

**MINUTES OF THE SALISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017 – 7:00 PM  
SALISBURY TOWN HALL, 5 BEACH ROAD  
COLCHESTER ROOM**

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

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

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

Chairman McDonald 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 Minutes of March 27, 2017 (Regular and Executive Session and April 10, 2017**

Motion by Selectman Richenburg, Second by Selectman Condon; unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of March 27, 2017 Regular and Executive Session and the Minutes of April 10, 2017.

**III. Old Business - none**

**IV. New Business**

**a. License Renewals:**

Motion by Selectman Richenburg, Second by Selectman Takesian; 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: Elm Street Bait & Tackle Boat Storage and Elm Street Bait & Tackle – 110 Elm St. (2 licenses)

**b. New Licenses**

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Richenburg; unanimously voted to approve a **General** license to Salisbury Gifts & Décor – 78 Lafayette Rd. (formerly Jakes Used Goods)

Motion by Selectman Richenburg, Second by Selectman Ray-Parrott; unanimously voted to approve a **Special Event Permit** to the Salisbury Lions for their voluntary toll on May 27<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**c. License Amendments - none**

**d. Committee Appointments: Ring's Island Historic District Study Committee – 1 opening – 1 applicant: Lance Wisniewski**

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to appoint Lance Wisniewski to the Ring's Island Historic District Study Committee.

**e. Update/Presentation: Fire Chief**

Chief Souliotis reported that calls have gone up again this year over last as well as house fires. Medical calls have gone up and there has been an increase with back-to-back calls where 10 minutes after a truck has gone out another call comes in and mutual aid is called in. Two grants have been applied for: 1 for a new ladder truck and 1 for dispatcher radios. He also thanked Kelby Groder for writing the successful Student Awareness Firefighters Grant, for which the Town was awarded \$3,980. In closing, Chief Souliotis said that since this is his last report before retiring June 30<sup>th</sup>, he wanted to thank all the Officers, Selectmen, Town Manager, firefighters, and past chiefs he has worked with.

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The Board members all thanked him for his many years of service to the Fire Department, including his tenure as Chief, wished him well in his retirement.

**f. Discussion and Vote Re: Issuance of Letter of Non-Opposition for Medical Marijuana facilities**

Chairman McDonald stated that the Board had received written proposals from three firms interested in locating a Registered Marijuana Dispensary (RMD) in Salisbury, but the first step was for the Board to decide whether it wanted to have such a facility in town. She then asked if there was anybody present that wished to speak on the matter.

A resident of 125 Main Street said she believed that medical marijuana is beneficial but that there is a lot of room for error and she honestly doesn't want a dispensary in her neighborhood, which is a mixed- use area, but she would be interested in seeing any data that may be available.

Craig Deschene, owner of the property at 107 Elm Street, said that as a commercial property owner he is trying to get his property rented to a good tenant. He has been approached by a group interested in locating an RMD in his building and he believes it does have a place in the community. It has been approved by the voters in town and he feels it should be looked at in a good way.

Robert Carr of Nature's Remedy, one of the companies that has submitted a proposal to the Town, said he looks forward to working with department heads and the Police Chief if the Board decides to write a letter of non-opposition for his firm. He noted that there are currently 10 dispensaries without any issues in the Commonwealth and with a lot of acceptance.

Mr. Chris Edwards, Executive Director of Alternative Therapies, said he has operated an RMD in Salem since June of 2016. They have been a good neighbor in Salem, have created job and work with the Police Dept., and there have been zero incidents. Salisbury is of interest because its location.

Selectman Ray-Parrott said she doesn't look at this issue lightly, has read about the many benefits of medical marijuana and feels it would be a benefit to the Town. She knows the idea does scare people, but believes alcohol is more dangerous than having access to medical marijuana.

Selectman Takesian said he voted against the ballot question, but after hearing the presentations he feels there is a place for medical marijuana. He's open to it, but has concerns about the possible locations. Personally, he said he is going to take his time to look at the concept for Salisbury. He said that the Board needs to sit down, look over the proposals and meet with the proponents.

Selectman Richenburg said he has gone back and forth with this issue and is very concerned about the points Chief Fowler brought up. On the other hand, he has the same concerns about alcohol. He said that he was "on the fence" and that he would really like to see more people express their opinions in an open forum.

Selectman Condon said would like to see the Board make a decision one way or the other. There are some people who have made a commitment and a proposal to the Town and out of fairness the Board needs to make a decision. He is absolutely convinced of the benefits of medical marijuana. He would like to charge the Manager with the task of meeting with the three companies who have submitted

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proposals and come back to the Board with his recommendation. He would be in favor of moving forward in exploring this issue. It wouldn't lock the Board into absolutely doing it, but it could set parameters. He would also like the Manager's recommendation as to whether the Board should send a letter of non-opposition for one or more companies. Chairman McDonald responded that she believes one dispensary for Salisbury would be enough.

