

**MINUTES OF THE SALISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021 – 7:00 PM
SALISBURY TOWN HALL, 5 BEACH ROAD
COLCHESTER ROOM**

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

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

I. Call to Order/Salute to the Flag

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

II. Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of April 12, 2021

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of April 12, 2021 as written.

III. Public Comment - none

IV. Old Business - none

V. New Business

a. License Renewals:

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman McDonald; unanimously voted to renew a **Common Victualer** license, with the same conditions/restrictions that may have been on the original license and all subsequent renewals, for Groundswell Surf Café – 25 Broadway

b. New Licenses

Parking Lot license – Flying Horses Parking Lot at Joe's Playland – 1 Broadway

Chairman Abdulla recused herself and stepped out of the meeting room.

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; voted to approve a **Parking Lot** license for Flying Horses Parking Lot at Joe's Playland – 2 Broadway

VOTE: 4 yeas – Chairman Abdulla absent. Motion carried

Chairman Abdulla returned to the meeting room.

c. License Amendments - none

d. Liquor License Renewals - none

e. New Liquor Licenses - none

f. Committee Appointments - none

g. Update/Presentations: BOH Director/Town Clerk

Jack Morris, Health Director, reported that this has been a very busy and active year, mainly due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. To date 20,000 people have been vaccinated by the regional collaborative, and hopefully the last clinic will be held June 19th. Recent clinics have been jointly administered between Salisbury, Amesbury, and West Newbury and have been held at Amesbury High

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School. Mr. Morris stated that he has been working virtually 7 days a week since March of 2020, but he is starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel. Other updates:

- The Health Department is up to date with food establishment inspections and will be starting soon with motel inspections.
- There are seven hearings scheduled with the Housing Court.
- All regulations are being revised and a local Title V inspection list is being established.
- The Health Dept. is working with the Town Manager's office to cross-reference the Town's listing of Certificates of Habitability with the DOR list of those property owners who are complying with the State's new short-term rental tax. There are over 1000 properties with Certificates of Habitability, but there are only about 130 property owners who have signed up to pay the short-term rental tax. The Town Manager will be sending a letter to hundreds of property owners informing them that their Certificates of Habitability will not be renewed if they are not in compliance with the short-term rental law.

Selectman Condon stated that he feels Mr. Morris has one of the toughest jobs in town and thanked him for all he has done and commended him on how well his Department is run. Chairman Abdulla thanked Mr. Morris for all the work he has done working with the regional collaborative.

Mindy Morrison, Town Clerk, reported the following:

- The annual Town census was sent out to 4300 households and 3100 returned them. She said people may have confused it with the Federal census and encouraged anyone who has not returned the town census to do so as soon as possible.
- Dog license renewals were sent out with the census and requested that people with a dog please respond as soon as possible because they were due April 1st. This can be done on-line, by mail or directly to her office.
- Seasonal beach passes are being sold through her office. Fees for passes to the big Town lot are \$15 for residents and \$75 for non-residents; there is a new \$50 pass that is good for 7 days (which includes daytime and overnight parking); there is a \$50 24-hour pass is available to both residents and property owners in Salisbury, and a \$20 parking lot pass for beach business employees which requires proof of employment.
- Seasonal passes are not for the State Reservation; these are sold online or at the Reservation.
- There has been an "up-tick" in couples applying to get married due to many weddings being cancelled last year and being re-scheduled for this year.
- The Town's spring election is being held on May 11. Voting is at the Hilton Center from 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM. There are two Selectmen seats open and three candidates; there is one seat on the Triton School Committee member for a 3-year term from Salisbury, one seat from Newbury and two seats from Rowley.
- COVID precautions will be followed during the election with one way to enter the Hilton Center building and one way to exit.
- The Special and Annual Town Meetings will be May 17th beginning at 7:00 PM in the gymnasium at Salisbury Elementary School, which will follow the same COVID protocols as the last two Town Meetings.
- In closing Ms. Morrison thanked her co-worker and assistant, Lynne, for her hard work and contributions in making the office run smoothly.

Selectman Condon thanked Ms. Morrison for efforts and hard work in running her office.

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h. Vote to Approve Outdoor Seating for Groundswell Surf Café

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Condon; unanimously voted to approve the request for outdoor seating for Groundswell Surf Café as presented.

i. Vote to Approve Request to Refinance an Affordable Housing Unit at 6B Sandpiper Way

Motion by Selectman McDonald, Seconded by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to approve the request to refinance an affordable housing unit at 6B Sandpiper Way with the stipulation that the loan should not exceed the assessed value of the unit.

j. Vote to Approve Sale of \$486,750 General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note, dated May 6, 2021 for the Ring's Island Neighborhood Flood Resilience Project

Motion by Selectman McDonald, Second by Selectman Condon; unanimously voted to approve the sale of 4486,750 0.60 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note (the "Note") of the Town dated May 6, 2021, and payable September 10, 2021 to Century Bank and Trust Company at par and accrued interest, if any.

Further Voted: that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Note, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated April 14, 2021, and a final Official Statement dated April 20, 2021, each in such form as may be approved by the Town Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further Voted: that we authorize and direct the Town Treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures in such form as the Town Treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures, in order to monitor and maintain the tax-exempt status of the Note.

