

**MINUTES OF THE SALISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019 – 7:00 PM
SALISBURY TOWN HALL, 5 BEACH ROAD
COLCHESTER ROOM**

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

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

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

Minutes of March, 11, 2019, April 22, 2019 and Special Meeting of April 25, 2019

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman McDonald; unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of March, 11, 2019, April 22, 2019 and the Special Meeting of April 25, 2019, as written.

III. Old Business - none

IV. New Business

a. License Renewals:

Motion by Selectman Takesian, 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: Kathy's Dog Grooming – 10 Ferry Lots Lane, Prime-1 State Line – 242 Lafayette Road, and Ciao Bella Skincare – 102 Bridge Road.

b. New Licenses

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Condon; unanimously voted to approve a **General** License to Half Moon Mods, LLC – 5 Fanaras Drive, Unit B.

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to approve a **Special Event Permit** to The Winners Circle Running Club for the annual Cassidy's 5K Fundraiser on June 2, 2019.

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Condon; unanimously voted to approve a **Special Event Permit** to Granite State Wheelmen for their annual Seacoast Century Weekend Event on Sept. 21, 2019.

c. License Amendments - none

d. Liquor License Renewals - none

e. New Liquor Licenses - none

f. Committee Appointments - none

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g. Update/Presentation: Fire Chief

Chief Carrigan reported that the Department just took delivery of the new ladder truck, which will be put into service within the next week or two. This was acquired through a federal grant in the amount of \$975,000, with Town matching funds of \$48,656. The grant was based on community need and the demographics of the Town, in addition to the fact that the truck serves a dual purpose serving as a ladder truck and service pump truck. The Department also took possession of a Chevy Volt that the Town received through a Green Communities grant. This vehicle will be used primarily for fire inspections conducted by Capt. Murphy. At present the Department is in pretty good shape, as apparatus has been stabilized since many of the vehicles have been replaced with updated. The Town's fire insurance rating also has gone up. Staffing has been stabilized to a regular schedule. At this point nearly everybody in the organization is focused on ways to improve delivery of service and increase training. There were 750 calls for the first quarter of the year.

Selectman Condon said he is very pleased with the changes/improvements that have been made, citing the acquisition of the \$1M ladder truck being through a grant and the upgrade in the insurance rating. He said he had never seen morale in the Department as high as it is today. Selectmen Abdulla and Takesian echoed his comments. Selectman McDonald asked how surplus vehicles are disposed of, and the Chief said he used an online auction service and the money that was received went into the General Fund. Chairman Ray-Parrott agreed with all comments as well.

h. Vote to Approve Host Community Agreement with Ganash Wellness, Inc. for the Operation of a Recreational Marijuana Establishment for Adult Use Retail Dispensing Facility
Mr. Harrington said that at the last meeting the Selectmen voted to enter into the Agreement and the final Agreement is now before them to approve and sign.

Mr. Reggie Santos was present and said he objected to the location primarily because he thought it was a violation of the Town's bylaws. His objection was noted.

Motion by Selectmen McDonald, Second by Selectman Condon; Voted to approve and sign the Agreement. VOTE: - 4 yeas – Selectman Takesian opposed. Motion carried.

i. Town Manager's Evaluation

Chairman Ray-Parrott said the evaluation was based on a form developed in June of 2003. This is a 10-point rating. She then read the scores received by Mr. Harrington: General Administration – 9.3%; External Relationships – 9/68%; Personal Characteristics – 9.6%. His overall rating was 9.53%. The Board's individual comments will be filed in his confidential personnel file. Mr. Harrington thanked the Board for their confidence in him and said he looked forward to continuing to work with them to improve the Town.

V. Comments by Visitors

VI. Sewer/Water

a. Appeal of Jonathon Dragon re: Monthly Fixed Water Charges at 1 Samantha Way

Mr. Dragon addressed the Board in their capacity of Sewer & Water Commissioners, stating that he believed that his monthly fixed water rate charge, which is based upon the size of his meter, is unfair. He noted that because his home is about 400 feet from the street he needed to install a 2-inch water

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line, at his expense, to ensure adequate water pressure for his home. He acknowledged that the Town had only required him to install a 5/8-inch water meter, but his plumber informed him that he needed a 2-inch water meter in order to meet the requirements of the plumbing code. The Town's monthly faxed rate charge is based on meter size, with those having a 5/8-inch water meter paying \$29.90 and those having a 2-inch meter paying \$69.90. Mr. Dragon contacted the DPW Director and requested that his bill be reduced to the \$29.90, based primarily on the fact that it was a single-family home, and that he be refunded the difference of \$40.00 per month for the past 4 years. Ms. DeMeo denied his request and he was now before the Board appealing her denial.

Selectman Takesian suggested that when the Town's water rates and policies are reviewed again in the Fall, that would be the time for Mr. Dragon to re-state his case. Selectman Condon agreed and said that the Board needs to follow the policy that is in effect now. In the near future, the Board will review its water rate policy, but under the existing policy he doesn't think the Board has a lot of recourse. He said he is more than willing to have an open mind in the future, but his hands are tied tonight. Mr. Dragon requested that he be notified when the Board does begin to review the Town's water rates and policies so that he may state his case again.

Motion by Selectman McDonald, Second by Selectman Condon; unanimously voted to deny the appeal of Mr. Dragon to reduce his monthly fixed water charges at 1 Samantha Way.

VII. Correspondence

Memo from Fred Knowles re: Memorial Day Parade, which is scheduled for May 27th.

VIII. Hearings

7:30 PM – New Beer & Wine License for Bull Brazilian Steakhouse – 135 Bridge Rd.

