

**MINUTES OF THE SALISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019 – 7:00 PM  
SALISBURY TOWN HALL, 5 BEACH ROAD  
COLCHESTER ROOM**

**PRESENT:** Selectmen, Freeman J. Condon, Chairman; Donna Abdulla, Chuck Takesian, Wilma McDonald, and Ronalee Ray-Parrott

**ALSO PRESENT:** Neil J. Harrington, Town Manager, and Janet Flannery, Secretary

**I. Call to Order/Salute to the Flag**

Chairman Condon 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 for Sept. 9, 2019 and Sept. 23, 2019**

Motion by Selectman McDonald, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of Sept. 9, 2019 and Sept. 23, 2019 as written

**III. Public Comment - none**

**IV. Old Business - none**

**V. New Business**

**a. License Renewals - none**

**b. New Licenses – no applications received**

**c. License Amendments - none**

**d. Liquor License Renewals - none**

**e. New Liquor Licenses - none**

**f. Committee Appointments**

**Housing Authority: 1 opening to expire 6/30/22 – 1 applicant: Linda Dale Brown**

Motion by Selectman Ray-Parrott, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to appoint Linda Dale Brown to the Housing Authority for a term to expire on 6/30/22.

**Agricultural Commission: 1 opening to expire 6/30/22 – 1 applicant: Fred Bishop (incumbent)**

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to re-appoint Fred Bishop to the Agricultural Commission for a 3-year term to expire on 6/30/22.

**g. Update/Presentations: Chief Assessor/DPW Director**

Ms. Gorniewicz, Chief Assessor, reported:

- She has been working independently on the re-valuation of the Town's property values and is hoping to get her reporting into the State by the first of November for certification.
- She will be looking, as in the past, to have the Tax Classification Hearing in mid-December.
- The Town received a State IT grant in FY18 to make several improvements in our technical capabilities, including extending fiber optic service to the beach center and former Historical

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Society property Minister's Corner. The Town is now eligible for another grant in FY20, and she has requested the department heads to give her a list of their priorities.

- She submitted a warrant article to the Town Manager re: a parcel of land on Libby Ave.
- Re: the Lafayette Road sewer project -- she's been on the committee for quite some time and is now at the point of giving a list of the properties involved to the Tax Collector so that any property owners in the project area who are looking for a Municipal Lien Certificate can be made aware that the project will be starting soon and, upon completion, the owners, or anyone who buys their property, will be assessed a betterment.
- She and the Planning Director met with residents of Heritage Park to help them with a federal grant application for assistance with the costs of the Lafayette Road sewer project.
- She is working with the Town Manager and DPW Director on a potential location for the new sewer pump station that will be part of the sewer project.
- The Town received new software from the RMV which will be available in mid-November.

DPW Director Lisa DeMeo reported:

- She has sent in a request for new security cameras for Partridge Brook Park.
- The DPW is working on the street paving schedule.
- People have been requesting tree removal and she has to determine if the trees are on Town-owned or private property.
- The Liberty Street project is moving forward; it has to go before ConComm for approval.
- Salisbury Days – everything went wonderfully; no complaints were received throughout the whole event.
- A resident sticker program has been started for recycling. Starting November 1, the recycling center will not be open at night until next spring.
- The parking kiosks at the beach are working out well.
- The comfort station will be closing for the winter October 15<sup>th</sup> and the picnic tables, benches etc. will be removed and stored for the winter months.
- The engineering firm hired by the Town is working on the design to replace the water main on Bridge Road. Once the merger with the Ring's Island Water District is complete, the Town can proceed with this project.
- The water mains on Garfield, Taft and Adams Streets will be replaced this Fall before the final phase of the Presidents' Streets project starts next spring. A temporary water main will be put in during construction.
- She is working with Weston & Sampson on the ongoing project to extend the outfall and make other improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- The annual Stormwater Report has been completed and sent into the State.
- There are two ongoing Rail Trail projects: the small one in Amesbury will connect to the Ghost Trail and the larger one, the Border-to-Boston Trail, is more complex but moving forward.
- In closing, Ms. DeMeo wanted to publicly thank her DPW workers for the outstanding job they did during Salisbury Days.