Further Voted: that each member of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

k. Vote to Authorize Municipal Vulnerability Program Grant Submission

Town Planner Lisa Pearson requested authorization to submit a grant proposal to the State's Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP), for the purpose of constructing Phase 1 of the Ring's Island Resiliency project. This phase would include raising the elevation of the portion of Ferry Road which goes across the marsh, and also installing a new culvert system under the roadway. The Town is eligible to receive up to \$2 million in State funding through this grant program.

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to authorize Ms. Pearson to submit the Municipal Vulnerability Program grant application.

VI. Sewer/Water

VII. Correspondence

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VIII. Hearings

7:15 PM – Vote to Approve Request from National Grid to Install One Pole on Old County Road

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman McDonald; unanimously voted to open the Public Hearing at 7:20 PM.

A representative from National Grid explained that the request is to install on utility pole on Old County Road to provide service to the new Habitat for Humanity homes being built on this street. Selectman Condon asked him to do everything in his power to get service to the new homes ASAP due to the urgency of the matter, and the representative assured him that he would do so. There were no further questions and no abutters were present.

Motion by Selectman McDonald, Second by Selectman Condon; unanimously voted to close the Public Hearing at 7:23 PM.

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to approve the request as presented.

7:25 PM – Vote to Approve Request from National Grid to Construct Underground Conduit on Broadway

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to open the Public Hearing at 7:25 PM.

A representative from National Grid explained that the request is to construct an underground conduit on Broadway. Selectman McDonald asked the Town Manager if there was a rush to have this done and he replied that it is time sensitive. There were no other questions and no abutters were present.

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman McDonald; unanimously voted to close the Public Hearing at 7:29 PM.

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to approve the request as presented.

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 Condon, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to ratify the signing of the following weekly warrants: W21-80 through W21-82.

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XI. Executive Session - none

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman McDonald; unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:10 PM.

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

Minutes of April 12, 2021

Copies of licenses as listed

Info re: Refinance Request

Public Hearing information

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: April 26, 2021

Re: April 26th Report to the Board

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

1) Tax Title Auction and RFP for Disposition of Town-Owned Land

On May 6, the Town will hold an auction in the parking lot of the William Hilton Senior Center at 12:00 noon for the purpose of auctioning off seven parcels of Town-owned land acquired via tax title. In addition, the Town is seeking responses to a request for proposals for the disposition of 12 parcels of land for conservation purposes. Proposals are due by May 21. Details of the auction may be found on the Town's website and copies of the RFP may be obtained in the Planning Department.

2) Housing Choice Grant Award

I am pleased to announce that the Town has been awarded a \$250,000 grant from the State Office of Housing and Community Development to pay for engineering and design work in the Forest Road, Schoolhouse Lane, and Gerrish Road neighborhood for enhancements to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety in a part of town that has recently seen new homes constructed or permitted. The Town has held two virtual neighborhood meetings to discuss safety concerns centered around exiting School House Lane onto Lafayette Road and the lack of sidewalks along School House Lane and Forest Road, where several new homes have been built, and the portion of Gerrish Road between Lafayette Road and Forest Road, which is the site of a new subdivision currently under construction.

This grant will allow the Town to explore ways to design new sidewalks and to consider whether to make School House Lane one-way only, due to the dangers of exiting this street onto Lafayette Road. Following the expenditure of these funds, the Town anticipates applying for an additional grant for construction of public safety measures, and hopes to also utilize Chapter 90 or other local funds to re-pave these streets. Planning Director Lisa Pearson is to be commended for successfully applying for this grant.

3) Fire Department Grant Award

Fire Chief Scott Carrigan informed me recently that he successfully applied for a grant from the State Division of Fire Services in the amount of \$12,500. These funds will be used to buy a number of items relating to fire safety, including: replacement of all life jackets; replacement of

about 1000 feet of supply hose; purchase of a rescue saw; and the purchase of portable road warning signs. These grant funds will enhance firefighter safety by providing new modern equipment and enhancing the Department's ability to respond to fire-related emergencies.

4) FEMA Funeral Assistance Program

The Town was notified last week that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has begun accepting application for a new Funeral Assistance Program. Funding for this program was included in the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief plan and the American Rescue Plan Act that was recently adopted by Congress. This program allows for federal funeral assistance for any Covid-19 related death that occurred after January 20, 2020. The program will assist with expenses up to \$9,000 per funeral, or a maximum of \$35,000 if applicants apply for assistance for more than one death.

To be eligible for this benefit, the death must have occurred in the United States or one of its territories; the death certificate must indicate the death was attributable to Covid-19; and the applicant must be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien. The program is open to all who qualify, regardless of their income, and there is currently no deadline to apply for this benefit. FEMA has set up a call center, Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Eastern Time, toll free at 1-844-684-6333, and the center can take calls in multiple languages. Most information is posted on the Town's website.

5) Electricity Aggregation Update

I recently read an article in the Boston Globe indicating that Attorney General Maura Healey issued a report finding that Mass. consumers who chose retail electricity suppliers in response to solicitations they receive in the mail or over the phone paid almost \$90 million more over the past two years compared to National Grid's standard supply rate. Over that time frame, Healey's office has received over 1,000 complaints about suppliers engaging in aggressive sales tactics, and she has recovered over \$14 million for consumers through settlements with three companies who were accused of using overly aggressive sales pitches and overcharging customers who signed up with them. In Salisbury, by contrast, electricity consumers participating in the Town's electricity aggregation program have saved a total of \$340,000 over National Grid's standard electricity supply rate over the past two years, proving once again that this program has produced significant benefits for the residents and businesses of the Town.