

**MINUTES OF THE SALISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024 – 7:00 PM
SALISBURY TOWN HALL, 5 BEACH ROAD
COLCHESTER ROOM**

PRESENT: Chairman Ronalee Ray-Parrott, Selectmen Michael Colburn, Selectman Chuck Takesian, Selectman Donna Abdulla, and Terry Marengi, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT: Neil J. Harrington, Town Manager, and Adrienne Linnell, Executive Assistant

I. Call to Order/Salute to the Flag

Chairman Ray-Parrott 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: Regular Session of February 26, 2024.

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Colburn; unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the February 26, 2024 regular meeting.

III. Public Comment –

Niko Kady, 260 North End Blvd., addressed the Board. He first wanted to say congratulations to Selectman Takesian on his retirement from the Board. He then went on to talk about the January storms and the damage it has done at Salisbury Beach. He said he is not happy about the MEPA survey needing to be done again and feels it is unacceptable. He then asked Town Manager Harrington for an update on the proposed plan to upgrade the Broadway Mall at some point.

Old Business – None

IV. New Business

a. License Renewals:

Parking Lot – Vinnie's Parking – 70 Railroad Avenue

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Abdulla, to renew a **Parking Lot** License for Vinnie's Parking 70 Railroad Avenue.

Street Performer – Russell Earle – Broadway Mall

Motion by Selectman Marengi, Second by Selectman Takesian, to renew a **Street Performer** License for Russell Earle.

b. New Licenses:

c. License Amendments:

The Mom Com – Change of Address –from 4 Elm Street 1B to 102 Bridge Road 1F

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Colburn; unanimously voted to approve the change of address for The Mom Com to 102 Bridge Road 1F.

Hungry Traveler – Change of Manager for Liquor License

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Abdulla; unanimously voted to approve the Change of Manager for Liquor License.

d. Liquor License Renewals:

Seasonal – Gracie's Bar & Grill LLC – 5 Broadway

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Colburn, to renew the Seasonal Liquor License for Gracie's Bar & Grill LLC, 5 Broadway.

e. New Liquor Licenses: None

f. Committee Appointments: None

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g. Update/Presentation: Finance Director/SCTV/School Committee

Finance Director – Karen Snow presented her update to the Board. She gave the Board a detailed summary of the FY24 budget and provided the Board with a brief overview. She also noted that the FY23 audit was recently completed and once again it was a “clean” audit with no findings. She went on to say that FY24 has been a challenging year. Revenues are stable, with actual revenues close to what was budgeted, despite the loss of marijuana host community fee revenue. She is also monitoring the entire budget on a weekly basis and contacting departments if she sees a potential problem. However, she noted that revenues are not keeping pace with the growth of expenses. The good news is that motor vehicle excise, parking fees and building fees are trending up and seem to be turning around. Local room excise and meals taxes are strong. Finally, she noted that the FY2025 budget will be difficult to balance. She then answered any questions the Board had.

School Committee – Linda Litcofsky, Chair of the School Committee, Nerissa Wallen, Vice Chair, and Superintendent of Schools Brian Forget addressed the Board. Ms. Litcofsky started by noting that the School Committee went into budget deliberations for FY25 knowing that it would be tight for everyone, with costs rising for all school systems. She went on to say that the burden to fund the schools has been falling more and more on the three towns since funding from the State has not increased much. She stated that the Committee has had 11 meetings already on the budget and has cut \$960,000 out of the budget that was originally proposed. Two of the towns have indicated that they will not be able to fund the budget that the Committee had decided upon, so the Committee went back with Mr. Forget to see where additional cuts could be made. She went on to say that they came up with 3 scenarios. Two of the towns chose to support Scenario #3 (the lowest number). She expresses her concerns that adopting Scenario #3 would have a serious impact on the students, and so the Committee is proposing an alternative closer to Scenario 2, which will have less of an impact. She went on to say that she appreciates the support Salisbury has shown for the schools.