**h. Vote to Approve Contract with NEPA Local #15 (Police Patrolmen), FY2020-FY2022**

Mr. Harrington had provided a copy of the proposed 3-year contract to the Board and he said it largely mirrors the Senior Police Officers contract that was approved at the last meeting.

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Motion by Selectman McDonald, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to approve the contract with NEPA Local 15 (Police Patrolmen), FY2020-FY2022.

**i. Discussion/Vote re: Proposed Changes to Triton School District Regional Agreement**

Chairman Condon said there is a meeting of the Triton District Communications Committee (DCC) on Oct. 10 on the proposed changes to the Triton School District Regional Agreement and the School Committee is requesting that each community relay its comments on the proposed changes.

Selectman Ray-Parrott said most of the proposed changes update procedures and clarify certain items. She said that none of the proposed change is controversial and she is in agreement with all the them.

Motion by Selectman Ray-Parrott, Second by Selectman McDonald; unanimously voted to approve the proposed amendments to the Regional Agreement as presented.

**j. Vote re: Appointing Municipal Representative to Triton Personnel and Negotiations Sub-Committee**

Chairman Condon said that in the past the Town Manager has assumed this role and he is willing to continue in this capacity, which Chairman Condon supports. Selectman Ray-Parrott said that the feedback she has received is that the Superintendent and the School Committee Chairperson indicated that Mr. Harrington's input has been very beneficial to them during contract negotiations and she supports him continuing being the representative.

Motion by Selectman Ray-Parrott, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to approve the proposal to appoint Mr. Harrington as the Municipal Representative to the Triton Personnel and Negotiations Sub-Committee and to have Chairman Condon attend the DCC meeting and vote to support Mr. Harrington for this position.

**k. Vote Intention to Lay out Driftway as a Public Way**

Mr. Harrington explained that the Town intends to apply to the State for a Complete Streets grant to upgrade and improve Driftway, and it would be helpful to acquire an easement over the entire street. He likened this situation to the same position that the Selectmen took in laying out Ocean Front South as a public way and then taking an easement over the entirety of the street in order to construct the boardwalk with a State grant.

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted that the Board of Selectmen vote its intention to lay out Driftway as a town way, as shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Lend in Salisbury, MA showing Street Acceptance at Driftway," dated October 4, 2019, prepared by Millennium Engineering, Inc., and that the Board of Selectmen forward the layout petition and plan to the Planning Board for its comments and recommendations pursuant to G.L.c.41, §§81G and 81I.

**VI. Sewer/Water**

**VII. Correspondence**

A letter was received from Xfinity re: channel updates.

**VIII. Hearings - none**

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**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 Takesian, Second by Selectman McDonald; unanimously voted to ratify the signing of the following weekly warrants: W20-38 through W20-40 and W20-40S, W20-41 through W20-42.

Selectman Ray-Parrott commented on Salisbury Days being so very successful. She reported that the Committee had met earlier and evaluated what they want to do differently, with an eye toward having this be a yearly event and perhaps holding it a week earlier. She gave special thanks to Lisa Pearson and Bart McDonough since a lot of the work fell on the Planning Department and also to the DPW workers. She also announced that there are two openings on the Affordable Housing Trust and encouraged anyone interested to apply.

Selectmen McDonald, and Abdulla both commented on the success of Salisbury Days, saying it was a good weekend and everybody seemed to have fun. Selectmen Takesian agreed and also thanked the DPW workers again.

Chairman Condon reported that he attended a recent meeting of the newly-formed Merrimack River Commission, along with the Town Manager. He noted that the Commission is a regional effort to help address the problem of sewer discharge into the river, and that a solution to this serious issue would take a great deal of time and funding to resolve. He said the meeting was very encouraging and he came away with a positive and stronger feeling that things were going in the right direction. He also thanked everyone that was involved with Salisbury Days for all their hard work.

**XI. Executive Session - none**

**XII. Adjournment**

Motion by Selectman McDonald, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:28 PM.

