

**MINUTES OF THE SALISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2018 – 7:00 PM
SALISBURY TOWN HALL, 5 BEACH ROAD
COLCHESTER ROOM**

PRESENT: Selectmen Chuck Takesian Chairman; Henry Richenburg, Freeman J. Condon,
and Ronalee Ray-Parrott
ABSENT: Selectman McDonald
ALSO PRESENT: Neil J. Harrington, Town Manager and Janet Flannery, Secretary

I. Call to Order/Salute to the Flag

Chairman Takesian called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Room, Salisbury Town Hall. He then announced, per the Open Meeting Law, that this meeting is being recorded and broadcast live.

**II. Acceptance of Minutes
Minutes of Feb. 12, 2018**

Motion by Selectman Richenburg, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of February 12, 2018 as written.

III. Old Business

Class III License – Petroleum & Auto Repairs -157 Bridge Rd.

The applicant was present, as requested. Chairman Takesian explained that the applicant was asked to come before the Board because of the cars being parked outside of the repair facility. The applicant pointed out that his license is restricted because of the marsh, but said that all vehicles have since been moved and are now behind the building. Selectman Ray-Parrott verified that the information was correct. Before a vote was taken, Selectman Condon wanted it made clear that three cars ready for sale can be outside and cars to be worked on must be on the back side of the building and not visible from the street. The applicant was in agreement with that.

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to approve the renewal of the Class III License for Petroleum & Auto Repair at 157 Bridge Rd.

IV. New Business

a. License Renewals:

Motion by Selectman Richenburg, Second by Selectman Condon; unanimously voted to renew a **General** license, with the same conditions/restrictions that may have been on the original license and all subsequent renewals for: Web Wellness Muscular therapy – 6 Merrill St.

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; voted to renew a **General** license, with the same conditions/restrictions that may have been on the original license and all subsequent renewals for: The Pasture at Pettengill Farm – 15 Robert Rd. VOTE: 3 yeas – Selectman Richenburg abstained. Motion carried.

b. New Licenses

Motion by Selectman Richenburg, Second by Selectman Ry-Parrott; voted to approve a **General** license to Wolf Hill Landscaping & Supply, Inc. – 88-86 Elm St. (formerly Beach Plum Farms) VOTE: 3 – yeas; Selectman Condon abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Selectman Richenburg, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to approve a **Common Victualer** license to Mali's Thaizap – 50 Elm St., Unit 1 (new owner - formerly Mali Thai)

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c. License Amendments - none

d. Committee Appointments: Harbor Commission – 1 opening for 2 years, 1 for 1 year and 1 Alternate: 1 applicant: Mark St. Jean

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to appoint Mark St. Jean to serve on the Harbor Commission for a 2-year term expiring June, 30, 2020.

e. Update/Presentations: Assessor/Town Clerk

Cheryl Gorniewicz, Chief Assessor, reported:

- Motor vehicle commitments were sent out on January 29th and are due March 9th. 9,141 bills went out and if not paid on time a demand is then sent out with interest plus a \$20.00 late fee. She noted that even if someone has given their car away or junked it they are still responsible for excise taxes due up to the time of the sale/disposal.
- Personal exemption forms for seniors, disabled veterans and the blind were sent out and are due by March 31st. If anyone new wants to apply if they were over 70 as of July 1, 2017, they are urged to call to see if they qualify.
- Forms sent to business owners reporting on their personal property, equipment and fixtures are due back March 1st. If not returned the owner of the business can lose his/her statutory rights to apply for any appeals or abatements.
- The Town applied last week for an IT Grant for \$85,000 to be used for the fiber network and back-up server, as well as another \$100,000 grant for cameras and back-up generators for the Town Hall and Library.
- Selectman Richenburg thanked Ms. Gorniewicz again for all the work she did on the State-owned land issue and asked if she could explain again what had happened. She pointed out that State-owned land (SOL) isn't taxable, but that the State annually makes a payment in lieu of taxes to several communities in which State-owned land is located, based upon a formula determined by the Dept of Revenue. The previous value of SOL in Salisbury was about \$27 million, but in its latest valuation the State devalued our SOL from \$27M down to \$5M. the Town believed that, based upon the valuation of SOL in similar communities, Salisbury's valuation should have been higher than \$27M, not lower. Thus, the Town contested its SOL valuation by filing with the State Appellate Tax Board. Working with Town Counsel, Ms. Gorniewicz was able to reach a settlement with the DOR on the value of SOL in Salisbury in the amount of \$34M. this will result in the Town seeing an increase, rather than a decrease, in its annual SOL revenue on the Cherry Sheet. Selectman Condon agreed with Selectman Richenburg that Ms. Gorniewicz's efforts in this matter were exemplary. He complimented her for her hard work and said he knows it took a considerable amount of time and effort, but paid off in a large way for the Town.
- Chairman Takesian spoke about the possibility of an override because of the Triton School budget and asked Ms. Gorniewicz if she had any idea how homeowners would be impacted. She said the average price of a single-family home is \$370,000. If the Town taxes and spends to the maximum allowing levy limit in FY19, and if there is an override placed on the ballot for the full amount of the \$1.1 million increase for Salisbury being requested by Triton, it would mean an additional \$230.00 in taxes for the average single-family homeowner in town.