Nerissa Wallen, Vice Chair of the School Committee, addressed the Board. She started by saying that the School Business Manager resigned recently and his replacement started this week. She then explained some of the budget challenges the District was facing, including the need to fund the teachers’ contract and to pay competitive salaries for other staff. She spoke about special education transportation and how it has been their largest challenge this school year, as the company with which the District contracted has not been able to get drivers to provide van transportation for special education and homeless students. This has forced the District to use other companies, which is an added expense. This has led the District to forecast needing to spend extra funds for transportation next year. Selectman Ray-Parrott mentioned that this is something that she believes the District can push back on the State to resolve. Ms. Wallen also noted there has been an increase in school choice, which is an added cost, but the State is now paying for all meals, which has been a huge help. Overall, she said she was concerned that there will be cuts that will affect the students but that the Committee is trying to cause the least amount of damage.

Superintendent Forget then addressed the Board, explaining in detail the proposed increases and reductions in the FY25 budget and answered any questions the Board had.

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h. Discussion re: Appointment of By-Laws Review Committee

Town Manager Harrington explained to the Board that every ten years ending in the number “5” the Town is required by the Charter to review and update its bylaws via the appointment of Bylaw Review Committee, which makes a recommendation at Town Meeting. He noted that the spring of 2014 was the last time such a committee was appointed, and he asked the Selectmen to consider a process for appointing a study committee in 2024 that would have its recommendations presented to Town Meeting in 2025. It was the consensus of the Board that the Town Manager recommend a process for people to apply for positions on the Bylaw Review Committee and report back to the Selectmen in the near future.

i. Vote to Refer to the Planning Board a Zoning Amendment re: MBTA Communities Multi-Family Zoning Overlay District, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5

Town Manager Harrington stated that there had been several public meetings regarding a proposed bylaw for the Town to adopt in order to come into compliance with the State’s MBTA zoning requirements, and the next step in the process was for the Selectmen to refer the latest draft of such a proposed bylaw to the Planning Board for a public hearing, which is scheduled to be held on March 27.

Motion by Selectman Colburn, Second by Selectman Marengi; unanimously voted to refer to the Planning Board a Zoning Amendment re: MBTA Communities Multi-Family Zoning Overlay District, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40A, Section 5.

j. Vote to Provide Letter of Support re: Proposed Sale of 5 Salt Marsh Parcels from Essex County Greenbelt Association to State Department of Fish and Game

Town Manager Harrington stated that he had received a communication from the State asking the Board to send a letter of support for the proposed sale, and he recommended that the Board vote to do so.

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Abdulla; unanimously voted to provide a letter of support regarding the proposed sale of 5 salt marsh Parcels from the Essex County Greenbelt Association to the State Department of Fish and Game.

VI. Sewer/Water - None

VII. Correspondence

VIII. Hearings

**a. Atlantic Hospitality Group LLC d/b/a Surfside Change of Liquor License Class –
7:15 PM**

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Colburn; unanimously voted to open the public hearing for a license amendment for Atlantic Hospitality Group LLC.

Wayne Capolupo addressed the Board regarding the Surfside liquor license amendment. He stated that he is applying for a change in class of liquor license as part of his plans to open the Surfside Restaurant

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year-round. He said he felt it was time to make Surfside a year-round establishment to give visitors and residents more options for food and entertainment.

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Colburn; unanimously voted to close the public hearing for license amendment for Atlantic Hospitality Group LLC. A vote on the proposal will be taken at the next Selectmen's meeting.

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 Abdulla; unanimously voted to ratify the signing of the following weekly warrants: W24-109 through W24-116.

Selectman Colburn stated that it was important for parents of Triton students from Salisbury to talk to Triton parents in Newbury and Rowley to vocally support and fight for the FY2025 Triton budget. Selectman Takesian added that he is concerned with the leadership of Newbury and Rowley not being behind the budget. Selectman Marengi stated that he agreed with Mr. Colburn and that parents need to get involved by getting out to vote for the Triton budget, as advocating for Triton is in the best interest of children throughout the District.

Selectman Ray-Parrott mentioned that the annual Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 23, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at the Elementary School. It is free and open to ages 2-8.

XI. Executive Session - None

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Selectman Takesian, second by Selectman Marengi; unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:35 P.M.

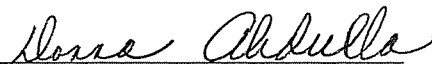
Documents provided at the meeting and on file in the Selectmen's Office:

Minutes of February 26, 2024

Town Manager's Report.

Respectfully submitted:

Adrienne Linnell, Executive Assistant

Approved: 
Donna Abdulla, Clerk