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

Minutes of Sept. 9, 2019 and Sept. 23, 2019

Appointment Letters of Interest

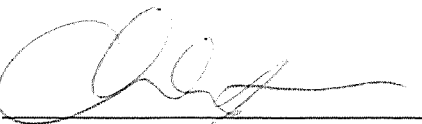
Proposed Changes to the Triton School District Regional Agreement

Town Manager's Report

Respectfully submitted:


Janet E. Flannery, Secretary

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Chuck Takesian, Clerk

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Selectmen

From: Neil J. Harrington, Town Manager 

Date: October 7, 2019

Re: October 7<sup>th</sup> Report to the Board

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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) Fall Town Meeting

A great deal of my time recently has been taken up with drafting the warrant for the Annual Fall Town Meeting, which will be held on Oct. 28. The current draft of the warrant contains 21 articles and has been sent to Town Counsel for review. The deadline for posting the warrant is Friday, Oct. 11.

2) Warrant Advisory Committee

The Committee will hold its first fall meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 7:00 PM at Town Hall. In addition to going over the draft warrant, the Committee will review the FY2019 end-of-year report from Finance Director Karen Snow. At the meeting, the Committee also will most likely establish a date for a public hearing on the warrant articles, which must be held after the warrant is posted.

3) Electricity Aggregation Report

I am pleased to present to you this evening the most recently quarterly report on the Town's electricity aggregation program, which includes consumption through the end of June 2019. As you can see in the report, savings from the National Grid Basic Service rate dropped during this past quarter, as the National Grid rate was close to the 11.065¢/Kwh rate that applies to all customers in the aggregation program. Nevertheless, ratepayers in town have saved over \$258,000 in electricity costs in the first two billing quarters of our participation in the program.

Additionally, National Grid recently filed its rates for Basic Service for November 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020, with the State Dept. of Telecommunications and Energy. For residential customers, the new proposed rate is 13.982¢/Kwh. With such a large differential between the proposed National Grid rates and the Town's 11.065¢ rate, I urge anyone who is not in the Town's program to contact Colonial Power Group, the Town's consultant, and sign up. I will be putting the information presented here this evening on the Town's website, along with contact info for Colonial Power Group, so that residents can take advantage of these savings.

#### 4) Land Swap Proposal

The Town received one response to the RFP we issued seeking proposals to swap the former police station and current comfort station site in return for a better location upon which we hope to be able to construct a new visitors center and public restroom facility closer to Salisbury Beach in the near future. The proposal that we received is being reviewed and will be shared with the Selectmen for their evaluation very soon, as the Board has been authorized by Town Meeting to complete such a swap upon whatever terms it deems to be in the Town's best interest. We also issued an RFP for an architect to design the new visitors center, and we are hopeful that we will be able to have a design and cost estimate prepared over the winter, so that we can move forward with a plan to fund this much-needed facility at the next Annual Town Meeting in the spring of 2020.

#### 5) Merrimack River District Commission

On October 30, I attended the second meeting of the newly-created Merrimack River District Commission. This is a regional initiative started by our local legislators and the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission to advocate for short- and long-term solutions to resolving the issue of sewage discharges into the river. In the short-term, the Commission hopes to secure passage of legislation requiring that local communities be notified when combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and other sewage discharges occur in the river (there is currently no requirement). The Commission is also looking to establish a "flagging" system so that the public can access an "app" that will notify potential users of the river whether it is safe to do so.

In the long run, the Commission hopes to work with the federal legislative delegations of both Mass. and New Hampshire to secure the necessary federal funding to solve the CSO problem. This will be an expensive and long-term undertaking, but the Merrimack River plays a crucial part in the economic and recreational life of the entire region, and we are committed to working toward a solution to the sewage discharge that is polluting this essential resource for the entire Merrimack Valley.

In conjunction with this effort, the Town received an email from the Mass. Rivers Alliance, which I forwarded to members of the Board, seeking to have local officials sign on electronically in support of the legislation requiring local notification of sewage contamination of rivers throughout the State. Please take a minute to go online and support this effort.