, crafts, food and drinks. The Time Capsule and Cupola will also be displayed. Selectman Kennedy reported that items are continuing to be submitted for the Time Capsule; he encouraged everyone to attend the event and view the Capsule and its contents. While the Capsule was originally planned to be buried in the Town Green, it might be stored in front of the Library where it would be more visible.

C. BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)

Selectman McKenney reported that, as of mid-July, the inspection of the mold issues from last Fall have been conducted and no issues have been found. Also as of mid-July, approximately 398 pre-k to eighth grade students have enrolled at Salem School. The BOE discussed the issues and ongoing repairs to the four/five-year old roof and engaged in a very positive discussion regarding the FY2019/20 school budget. BOE Chairman Reith expressed his wish to ensure the fiscal responsibility of the Board, which led to their discussion and subsequent approval of the solar panel project. The BOE is also considering extending the Pay-for-Play program to include all afterschool and extra-curricular activities to help lessen the impact. In response to Selectman Chmielewski regarding a contingency fund for those families in need, Selectman McKenney stated that, at present, there is no existing line item to help those in need. First Selectman Lyden added that he is aware of individuals who would be willing to help those in need.

D. BOARD OF FINANCE

First Selectman Lyden reported that the Board of Finance is scheduled to meet this Thursday, when he will be requesting the final FY2018/19 year-end transfers. He recently signed the Auditor Agreement for the upcoming audit. After speaking with the Auditor, Town CPA and O’Connor Davies, the First Selectman is currently working on a proposed Fund Balance Policy to be reviewed, discussed, adopted, and used as a guideline by the Board of Finance.

E. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION – no report

F. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)

Selectman Chmielewski expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Paul Robillard, who has tremendously helped generate the Salem 2019/2020 Business and Service Directory, which is scheduled for delivery this week. Should any residents not receive their Directory, they are asked to contact the Post Office. Extra copies will be available at the Town Hall. All of the past and present EDC Members who help gather the information and create the booklet are acknowledged in the booklet. First Selectman Lyden added that the EDC actively sold

advertisements for the booklet to help offset the production/printing costs. Commissioner Robillard also helped generate a four-fold brochure which will be printed and made available at all of the area rest stops. The brochure was produced at the request of CCOG (CT Council of Governments) via the First Selectman and highlights the Town's nature preserves and local businesses and services.

G. LIBRARY

Selectman LaBonte reported that the Summer Reading Program is keeping the Library very busy. The Library website is in the process of being re-created. The Friends of Salem Library is busy collecting and sorting books on a daily basis for the upcoming Used Book Sale. State Representative Cheeseman attended their last meeting to present Friends of the Library President Carl Narwocki with a Certificate of Citation from the Legislature for his dedication and service to the Library.

As part of the Bicentennial Celebration, Selectmen Kennedy and Chmielewski added that a "Salem's Got Talent!" Show will be held this Saturday, August 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Salem Free Public Library.

H. MILITARY LIASION

As previously reported, Selectman Chmielewski reported that Lt. Governor Bysiewicz is seeking the Korean and Vietnam War Veterans and Service Members in the area. While the Town Clerk and Town Assessor are in the process of generating a list of veterans, he also requested that any such members, contact the Town Hall. He invited all veterans and former military personnel to download the CT Department of Veterans Affairs Mobile Application (CTVeterans Mobile App) which will allow users with quick access to confidential crisis assistance via telephone, chat, or text as well as information regarding veterans benefits and services, healthcare and hospitals, housing, business and jobs, etc.

I. UNSUNG HEROES

Selectman McKenney reported that the Unsung Heroes Committee held a long meeting during which 12 individuals were selected among the numerous nominees. The Committee will now begin preparing for the Awards Ceremony. Selectman Chmielewski was honored to notify his nominee, Selectman Kennedy, who was congratulated for being selected.

Selectman LaBonte added that the Committee spent over four hours reviewing and selecting the 12 nominees. He commended the Committee's efforts in promoting the program, planning, and for their hard work. He looks forward to a successful Awards Ceremony.

7. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: LaBonte/Chmielewski, to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.