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to have the Manager meet with the three respective serious applicants to negotiate the best possible host agreement for the Town of Salisbury and come back to the Board with his recommendation.

**V. Comments by Visitors**

Mrs. Joan Coughlin of 8 12<sup>th</sup> Street West addressed the Board to request a rebate/refund for sewer charges. She explained that when she and her husband bought their home in December of 2004, they were being charged for 2 EQR's. However, they reverted it back to a single family in 2016 when it was discovered that at some point before they owned the property it had been illegally converted to a two-family home. In October of 2016 their bill was adjusted to 1 EQR. Therefore, she was requesting a refund in the amount of \$4,050 which she calculated was the extra amount they were paying for sewer charges when the home was being charged 2 EQRs.

Because this was not an action item on the agenda for this evening Mrs. Coughlin was advised that the Board could not take a vote on her request, but would place her on the agenda for their next meeting, scheduled for May 8, 2017.

Adam Foss, President of the Firefighter Union, addressed the Board about a concern the Union has with the potential delay in transferring the Fire dispatch function to the Police Department. He said he knows the situation comes down to finances, but asked the Board to consider making ends meet so that the Town can hire the two additional dispatchers needed. Mr. Harrington explained that it was his intent to hire all of the dispatchers necessary to make the transfer happen on July 1, but there was not enough flexibility in the FY18 to accomplish this goal. He expressed the hope that perhaps there would be enough Free Cash available to fund the two additional dispatchers in the fall.

**VI. Sewer/Water**

**VII. Correspondence**

Notice of the Mass. Selectmen's Association Regional meeting on May 24, 2017.

**VIII. Hearings – none scheduled**

**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 Takesian; unanimously voted to ratify the signing of the following weekly warrants: W17-160 through W17-167.

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**b. Subcommittee Reports**

**Lafayette Corridor Sewer Extension:** Mr. Richenburg reported that the project is in a holding pattern until additional funding is obtained.

Selectman Condon commended the Manager and Karen Snow on their balancing of the FY2018 budget. He stated that everyone supports education and he doesn't want criticize the current Triton administration, but with the unprecedented increase for the next fiscal year, "something has to give" because the school budget is crippling the Town. The Board also has an obligation to provide support to the Fire and Police and other departments in town, and it is becoming increasingly difficult for the Town to meet all its obligations due to the Triton increase.

Selectman Ray-Parrott reported that the "Tortoise and the Hare" event was a huge success and publicly thanked the DPW and Angelica Medina for all their help. She also highlighted the upcoming "Fairy Walk" at Pettengill Farm on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, which is a school fund raiser.

**XI. Executive Session - none**

**XII. Adjournment**

Motion by Selectman Richenburg, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:05 PM.

Documents provided at the meeting and on file in the Selectmen's Office:  
Minutes of March 27, 2017 (Regular & Executive Session) and April 10, 2017  
Copies of licenses as listed  
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: April 24, 2017

Re: April 24<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) Town Meeting/Budget

A good deal of my time over the past 2 weeks has been spent working with Finance Director Karen Snow to balance the FY2018 budget and to draft the warrant articles for the Special and Annual Town Meetings coming up in May. I am pleased to report that the FY 18 budget is balanced and was presented to the Warrant Advisory Committee at its meeting of April 20, and that the draft warrant articles have all been sent to Town Counsel for review. The warrant will be posted this Friday, April 28, and a public hearing on all warrant articles will be held at the next WAC meeting, which is scheduled to be held at Town Hall, in the Colchester Room, at 6:30 PM on Monday, May 1.

As I have been saying publicly for several weeks, it was a challenge to work toward balancing next year's budget, especially considering the sizeable increase in our Triton assessment. Nevertheless, we have accomplished our goal and a great deal of the credit goes to Karen Snow, whose diligent work in the budget development process has resulted in a responsible budget that preserves essential services, while fully funding our educational obligations.

2) Broadway Mall Improvements

The advisory committee assisting the Town in devising the short- and long-term plan for public improvements at the Broadway Mall finalized its recommendations to our consultant, the Project for Public Spaces (PPS), following its last meeting on March 27, and PPS has put together a "placemaking" plan for the Mall for the summer of 2017, along with a proposed budget. After this plan and budget is reviewed by the committee, it is my intention to request an appropriation from the Town's Free Cash account to fund the improvements approved for this summer. I am hopeful that all Town Meeting voters will support this funding, as its intent is to dramatically improve the beach-going experience for all Town residents and visitors.