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Town Clerk Mindy Morrison

- Announced that the 2018 early census has been mailed out and she urged everyone to complete and return the census as soon as possible; dog licensing information was also included.
- She is working on the 2020 Federal census with Planning and the Assessors to get the best count in Salisbury because this affects our funding in several areas.
- The new voting machines that were approved at Town Meeting have been received.
- The date for the State Primary election is Sept. 4th, which is the day after Labor Day, but the Attorney General is working on getting the date changed.
- The annual Town Election is May 8 from 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Two people have taken out papers for Selectmen and one for the School Committee. The last day to take out papers is March 15 by 5:00 PM, and the return deadline is March 20. The last day to register to vote is April 18. Town Meeting is May 14. The Warrant closes at 1:00 PM on April 14 and must be posted by Friday, April 27.

f. Vote to Approve Cable Television Renewal License for Comcast

Mr. Harrington had prepared a summary of the license renewal and went over it with the Board.

- The contract is 70 pages and the vast majority of it is “boiler plate.”
- The new contract is for 10 years, beginning on January 1, 2018. Comcast has agreed to pay the Town \$250,000 over the ten-year period for capital improvement, making payments of \$25,000 per year with no interest. This will be adequate for SCTV to build a new studio and meet its equipment needs for the next ten years.
- Comcast will pay the Town 5% of the gross revenue, which is the maximum allowed; they have been paying 4%. This funding goes to fund the SCTV operating budget.
- Comcast will decommission the I-Net as of June 30, 2018, which will eliminate the cost of maintaining it and will pay the Town a \$7,500 decommissioning fee.
- The quality and reliability of the transmission to the hum in Amesbury is deteriorating and Comcast will repair this.
- SCTV will retain two separate channels to broadcast public meetings and all community-related local programming.

Mr. Harrington recommended that the Board renew the new License.

Motion by Selectman Richenburg, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to approve the renewal License for Comcast, as presented.

Motion by Selectman Richenburg, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to approve the separate Agreement for the I-Net to be decommissioned.

V. Comments by Visitors

A resident from Railroad Avenue asked when his street and sidewalks were going to be re-done. He had spoken with former DPW Director Don Levesque, who said he was going to take care of it, but to date nothing has happened. Mr. Harrington said he will speak with Mr. Levesque to see whether he had the requested work scheduled and will also speak with our new DPW Director to see when the Town might be able to do this work.

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VI. Sewer/Water

VII. Correspondence

VIII. Hearings

7:30 PM – National Grid Pole Installation on Baker Road (Revised Plan)

Motion by Selectman Richenburg, Second by Selectman Condon; unanimously voted to open the Hearing at 7:32 PM. This was a hearing on a revised plan for a new pole location, however there was a mix-up with the paperwork and Mr. Ientile didn't get the recommendations of the DPW Director.

Motion by Selectman Richenburg, Second by Selectman Condon; unanimously voted to table the matter until the next meeting, which is scheduled for March 5, 2018.

IX. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Harrington gave a brief overview of his written report, a copy of which is available in the Selectmen's office.

X. Selectmen's Report

a. Ratification of Signing of Weekly Warrants:

Motion by Selectman Richenburg, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to ratify the signing of the following weekly warrants: W18-127 through W18-133.

b. Subcommittee Reports

Lafayette Corridor Sewer Extension: Mr. Richenburg reported that the Committee has been working with the Town's engineers he hoped to bring something to the Board in late March or early April – it is on the "front burner".

XI. Executive Session - none

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Selectman Richenburg, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:10 PM.

Documents provided at the meeting and on file in the Selectmen's Office:

Minutes of Feb. 12, 2018

Copies of licenses as listed

National Grid Info

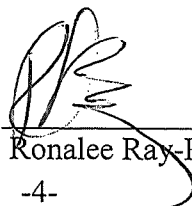
Copy of Cable TV Renewal License

Town Manager's Report

Respectfully submitted:

Janet E. Flannery, Secretary

Approved: _____


Ronalee Ray-Parrott, Clerk

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Selectmen

From: Neil J. Harrington, Town Manager



Date: February 26, 2018

Re: February 26th Report to the Board

Outlined below is a summary of activities over the past two weeks. Please let me know if you have questions about any of these items.

1) Comcast Contract Negotiations

Considerable time was spent over the past two weeks attempting to finalize a license renewal agreement with Comcast. The proposed new license is before the Board tonight for a vote.

2) Home Rule Bill Becomes Law

The Town's Home Rule bill to repeal the 1958 law that created a separate liquor License Commission passed both houses of the Legislature and was recently signed into law by Gov. Baker. This means that the Board of Selectmen is now the liquor licensing authority in town. Per a request from the Chairman of the Board, I have reached out to the State's Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABCC) to set up a workshop for the BOS and a representative of the ABCC, so that the selectmen can be briefed on their duties and responsibilities as liquor commissioners. One of the first actions the Board must take is to act on the renewal of seasonal liquor licenses in town, which begin on April 1. This topic will be discussed at the workshop, and the Board will need to take action at its meeting of March 26.

3) Triton FY19 Budget

In an attempt to prepare for any possible scenario, we are looking at the potential impacts of an override to support the FY19 Triton budget. Although it is too early to tell whether an override will be necessary, or advisable, Salisbury must be prepared to act prudently should the other two member communities vote to support the FY19 Triton budget at their respective town meetings. If the proposed Triton budget is not reduced, and if Rowley and Newbury vote to support it, we will be obligated to do the same. However, funding the entire proposed increase in our FY19 budget will likely force dramatic cuts in town services. I will be reaching out to the Triton Superintendent this week to discuss the drastic impact that the FY19 Triton budget, as supported by the School Committee, will likely have on the Town's ability to continue to offer quality municipal services to our residents.