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Condon; unanimously voted to open the Hearing at 7:30 PM.

The applicant addressed the Board and explained that he has been open for a few months and is now applying for the beer & wine license mainly because the customers are requesting beer and/or wine with their meals. No abutters were present to object.

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to close the Hearing at 7:38 PM

Motion by Selectman McDonald, Second by Selectman Condon; unanimously voted to approve the Beer & Wine License.

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: W19-191 through W19-197.

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Selectman Abdulla encouraged everybody to come out and vote in tomorrow's election. Selectman Takesian did as well and said everybody should exercise their right to vote.

Selectman McDonald said the polls open at 10:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM. She then congratulated former Police Sgt. Anthony King, who was sworn in last week at the Chief of Police in Stratham, NH.

Selectman Condon addressed the override question noting that there have been many comments made that are not factual. He added that when it comes to voting, every citizen has the right to vote, but they don't have the right to make up facts. He said that if the override is not approved at the polls, there may be significant cuts in Town staffing, and he urged people to vote in favor of the override.

Chairman Ray-Parrott reiterated Selectman Condon's comments and added that she recognized the fact that she and Selectman Condon are running unopposed, as well as the School Committee candidates and the Town Moderator, and she understands it's not exciting when there is no opposition, but it is still very important for people to get out and vote.

XI. Executive Session - none

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman Abdulla; unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:15 PM.


Documents provided at the meeting and on file in the Selectmen's Office:
Minutes of March 11, 2019, April 22, 2019 and Special Meeting of April 25, 2019
Copies of licenses as listed
Town Manager's Report

Respectfully submitted:
Janet E. Flannery, Secretary

Approved: 
Donna Abdulla, Clerk

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Selectmen

From: Neil J. Harrington, Town Manager 

Date: May 13, 2019

Re: May 13th Report to the Boards

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

1) Town Meeting

The warrants for Town Meeting were posted on May 3. There are 21 articles for the Special Town Meeting and 18 articles for the Annual Town Meeting. The Warrant Advisory Committee held its public hearing on the articles on Thursday, May 9, and recommended approval of all except one of the articles (Art. 16 of the Annual Town Meeting – New Parking Requirements).

2) Ring's Island Water District Home Rule Bill

On May 7, the Legislature's Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government held a public hearing on Senate Bill No. 1179, the Town's home rule legislation seeking to merge the Ring's Island Water District with the Town's water department. David Tremblay, a RIWD Commissioner, and I testified in favor of the bill, and I received word last Friday that the bill has been reported favorably out of committee. This means that the bill will be placed on the calendar for a vote by the two branches of the Legislature and, if it is adopted, will go before the Governor for his signature. I will keep the Board informed of the progress of this legislation.

3) Meeting with DEP re: Visitors' Center Project

Also on May 7, several staff members and I met with DEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg and his staff to discuss concerns that the Town has about the potential cost of construction, due to environmental regulations, of the proposed new visitors center and public restrooms at the Broadway Mall. Based upon estimates provided by the Town's architect, we are concerned that the potential cost of the project may become too great for the Town to support. We are trying to work with DEP to come up with a more cost-effective solution that will allow us to proceed with the project, which was originally slated to be brought before Town Meeting this spring and to be under construction by this fall.

4) Override for Triton Budget

Last week, I taped a short program for SCTV in which I explained the purpose of the override question that is on the ballot for tomorrow's spring election. As you know, the Town needs this extra funding in order to be able to afford our assessment from Triton. The increases in Salisbury's Triton assessment for FY19 and FY20, unfortunately, have exceeded the total amount of new tax revenue we have been allowed to raise under Proposition 2 ½, which has left

us no other choice but to ask the voters to support an override of \$450,000. As I stated on the program, because the other two Triton communities have already supported the budget for the next school year, Salisbury will have to pay its assessment, whether the override passes or not. A vote against the override will not mean that the Triton School District will receive \$450,000 less for next year. If the override fails, we will need to cut the Town's budget to make up for this revenue shortfall. I wanted to make sure that the voters were fully informed before they go to the polls tomorrow.

5) Complete Streets Proposal

On May 1, the Town submitted a Complete Streets grant proposal in support of a major overhaul of Driftway, an important street near the beach center that is in poor condition. The Town is eligible for \$400,000 in funding from the Complete Streets program, and we have pledged to use some of our Chapter 90 funding from the State to pay for the rest of the project. We have proposed new paving, new curbing, safer crosswalks, newly-lined parking, bike racks, handicapped parking and a designated loading zone for Driftway which, if funded, will greatly improve travel, parking and pedestrian safety on this street, as well as upgrade its appearance. I will let the Board and the community know if we receive this grant.

6) Cemetery Commission

I have sent appointment letters to three individuals who expressed interest in serving on the Town's initial Cemetery Commission, which they should be receiving this week. We are still seeking two more members, but the three new appointees can begin meeting with DPW Director Lisa DeMeo to lay out a plan for establishing policies for maintaining our cemeteries, reviewing the fee structure that the Town inherited from the former Long Hill Cemetery board, and begin the process of searching for new land for additional cemetery space for the future.

7) Retail Marijuana Establishment on Elm Street

I received a call from Chris Edwards of Alternative Therapies Group last week informing me that the inspection of his proposed retail recreational adult use marijuana establishment at 107 Elm Street received its inspection from the State's Cannabis Control Commission, and he is hopeful that a vote of the Commission allowing him to proceed with sales will take place this week. If the CCC gives its final approval, I will make sure that Mr. Edwards contacts Chief Fowler to make sure that the opening of his store goes as smoothly as possible.

