

**TOWN OF SALEM
SPECIAL HYBRID TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.
SALEM TOWN HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 1 & VIA ZOOM**

Per State of Connecticut, Governor Lamont Executive Order Number 9H, the Town of Salem Special Town Meeting on February 2, 2021 will be following the hybrid meeting requirements. Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/98920797325?pwd=S0lUUDJKd0JicEcybnE4czkzU0dTQT09>

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1. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Kevin Lyden called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ELECTION OF MODERATOR

M/S/C: Ed Chmielewski/Hugh McKenney, to elect First Selectman Kevin Lyden as the Moderator for the Special Hybrid Town Meeting. Discussion: None. Voice vote, all in favor.

ROLL CALL

The participants of the meeting were as follows:

In-Person Attendees:

Ed Chmielewski

Hugh McKenney

Agnes Miyuki

Kevin Lyden

Virtual Attendees:

David Bingham

Janet Griggs

Linda Schroeder

Donald Bourdeau, Jr.

Tony Griggs

Alfreda Shapere

Elbert Burr

Leslie Hotary

Chip Weston

Leeland Cole-Chu

David Kennedy

Tiffany Cunningham

Kathleen Lyden

First Selectman Lyden explained that the School's 28/29-year old underground oil tank must be removed prior to reaching 30-years of age, per CT DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) requirements. Costs are incurred for the regular testing of the

tank. Due to its age, it is currently insured with a \$100,000.00 deductible and is becoming increasingly difficult to insure. The goal is to de-install the underground tank and replace it with an above-ground tank which will not need to be insured and will have less liability to the town. Approximately 51% of the eligible cost of the tank will be reimbursed by the State. The Board of Finance has already allocated \$40,000.00 for the project in the town's Capital Plan. A vote supporting the motion would allow the project to be approved by the State within the next 60 days, allowing the tank to be removed this summer. Should the town continue to include the project in the town's Capital Plan and wait until the budget is finalized, the project would not be able to proceed until the following year. The underground tank at the Salem Free Public Library was recently de-installed and replaced with a propane tank. The underground tank located at Salem Town Hall, servicing the School Buses and Emergency Service and Public Works vehicles, will also be removed and replaced with an above-ground tank(s) in the near future.

2. CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments can be delivered in person, in writing, or e-mailed to Selectmen
PublicComment@salemct.gov

David Kennedy, Round Hill Road, felt that the removal/replacement of the oil tank made perfect financial sense and was surprised that the tanks, which are on borrowed time, have lasted so long.

Lee Cole-Chu, Hartford Road, agreed with Mr. Kennedy, adding that the removal/replacement of the oil tank also makes perfect legal sense. Having dealt with many pollution issues in his practice, he stated that a small leak could lead to a huge problem very quickly. He felt that it was a very sensible proposal.

Tony and Janet Griggs, New London Road, voiced their support for the motion.

Elbert Burr, Emerald Glen Lane, also voiced his support for the motion to remove/replace the tank and expressed his concerns should there be any indication of leakage from the existing tank, which is located close to the neighboring property. In response, First Selectman Lyden stated that the existing tank is double-walled and is monitored regularly; there have been no signs of any leakage to date. Once the tank is removed, the soil is tested, as required, to ensure that there have been no leaks.

3. AGENDA

- a. To consider and vote on a resolution pursuant to Salem Town Charter Section 10.09, to approve the supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$115,000.00) from the Unassigned Fund Balance for the replacement of an underground heating oil storage tank with an above-ground heating oil storage tank at the Salem School.

M/S/C: David Kennedy/Leeland Cole-Chu, to consider and vote on a resolution pursuant to Salem Town Charter Section 10.09, to approve the supplemental appropriation of One Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$115,000.00) from the Unassigned Fund Balance for the replacement of an underground heating oil storage tank with an above ground heating oil storage tank at the Salem School. Discussion: First Selectman Lyden. Roll Call vote, 17-0, all in favor. Voting in Favor: Donald Bourdeau, Jr., David Bingham, Elbert Burr, Ed Chmielewski, Leeland Cole-Chu, Tiffany Cunningham, Janet Griggs, Tony Griggs, Leslie Hotary, David Kennedy, Kathleen Lyden, Kevin Lyden, Hugh McKenney, Agnes Miyuki, Linda Schroeder, Alfreda Shapere, Chip Weston. Voting in Opposition: None.

4. ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C: Elbert Burr/Leeland Cole-Chu, to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m. Voice vote, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem